

WGC

Wharfedale German Circle

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held at the Salem Hall, Main Street, Burley in Wharfedale, LS29 7DG. Please ensure you check the individual meeting times for the event in question. We start with refreshments and a chat at the times indicated below, and the welcome and main item begin half an hour later.

Sunday 14th January 2024, 3-5pm - East Germany (The DDR)

James Todd will examine the questions, "What was it actually like to live in East Germany? Who controlled the country? What was the role of the Stasi?"

The talk will be in English and will conclude with an examination of Ostalgie, a wistful longing for a disappeared country which is surprisingly prevalent in the minds of many former East Germans.

Sunday 18th February 2024, 3-5pm - The Anders Family

Eddie Lawler will give a talk on the Anders family. This will be based on an exchange of letters (and parcels) between a German and an English mother immediately after the 2nd World War, revealing some key aspects of German history. And what happened next? The talk will be in German with English summaries.

Sunday 17th March 2024, 7.30-9.30pm - Das Phänomen Bruno Gröning (1906-1959)

Scarborough German Society member and regular participant in Kaffee und Kuchen, Mick Ganley will talk about the mystic and healer, Bruno Gröning. The talk hopes to examine his legacy, which is still questioned today, and attempt to place this controversial figure in some sort of historical context. The talk will be in English with some documents in German.

Sunday 14th April 2024, 7.30-9.30pm - Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Marion Lawson about her mother who came from Germany.

Sunday 19th May 2024, 7.30 - 9.30pm - tbc

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Sunday 16th June 2024, 3 - 5pm - Sommerfest (Summer party)

Our summer party - for members and invited guests only - will take place at the Salem Hall from 3pm to 5pm. Coffee (or tea) and German-style cakes will be served, and there will be a game, a quiz, and plenty of time to catch up with friends. **If you can make a German-style cake for this event please let us know by 2nd June.**

Other activities.

Kaffee und Kuchen: These conversation sessions, held on **Zoom**, are open to all members and their friends who would like to practise speaking German. The first half of each session is for general conversation and news, and during the second half a specific topic (e.g., a holiday in Germany, a current issue, a favourite book or film etc.) is considered. Participants are split into smaller groups as and when appropriate. Kaffee und Kuchen takes place twice a month on Friday afternoons from 4.00 until 5.30 pm. The next sessions will be on the 19th January, 2nd and 16th February.

Beginners' German lessons: The ninth series of 8 weekly lessons on **Zoom** will start in March. They take place on Thursdays from 5.30 to 6.30 pm and are free to all existing and new members. We are also willing to run a few **advanced sessions** at times to be arranged with participants. Contact Peter if you're interested in either of the above.

Student events: These events are organised by the WGC alone or in conjunction with the Foreign Language Assistants Committee at Leeds University. On the afternoon of 27th January there will be a trip to the Ilkley Upstagers' Pantomime Robin Hood and a walk, and a baking day is planned for 16th March. Any student or FLA who would like to be involved should contact Marilyn at wgcircle@gmail.com. WGC members wishing to help with activities should contact Marilyn or Peter.

Zoom meetings for WGC members and our German contacts:

In our quest to strengthen and re-establish links between the WGC and our contacts in Germany, for the past year, once per quarter, we have been running evening meetings with them using Zoom. We discuss what's topical and anything else that takes our fancy. Participants can speak in English or German, whichever they feel most comfortable with. We follow the "Kaffee und Kuchen" format, i.e., some whole-group discussion and then

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smaller break-out groups of 4 or 5 people. We'd like more WGC members to take part. Also, if you have a friend in Germany, Austria or Switzerland who'd like to be involved, please encourage them to join us. If you have not yet contacted Marilyn about this Anglo-German Zoom meeting, but feel you'd like to take part, please get in touch with her at wgcircle@gmail.com. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th February, 7pm in the UK 8pm in Germany.

The Sprachcafé/Language Café, run by the Leeds Anglo German Club, takes place at the Lawnswood Arms, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 7PH from 10 am until 12 noon on the first Monday of the month. The next session will be on 5th February 2024.

Mainz trip, May 2024.

Peter and Dominique have booked into the **Ibis Mainz City Hotel** (Holzhofstraße 2, 55166 Mainz) from 9th to 14th May 2024. The hotel is very close to the Römisches Theater railway station, and only 10 minutes walk on the level to the historic city centre with its medieval cathedral and busy market. Peter and Dominique are happy to arrange activities in and near Mainz, including contact with German friends in the area, for any WGC members wishing to join them for some or all of the above period. Members taking part will need to arrange their own transport and accommodation (either online or through a travel agent) and let Peter or Dominique know the precise dates of their stay in Mainz.

Events organised by other local German groups, e.g., the Leeds Anglo German Club and the Calderdale German Circle, are frequently available to our members. Some of these are on **Zoom**, others in person, and invitations are forwarded before each meeting.

Contact: Information on all our activities can be found at www.germancircle.ilkley.org, Our website includes a "hot off the press" page with recommendations for items in the media relating to the German speaking world. Our email address is wgcircle@gmail.com