

# WGC

## Wharfedale German Circle

### NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026

#### 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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 3-4.45pm - The composer J S Bach**

Our WGC member Jackie Mavro-Michaelis will speak on the life and work of the great German composer Johann Sebastian Bach. The talk will be in German with English summaries and musical excerpts.

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 3-4.45pm - Verein deutsche Sprache**

Musician, poet and retired German lecturer Eddie Lawler will speak about the German Language Association (der Verein deutsche Sprache) in German with English summaries.

#### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7-9pm - Annual General Meeting**

As well as the formal business this is an opportunity for members to have their say in the running of the WGC and a time to chat with one another.

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 7-9pm - Musikabend**

Due to the success of last year's music evening members will be asked again to bring and share with us a recording of a piece of German/Austrian music of any genre.

#### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 3-5pm - Sommerfest (Summer party)**

Our summer party, for members and invited guests only, will take place at the Salem Hall. German delicacies will be served. There will also be a game, a quiz, and plenty of time to catch up with friends. If you can make a cake for this event, please let us know by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

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**Sunday 12th July 2026, 7-9pm - TBC**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August - Burley Festival**

#### **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 part 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/film) is considered. Participants are split into smaller groups as and when appropriate. K und K takes place twice a month on Friday afternoons from 4.00 until 5.30 pm. The next sessions will be on 30<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**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, we run evening meetings with them once per quarter on Zoom. We discuss what's topical and anything else that takes our fancy, and participants can speak in English or German, whichever they feel most comfortable with. We follow the "K und K" format, i.e., some whole-group discussion and then 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](mailto:wgcircle@gmail.com). The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, at 7pm in the UK, 8pm in Germany.

**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 24th January there will be a trip to the Ilkley Upstagers' Pantomime, Snow White. A baking day and Ilkley moor walk is planned for 7th March. Any student or FLA who would like to be involved should contact Marilyn at [wgcircle@gmail.com](mailto:wgcircle@gmail.com). WGC members wishing to help with activities should contact Marilyn or Peter. The annual assistants' trip to Whitby and Robin Hood's Bay will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, and there may be some places available on the coach for WGC members. Please contact Peter or Dominique if you are interested.

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**German lessons:** The latest series of 8 weekly **lessons** on **Zoom** is currently underway. They are held on Thursdays from 5.30 to 6.30 pm and are free to all existing and new members. We are also running a few **advanced sessions** at times agreed with participants. Contact Peter if you're interested in either of the above.

**The Sprachcafé/Language Café**, run by the Leeds Anglo German Club, takes place at Queen's Arms, 201 Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS7 3PT, from 10 am until 12 noon on the first Monday of the month. The next session will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026.

**Visit to German friends from Alsheim, near Mainz:** Following our successful visit to Mainz in May 2024 and an equally successful return visit of our hosts back to England last year, the WGC are now planning a second visit to Mainz at the end of May 2026. Nine WGC members have so far signed up for the trip. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Peter or Dominique as soon as possible.

**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](http://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](mailto:wgcircle@gmail.com)