



Wharfedale German Circle

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025

Monthly Meetings

These are held at the Salem Hall, Main Street, Burley in Wharfedale, LS29 7DG.

Sunday 22nd June 2025, 3-5pm - Sommerfest (Summer party)

Our summer party, **for members and invited guests only**, will take place at the Salem Hall. This year we will be hosting 6 friends from Alsheim, near Mainz, and the last full day of their visit coincides with our Sommerfest. So instead of serving German delicacies we'll be providing **British-style cakes** to give them a flavour of our country. There will also be a game, a quiz, and plenty of time to catch up with friends. If you can make a **British-style** cake for this event, please let us know, if possible by 2nd June.

Sunday 13th July 2025, 7.30-9.30pm - Politische Systeme und Strukturen in Deutschland

Former lecturer in German and friend of the WGC **Wolfgang Keinhorst** will give us a talk in German, with English summaries, on this fascinating topic. He will cover the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany, the main political institutions, the voting system and the major political parties.

Sunday 17th August 2025, 11am-4pm - Burley Festival Community Fair

Please come along and support us as you have over the previous three years. The WGC will be running a stall to showcase our activities and organising a tombola. We would be grateful for any items to be used as prizes. These can be handed in at the main June and July Sunday meetings.

Sunday 14th September 2024, 7-9pm Please note the new start time of 7pm.

Our WGC Committee member, **Marilyn Heron** will give a presentation in German (with slides of photos and English summaries) about the **German immigrants to Bradford** in the 19th century, their work as wool merchants and their warehouses in Little Germany. It will cover how they used their riches to benefit the city in many ways and will also describe how their descendants became famous in other fields of endeavour.



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Saturday 20th September, 2pm - Visit to Little Germany

Marilyn has also kindly offered to lead a walking tour of about 2 miles around the area of Bradford known as Little Germany to see the diverse architecture of the warehouses built in the 19th century for the German wool merchants. Booking essential.

Sunday 12th October 2025, 7-9pm - Cold War Berlin and the GDR

For just over 40 years Europe was a divided continent - and nowhere was that division more apparent than in Berlin. In 1983 - with the Cold War still in full swing - **Peter Workman** visited both halves of that city, and also Potsdam. Now working as an EU translator, he is looking forward to sharing his experiences with us in this talk, which will be in German with summaries in English.

Sunday 16th November 2025, 3-5pm - the first of our afternoon meetings

Our WGC member **Heike Funke** will give a talk on **Karneval in Germany**.

Sunday 14th December 2025, 3-5pm - Weihnachtsfeier

Other activities.

Visitors from Alsheim, near Mainz: Six friends from Alsheim, whom we met last year in Germany, will be visiting Yorkshire from 18th to 23rd June, staying in Shipley. We have arranged a number of social events for them, including our Sommerfest (see above), and also visits to Saltaire and Haworth. Please let Peter know if you would like to be involved in their programme. Saturday 21st is still a blank canvas, though they have mentioned both York and the Dales!

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, memories of schooldays, a favourite museum or gallery etc.) is considered. Participants are split into smaller groups as and when appropriate. Kaffee und Kuchen usually takes place twice a month on Friday afternoons from 4.00 until 5.30 pm. The next session will be on 13th June.



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Beginners' German lessons: The next series of 8 weekly lessons on **Zoom** will start in July. They take place on Thursdays from 5.30 to 6.30 pm and are free to all existing and new members. We will also 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 (in English) for foreign-language assistant teachers of all nationalities, including German, will resume in the autumn, when they arrive in this area to help in schools for 6-8 months. If you'd like to be involved, please contact Marilyn Heron at the WGC email address. wgcircle@gmail.com

Anglo-German discussion group on Zoom for WGC members and our German contacts: This 90 mins long meeting happens, via Zoom, every 3 months with approximately equal numbers of WGC members and our friends in Germany and Austria. The 20 or so participants are divided into smaller break-out groups for some of the discussion, which can be in German or English, whichever suits the participants. 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 May, 7pm in the UK, 8pm in Germany.

The Sprachcafé/Language Café, run by the Leeds Anglo German Club, takes place at the Toby Carvery, Harrogate Road, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 3PT from 10 am until 12 noon on the first Monday of the month. The next session will be on 2nd June 2025.

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 sent before each meeting.

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