

WGC

Wharfedale German Circle

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021

Monthly Meetings.

These will be held at the Salem Hall, Main Street, Burley in Wharfedale, LS29 7DG, starting at 7.30 for 8 pm, unless stated.

Sunday 17th October 2021 - Geschichte und Wesen der französischen Bulldogge

WGC member Jackie Mavro-Michaelis will give us an illustrated talk on this fascinating breed - the French bulldog, including its development, build and characteristics, and why it has become so popular. Jackie will also describe how she became interested in the breed and her involvement with it today - a must for dog-lovers as well as Germanists! This light-hearted talk will be in German with English summaries.

Sunday 14th November 2021 - Otley's Teutonic Links

WGC member Shirley Wise will cover many aspects of the town from Anglo-Saxon times to the 20th century. Her talk was originally prepared to accompany a walk in the 2005 Otley Walking Festival. The absorbing story of the prisoner of war camp featured several German Circle members. The talk will be in English, with copies of the walk available.

Sunday 12th December 2021 - Weihnachtsfeier (NB earlier time: 3 pm till 5 pm!!)

German-style refreshments will be provided, and we are putting together a series of Christmassy activities for this event. They will include readings, games, a film extract, a quiz and musical items. If you have any suggestions or would like to do a turn, please contact Peter Lodge or June Hulbert.

Sunday 16th January 2021 - Wilhelm Busch

Leeds Anglo German Club member Lieselotte Humphreys will entertain us with a talk about this North German poet, humorist, painter and author, most famous for his verse story of Max und Moritz, which he illustrated himself. The talk will be in German with English summaries

Future meetings: 13th February - Janet Smaje on Lübeck; 13th March - Echt lesenswert! Reviews of books/films etc; 24th April - **AGM**

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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 (eg 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 takes place twice a month on Friday afternoons from 3.30 until 5pm.

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 (unless a Bank Holiday). Please ask Peter if you would like more details.

The Reading Group will resume on 30th September and the book for discussion will be Bernhard Schlink's "Olga". Email us at wgcircle@gmail.com or contact Fleur or John R directly if you are interested in joining the group.

Student events: We are once again able to offer student events in-person and we will be helping the foreign-language assistant (FLA) teachers of all nationalities to get to know Yorkshire and beyond. Events planned for this term are an Ilkley treasure trail (9th October), a visit to Haworth (16th October), a walk round Skipton (13th November) and a visit to Saltaire (4th December). See the programme section of the website for further information.

Any student or foreign language assistant who wants to be involved should please contact Marilyn Heron at wgcircle@gmail.com. WGC members wishing to help with talks, information on local places of interest, or any of the above events should also contact Marilyn. The FLA committee at Leeds University will also be offering talks and presentations on Wednesdays from 13th October.

Beginners' German lessons: The second series of these 8 weekly lessons on ZOOM is scheduled to begin in mid-November. They will take place on Thursdays at 5.30 pm, last an hour and will be free to all existing and new members!!

A few **advanced sessions** will also be held at times to be arranged with those interested. Contact Peter if you'd like to take part in either of the above.

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Events organised by other local German groups, eg the Leeds Anglo German Club and the Calderdale German Circle, are also available to our members. Some of these are currently being held on ZOOM, others in person, and invitations are forwarded in advance of each meeting.

Links with Dortmund and Nordrhein-Westfalen

We are closely following moves to re-establish or strengthen links between Leeds and Dortmund, and more widely between Yorkshire and the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen. The WGC was originally formed to be a "friendship society" and we feel that our links with Germany - at a club level - have not been as strong as they were in the past, despite many good friendships remaining at an individual level.

We are currently thinking about possibly trying to organise a Zoom meeting, about once per quarter, comprising about 10 WGC members and 10 of our contacts/friends in Germany (not necessarily NRW). This would replace one of the Kaffee und Kuchen sessions and would perhaps start a little later to allow people working full-time to take part. We feel that discussion should take place in English or German, whichever the participants feel most comfortable with (but certainly a mixture of the two languages). This format has worked surprisingly well in some meetings we've attended that have involved Leeds-Dortmund links. We would probably follow the format we use for Kaffee und Kuchen, where we have some whole-group discussion and then smaller break-out groups. We hope to cover topics like current affairs in both countries and what stories are being carried in the British press about Germany and vice versa, but nothing too political!

If you feel you'd like to take part in this initiative, and/or you have friends in Germany who might like to be involved, please contact Marilyn.

Website: Information about all our activities is on our website, which Dominique regularly updates. Do let us know of any books, articles, films etc. you would like to recommend, and these can be included on the "hot off the press" page.

Please contact us if anyone you know would like a *printed* copy of the newsletter.