

# WGC

## Wharfedale German Circle

### NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

#### 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 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Echt lesenswert!

Following the success of the equivalent event last year, we are running another "good read" session, but this time face-to-face. If you have enjoyed reading a book in German or a book in English about Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland, this is your chance to recommend it to others! You can tell us about it in German or English and your mini talk would only be a few minutes long. Please let Peter know if you would like to offer a recommendation.

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - AGM

The agenda will be issued to members well in advance of the meeting. Following the conclusion of business there will be a short presentation and, if time, a word game. Please let any committee member know if you would like to stand for election to this dedicated team.

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 - Thüringen

Leeds Anglo German Club member Mike Obst will tell us about this fascinating area of eastern Germany, birthplace of J.S. Bach and with some of Germany's most beautiful architecture and landscapes and sites of crucial historical and cultural significance. The talk will be in German with English summaries.

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Sommerfest (NB slightly earlier in the year than usual)

Our summer party - for members and invited guests only - will be **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, that would be very welcome!** Please let us know by the end of April. Help, in the form of recipes and/or the loan of large baking tins and serving plates, will be available.

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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - 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:** 14<sup>th</sup> August; 18<sup>th</sup> September - "My place in Germany"; 16<sup>th</sup> October; 13<sup>th</sup> November; 11<sup>th</sup> December - **Weihnachtsfeier (Christmas party).**

**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.

**Beginners' German lessons:** The third series of these 8 weekly lessons on ZOOM is scheduled to begin in May. 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.

**Student events:** We are once again able to offer student events in person and are helping foreign-language assistants (FLAs) of all nationalities to get to know Yorkshire and beyond. Forthcoming events planned either solely by the WGC or in conjunction with the FLA committee at Leeds University are a visit to Halifax, including the Piece Hall, the Minster and an Indian restaurant (2<sup>nd</sup> March), a coach trip to Whitby and Robin Hood's Bay, including a treasure trail, fish and chips, a cliff walk, and a cream tea (26<sup>th</sup> March), a walk along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal from Crossflatts to Saltaire (9<sup>th</sup> March) and a baking day and Ilkley Moor walk (19<sup>th</sup> March). See the programme section of the website for further information.

Any student or FLA who is interested should contact Marilyn at [wgcircle@gmail.com](mailto:wgcircle@gmail.com). WGC members wishing to help with any of the above should contact Marilyn or Peter.

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**New Zoom meetings for WGC members and our German contacts:** We have made good progress in our quest to strengthen and re-establish links between the WGC and our contacts in Germany. Our idea was to find at least ten WGC members and German contacts (20 in all) and to set up Zoom meetings about 4 or 5 times per year to discuss items of interest - perhaps current affairs or press articles in each other's countries, but not restricted to that. We now have enough people to begin our initiative (thanks to all of you who have volunteered!), but still need to sort out suitable dates and times. As quite a few of those interested work full time, the meetings would have to be in the early evening, UK time, to allow for time being an hour later in Germany. We are aiming for the first meeting to be in mid-March.

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). 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 of 4 or 5 people. If you have not yet contacted Marilyn about this, but feel you'd like to take part, please get in touch with her as soon as possible.

**Jacquie Briggs**, a valued and longstanding member of the WGC, sadly died in early January. A former schoolteacher, Jacquie pursued languages in her retirement, achieving the Institute of Linguists Final Diploma and a degree in German, as well as picking up Spanish! This was in part because one of her sons lived in Germany and another lives in the Canary Islands, but also because she had a lively and enquiring mind. Jacquie's European credentials were beyond question; she won the quiz at our WGC Euro-party in January 2000, and when a group of our friends from the Minden Anglo-German Society visited us in 2008 to help us celebrate the WGC's 20th Anniversary, Jacquie was delighted to host their secretary and his two children.

She was also amazingly fit, physically, well into old age; she seemed indefatigable on our WGC group trip to Munich in 2018, walking miles to see the sights. There, she particularly enjoyed seeking out the paintings of Caspar David Friedrich in the art gallery we visited. And we can all recall the amusing talk she gave us after our AGM in 2019, when, in her excellent German, she told us about a family trip to Disneyland Paris. She also joined us on Zoom during lockdown, with her son Richard. We shall all really miss Jacquie.

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**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). The next ones will be on 7<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April. Please ask Peter if you would like more details.

**Additional 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.

**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.**