

WGC

Wharfedale German Circle

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 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. Please note that from November to February our events will start at 3 pm for 3.30 pm.

Sunday 12th 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.

Sunday 17th 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

Sunday 14th August 2022 - The Doncaster-Herten link

Following the promotion of Doncaster to "city status", **Peter Hattam** of the Doncaster Herten German Society will tell us about the history of the club, how friendships have evolved and the exchanges that have been arranged. He will provide an overview of Herten and the surrounding areas that club members have visited. The talk will be in German and English.

Sunday 18th September 2022 - My place in Germany

Based on the format of our "echt lesenswert" book review evenings, **5 or 6 WGC members** will each tell us about a town or area in Germany / Austria/ Switzerland which they know and love. These short presentations will be either in German with English summaries or in English. Some will be accompanied by photos of the relevant location.

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Sunday 16th October 2022 - Das Ruhrgebiet - Vom Kohlenpott zur europäischen Kulturhauptstadt.

Wolfgang Keinhorst, a retired Graduate Teaching Fellow at Leeds University, will take a look at the history and development of the Ruhr area. This was once the largest coal-producing region in Europe, then had to face big structural and economic changes in the late 20th century, earning the title of 'European City of Culture' in 2010. The talk will be in German, with pictures and relevant music, as well as short summaries in English.

Future meetings: 13th November AT 3 pm; 11th December - Weihnachtsfeier (Christmas party) at 3 pm.

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 began on Thursday 26th May. They take place on Thursdays at 5.30 pm, last an hour and are free to all existing and new members. It's not too late for you to join in!

We are also still hoping to hold a few **advanced sessions** at times to be arranged with those interested.

Contact Peter if you'd like to take part in either of the above.

Student events: Recent events organised by the WGC alone or in conjunction with the Foreign Language Assistants Committee at Leeds University have included a visit to Halifax Minster and Piece Hall, a coach trip to Whitby and Robin Hood's Bay, and a baking day and Ilkley Moor walk.

Watch this space for information about events for the new cohort of foreign language assistants due to arrive in Yorkshire in October 2022. 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.

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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 had a successful first A-G Zoom meeting on 15th March at 7pm (8pm in Germany), with nine participants in Germany and eleven WGC members. Discussion took place in English or German, whichever the participants felt most comfortable with (but certainly a mixture of the two languages, as, on both sides, there are participants who do not speak the other language, although they can often understand it to some extent). We followed the format we use for Kaffee und Kuchen, i.e. some whole-group discussion and then smaller break-out groups of 4 or 5 people. Most of this inaugural meeting was taken up with introductions, but we also discussed holidays.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st June at 7pm where we hope to discuss some items that have been in the press in both countries. 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 at wgcircle@gmail.com.

Biddy Litten: We were saddened by the news that a former very active member of WGC, Biddy Litten, has died. Biddy arrived in Ilkley as a child evacuee in the late 1930s, and, while attending school there, met her future husband Gerard, who had arrived as a child evacuated from Germany. She and Gerard were involved in our club from its inception until ill-health forced them to retire from it about five years ago. They took part in in all aspects, including our Dortmund and Minden partnerships and the events we put on for foreign-language assistant teachers. Biddy was an accomplished artist and pursued a career in clothing design and millinery. She learnt German to accompany Gerard on his many business trips to Germany. In later life she learnt to play the piano, and the Christmas cards she designed were a delight to receive. Our sincere condolences go to Gerard and their son and daughter.,

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 6th June and 4th July. Please ask Peter if you would like more details.

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Events organised by other local German groups, eg the Leeds Anglo German Club and the Calderdale German Circle, are frequently 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.