

Jahreshauptversammlung 2009

Entsprechend unserer Satzung wurde in diesem Jahr unsere Jahreshauptversammlung und die Wahl des Vorstandes für die nächste Legislaturperiode durchgeführt. Der Vorstand hatte die Mitglieder für den 26.11. 09 in das Otto-Brenner-Haus eingeladen und 27 waren der Einladung gefolgt.

Die Funktion des Versammlungsleiters lag, wie schon in den Jahren zuvor, in den bewährten Händen von Herrn Dr. Hoffmann, der die Anwesenden begrüßte und nach der Feststellung der Beschlussfähigkeit und dem Verlesen der Tagesordnung, der von den Anwesenden zugestimmt wurde, das Wort an unsere Vorsitzende Frau Tröller übergab. Frau Tröller verlas den Rechenschaftsbericht über die geleistete Arbeit und die Aktivitäten unserer Gesellschaft in den letzten zwei Jahren. Sie ging auch noch einmal detailliert auf die Probleme mit Herrn Dupke ein und dankte Herrn Linke und Herrn Rosch, durch deren kurzfristiger Einsatz unsere Konversationszirkel weiterhin stattfinden konnten. Ein weiteres Dankeschön ging an die Mitglieder des Vorstandes, die mit dafür sorgten, dass die Vorstandsarbeit nicht unter ihrem gegenwärtigen Studium leiden musste.

Dem Rechenschaftsbericht folgte der Finanzbericht von Herrn Rosch. Er informierte die Mitglieder über die gegenwärtigen Kontostände und gab einen kurzen Überblick über die wichtigsten Posten auf der Einnahmen- und der Ausgabenseite. In einer Erklärung wies er darauf hin, dass wegen der im zweiten Halbjahr durch ihn irrtümlich doppelt überwiesenen Miet- und Telefonkosten für die Geschäftsstelle in diesem Jahr die Ausgaben etwas höher sein werden als die Einnahmen. Er machte allerdings deutlich, dass sich dieser Irrtum nicht negativ auswirken wird, da mit Frau Holasek, der Schatzmeisterin der Deutsch-Französischen Gesellschaft, die das Geschäftsstellenkonto verwaltet, vereinbart wurde, diese fälschliche Überweisung als Vorrauszahlung für das kommende Jahr zu werten.

Frau Lorenz verlas anschließend den Bericht der Revisionskommission und bescheinigte eine ordnungsgemäße Führung der Konten. Eine kurze Irritation entstand, da sich der Bericht nur auf das Jahr 2009 bezog. Frau Lorenz wies darauf hin, dass der Bericht für das Jahr 2008 bereits in der Mitgliederkurzversammlung, die vor der Weihnachtsfeier im letzten Jahr durchgeführt wurde, bekannt gegeben wurde. Man einigte sich darauf, diesen Bericht den Unterlagen zur diesjährigen Hauptversammlung hinzuzufügen.

Nach dem Bericht der Revisionskommission stellte Frau Böhme den Rahmenarbeitsplan vor, in dem die allgemeinen Aufgaben und vorgesehenen Projekte für die Jahre 2010 und 2011 aufgeführt sind. So ist unter anderem eine Tagesfahrt zum Grünefelder Park oder zum Pücklerpark bei Bad Muskau vorgesehen. Ein weiteres Vorhaben im kommenden Jahr betrifft das 20jährige Bestehen unserer Gesellschaft. Die Mitglieder wurden um Vorschläge gebeten, in welcher Form dieses Jubiläum, das wir im Oktober oder November feiern wollen, begangen werden sollte. Wie schon im Rechenschaftsbericht von Frau Tröller wurde auch durch Frau Böhme auf den hohen Altersdurchschnitt unserer Gesellschaft hingewiesen und alle Mitglieder aufgefordert, sich dafür einzusetzen, jüngere Leute für eine Mitgliedschaft zu gewinnen.

In der folgenden Diskussion zu den Berichten gab Herr Linke bekannt, dass sich seine familiäre Situation dahingehend geändert hätte, dass es ihm möglich wäre, die Leitung des Konversationszirkels am ersten Donnerstag im Monat dauerhaft zu übernehmen. Im Bezug auf die 20-Jahrfeier kamen zwar keine speziellen Vorschläge, es wurde aber auf unsere Feier zum 15jährigen Jubiläum im DASTietz hingewiesen, die anscheinend viel Anklang gefunden hatte.

Nach der Abstimmung über die Berichte und der Entlastung des Vorstandes übernahm der Leiter der Wahlkommission, Herr Dr. Reimann, das Wort, der seine Mitarbeiter, die bei der Auszählung der Stimmen behilflich sind, sowie die Kandidaten vorstellte. Neu war bei dieser Wahl, dass neben den Kandidaten für den Vorstand und die Revisionskommission erstmalig so genannte Nachfolgekandidaten zur Wahl standen. Frau Tröller begründete diese Maßnahme damit, dass die Nachfolgekandidaten für den Fall des Ausfalls eines Vorstandsmitgliedes langfristig in die Aufgaben des Vorstandes eingearbeitet werden sollen.

Der Wahlhandlung folgte eine kurze Pause, die die Anwesenden unter anderem dazu nutzten, sich in die Teilnehmerliste für unsere Weihnachtsfeier am 11.12. einzutragen, oder einige Flaschen und Dosen des Bieres aus Restbeständen des Stadtfestes zu erwerben.

Nach der Pause gab Herr Dr. Reimann das Wahlergebnis bekannt. Dem zufolge wurden alle Kandidaten mit der überwältigenden Mehrheit der abgegebenen Stimmen gewählt. In der folgenden kurzen konstituierenden Sitzung des Vorstandes wurde Frau Tröller als Vorsitzende bestätigt und Frau Böhme offiziell als neue stellvertretende Vorsitzende gewählt. Herr Dr. Reimann gratulierte Frau Tröller zur Wiederwahl und wünschte ihr viel Erfolg für die neue Wahlperiode. In ihrem Schlusswort bedankte sich Frau Tröller bei allen Anwesenden für das ausgesprochene Vertrauen.

A pleasant afternoon at the “Muffins”

Every year our English class, led by Mrs Piosek, goes on a nice “Klassenfahrt”. This year we went to Mühlau, near Chemnitz. Mr Simon Orrell, an Englishman, who once gave a talk to our society, and his wife Katrin run a little English Tea Room there, called “Muffins”.

Mrs Piosek contacted Mr Orrell beforehand and he invited us, and so in the afternoon of the 4 July we set off by bus.



We got off the bus at the stop Mühlau Ortsmitte, and after a short walk we stood in front of the oldest house of the place, which is said to be about 250 years old.

The welcome was very friendly. We all took seats in the little garden because the weather was fine. Mr Orrell was happy to talk to us in his mother tongue. His wife and his little daughter Natasha served Yorkshire tea and scones with cream, butter and jam. Some of us also had big cups of ice-cream (sundea). Natasha was a very diligent “waitress” and helped her mama.

In the house is a little shop which sells typical English products. One can buy, for instance, Yorkshire tea, delicious jams and marmalades, special English biscuits, and many other things.

All in all, it was a very comfortable and pleasant afternoon.

If you want to go there, too, you can take bus nr. 650, going to Penig. It leaves from the “Busbahnhof”, but you can also get on the bus at the stop in front of the “Karl-Marx-Monument”. There are some more stops on the Leipziger Straße in the direction to Röhrsdorf. And, of course, you can go by your own car. “Muffin” is situated on the Untere Hauptstraße 27 and is open from Saturday to Thursday, 2 – 7 p.m. Try it and you will experience a nice afternoon.

Brigitte Rüdiger

Chemnitzer Stadtfest 2009

As every year, our society took part in the annual Chemnitzer Stadtfest. Illustrated material from different regions of Great Britain and a large assortment of English, Irish and Scottish beer were offered to the public. Many visitors at our stall looked for some advice for a journey to Britain. Others reported about the experiences they made during their stays on the “Isles” and gave interesting views of their impressions.

Naturally, the raffle was again the centre of attraction. All tickets were sold and the prizes, original British articles, pleased the winners.

The members who ran the stall (almost the same as every year) were most satisfied with the success. They did their work with much joy and great enthusiasm.

Maria Weiße

Day trip to Scotland

Did you know that it is possible to experience a piece of Scotland here in Germany? Every year on a weekend in September, the International Highland Games are held in the grounds of the park of Schloss Machern, near Leipzig. This year it was the 9th Games.

A group of members of our society, some with their partners, set off for Machern in the sunny morning of Saturday, the 19 September, to witness this spectacle.

It began with the marching in of the pipe bands and the other participants in the sporting and entertaining events. After the official opening of the Highland Games at the main stage, the competitions began. Male and female teams from different parts of Germany competed with each other in the so-called highland athletics, such as caber toss, stone put and farmer’s walk, to name only a few, and it was great fun watching them because



obviously for them it was great fun as well. Of course, all the competitors were wearing kilts.

But there was not only sport. You could watch pipe band competitions either, and the programme of the day was packed with a large number of secondary events and entertainment. There were several musical and dance performances on two stages, the spectators were attracted by different horse riding and dog training shows, a shepherdess demonstrated the skills of her Border Collie, and members of



the Falconers Association East Saxony presented their beautiful birds and introduced their hobby. Sometimes it was really difficult to decide where to go and what event to watch. And, as usual, there was a multitude of stalls offering different products and goods for sale.

In the afternoon, some of us wanted to take part in a whisky tasting that was announced to take place in the pub of the Schloss Hotel, but when they told us the price for the three whiskies we decided not to take part.

Unfortunately, we couldn't stay for the evening programme which had, amongst other events, a performance of the

massed pipe bands and a concert of the Dutch band 'Rapaalje', who were playing Scottish folk music, on the list.

It was a very beautiful and eventful day and quite certainly it was not the last time that I was at the Highland Games in Machern.

Siegfried Rosch

Review of the last months

27 August 2009

“Wild river – cold stone“

The actually planned lecture about “Stonehenge“ couldn't take place because the lecturer, Mr O'Callaghan, cancelled the meeting at short notice. **Mrs Silvia Tröller**, the chairwoman of our society, saved the situation and presented a video about Dartmoor, the wild heart of Devon. That could already be considered as preparation for her report about “Cornwall and Devon“ in September.

The Dartmoor is a landscape of unique, austere beauty. The audience got to know many impressions of this region with its people, their lives and hard work of breeding cattle, sheep and horses. Unfortunately, some of the speakers in the video were very difficult to understand. Nevertheless, the audience enjoyed the performance.

Maria Weiße

24 September 2009

„Impressions from Cornwall and Devon“

In her report Mrs **Silvia Tröller** gave a vivid review of her holiday trip to one of the most interesting and beautiful regions of the south western part of England. By means of a map she pointed out the itinerary from Dover, via Bristol, to Cornwall.

Mrs Tröller showed a lot of photos she took together with her partner during their daily outings. While the audience attentively listened to her words, pictures of lovely landscapes changed to some of the wild sea, rough cliffs and rocks. The audience also got to know impressions of many villages and small towns, such as St. Ives, Perranporth, Newquay and Tintagel, with typical English houses and pubs. Land's End, Penzance with St. Michael's Mount being in sight, and Lizard Point were further destinations on their route. Many people in the audience looked with pleasure at the great variety of photos most of which certainly reminded them of their own journeys to this lovely region.

Since there was not enough time left to complete her report, Mrs Tröller promised a sequel for the beginning of next year.

Maria Weiße

29 October 2009

"The Author is death – Long live the Author, a birthday tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle"

Hardly any other author is linked as much to his brainchild as Arthur Conan Doyle, the "inventor" of the famous detective Sherlock Holmes. This was one of the facts **Dr Ines Detmers**, who works at the department for English literature at the University of Technology in Chemnitz, stated in her interesting lecture. It was organized by the Stadtbibliothek in co-operation with our society on the occasion of the 150th birthday of this Scottish writer.

This time the room was filled to the last seat, which was due to the many students who had come to listen to Mrs Detmers' lecture.

Mrs Detmers gave a lot of details on A. C. Doyle's life and work, which she illustrated with a number of projector slides. We learned, for instance, that he was a keen reader from his childhood days on and that he was actually a studied doctor with a practice of his own in London who, in the beginning, started writing only as a sideline before he eventually decided to give up medicine in favour of literature. She also mentioned, amongst others, two further names and showed their pictures: Dr Joseph Bell, who was one of Doyle's teachers at the medical school in Edinburgh, and who, with his intellectual mind and deductive abilities, left a deep impression on him and served as the example for the figure of the great detective, and Sidney Paget, who illustrated a large number of the Sherlock Holmes stories and gave the acting characters their faces.

However interesting I think the lecture was, I don't want to withhold a negative point: Dr Detmers spoke too fast and some of the listeners complained afterward that they were hardly able to follow, which is really a pity.

Siegfried Rosch

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Fr., 11.12.09, 18.30 Uhr, Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Weihnachtsfeier der Mitglieder der DBG

Di., 5.1.10, 16 Uhr, Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Stollenparty, Eintrittsgeld: 2 Stück Stollen

Do., 24.1.10, 19 Uhr, im Vortragssaal im DASTietz: „Stonehenge – old myths and new insights“, englischer Vortrag von Einde O'Callaghan

Do., 25.2.10, 19 Uhr, im Vortragssaal im DASTietz: „Impressions from Cornwall and Devon (2)“, zweiter Teil des Reiseberichtes von Silvia Tröller

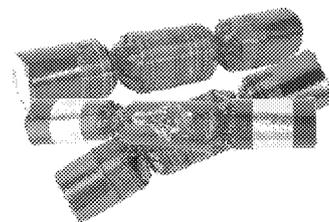
Do., 25.3.10, 19 Uhr, Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: „Die einstige Seemacht Englands – ein Geschichtsrückblick“, Vortrag von Winfried Herold

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

Christmas Crackers

In Britain a Christmas without Christmas crackers is hard to imagine.

Christmas Crackers have been a part of the traditional British Christmas since 1840. A Christmas cracker is a tube of brightly coloured paper, which is twisted at both ends. Actually it looks like an oversized sweet-wrapper. Christmas Crackers are traditionally used to decorate the Christmas table. And what's inside? Christmas Crackers usually contain a small present, a joke and a paper hat, usually a crown. However, they may also contain other kinds of hats, such as for example a pirate shawl. The present is often a tiny trinket or a toy such as a little car, a shoe horn, a pen or a mirror. As far as contents are concerned, the more money you pay for the crackers, the better are the contents! You have to be invited to the Christmas dinner of very rich



people to actually find valuable gifts in your cracker. The British Royal Family, for instance, has Christmas crackers made every year that contain special presents, which the Royal household will choose or specify before the crackers are made.

The joke is written on a small strip of paper. It is actually a running joke that almost all Christmas cracker jokes are usually very "corny". That means that most of the jokes are really bad and pathetic. The paper crowns are worn on the head on Christmas day.

Traditionally the crackers are placed next to each plate on the Christmas dinner table. Crackers are traditionally opened by two people. Each person pulls on one side of the cracker. The split of the cracker is accompanied by a small bang produced by a chemically treated strip, which is worked into the wrapping. Normally, the cracker does not tear in the middle, but separates in two uneven pieces. The winner is the one who is left holding the biggest part of the cracker and can therefore keep what's inside of it. Children love this part of the process most, which is why most families make sure to buy enough crackers so that everyone gets a surprise gift.



In many ways the history of the Christmas cracker sounds like a Christmas tale. In fact, the invention of the Christmas Cracker is the story of a man's creativity and determination. It's the true story of an innovative businessman.

Tom Smith is said to have started as a confectioner's apprentice in around 1835. By that time he was around 12, which was a normal age to start work in Victorian times. On a trip to Paris in 1840, he discovered nicely-wrapped-up sugared almond bonbons. The confectioner decided to sell similarly wrapped up sweets in London. The bonbons were popular, but not quite as much as the confectioner hoped. In the early 1850s, Tom Smith was anxious to develop his idea further and decided to add a small love motto to the bonbon. However, Tom Smith was still not happy with his marketing idea and wanted to make it even more appealing.

In about 1860, it was the crack of a log, which inspired him to add the "crackle" element to his crackers. Thanks to a chemically treated strip within the cracker, which is called snap, the cracker makes a loud noise when it is pulled apart. Tom Smith purchased the idea of the chemically treated strip from a chemist called Tom Brown. At first these bonbons were called "cosaques", but shortly afterwards they became known as crackers. Unluckily, Tom's "cracker idea" was imitated by other confectioners and so a year later he came up with the idea to replace the sweet with a small present. When Thomas Smith died in 1869 his business was carried on by his wife Martha and his children. His son Walter Smith added the paper hat in the early 1900s. Finally, by the end of the 1930s the love mottos had been replaced by corny Christmas jokes. Today the Christmas Crackers are more popular than ever and a Christmas in Britain is unimaginable without crackers.

(Source: Internet)

Our language section

tr. or intr.

Beim Blättern in einem englischen Wörterbuch findet man bei Verben den Zusatz „tr.“ und/oder „intr.“. Ausgeschrieben bedeuten diese Abkürzungen „transitiv“ bzw. „intransitiv“ und weisen darauf hin, dass das besagte Verb mit einem direkten Objekt verbunden ist (transitiv) oder kein direktes Objekt bei sich hat (intransitiv). Ein weiteres Merkmal intransitiver Verben ist, dass sie keine Passivformen bilden.

Um den Unterschied zwischen transitiv und intransitiv deutlich zu machen, folgen einige Beispiele mit Verben, die in beiden Formen gebraucht werden können:

intr.: The machine broke. – Die Maschine ist kaputtgegangen.

tr.: I *broke the machine*. – Ich habe die Maschine kaputtgemacht.

intr.: The shop closed. – Das Geschäft schloss.

tr.: He *closed the shop*. – Er hat das Geschäft geschlossen.

intr.: This book reads well. – Das Buch liest sich gut.

tr.: She is *reading a book*. – Sie liest gerade ein Buch.

Die Zahl der transitiven Verben ist im Englischen größer als im Deutschen, weil es lediglich eine Objektform kennt. Wichtige Verben, die im Unterschied zum Deutschen auch transitiv gebraucht werden können, sind:

advise – raten
approach – sich nähern
command – befehlen
congratulate – gratulieren
enter – eintreten in
escape – entkommen
follow – folgen
help – helfen
join – sich anschließen
meet – begegnen
obey – gehorchen
order – befehlen, beauftragen
please – gefallen
remember – sich erinnern
resist – widerstehen
succeed – nachfolgen
thank – danken

Beispiele:

I *advise you* to see the doctor. – Ich rate ihnen, den Arzt aufzusuchen.
This music *pleases me*. – Diese Musik gefällt mir.
We *resisted the temptation*. – Wir widerstanden der Versuchung.

Zu den rein intransitiven Verben gehören:

ache – wehtun
appear – erscheinen
arise – entstehen; sich erheben
arrive – ankommen
come – kommen
cough - husten
disappear - verschwinden
go – (weg)gehen
fall – fallen
lie – leigen; lügen
hesitate – zögern
sleep – schlafen
sneeze – niesen

Beispiele:

My head *aches*. – Mein Kopf tut (mir) weh.
The train *arrived* at 2 o'clock. – Der Zug ist um 14 Uhr angekommen.
She *coughed* all night. – Sie hustete die ganze Nacht.
We *slept* on the couch. – Wir haben auf der Couch geschlafen.

Darüber hinaus gibt es noch eine ganze Reihe so genannter phrasal verbs, d.h. Verb – Partikelverbindungen wie z.B. dress up (sich fein machen) oder show off (angeben), die ausschließlich intransitiv gebraucht werden.

Anagrams

Ein Anagramm ist eine Form des Spielens mit Buchstaben. Unter Benutzung der Buchstaben eines oder mehrerer Wörter werden neue sinnvolle Worte gebildet. Können Sie aus den folgenden Worten jeweils drei Berufe und drei Geräte, die man zuhause finden kann, „zusammenbauen“? Als kleine Hilfe sind schon einige Buchstaben vorgegeben. Viel Erfolg!

1. a stew sir - __ i _ _ _ _ s

2. here cat - _ _ a c _ _ _

3. cd root - _ o _ _ o _

4. our pet mac - _ _ m _ _ _ _ r

5. note is live - _ _ _ _ v _ _ i _ _

6. give a demo - _ i _ _ _ g _ _ _

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 56 "Modals"

1. must
2. want to, ought to
3. can't, might
4. must
5. will, should

A Stormy Experience on Ipperwash Beach



After living in Windsor, Ontario, for two years we decided to take a long holiday weekend north of Windsor to Lake Huron, a trip of about 220 miles.

We had company from Germany – my husband's sister Annelies, who as a teacher had quite a few weeks summer vacation. Her friend, who had lived in Windsor for two years, joined us.

We all had splurged with our savings and bought a used car each. British made little Hilmans, both in good conditions, for \$ 300 each. We were ecstatic. Our first car ever and we babied it right from the beginning. The only drawback was its power. In fourth gear you could not push it beyond 45 mph, otherwise the poor little thing started to shake and rattle something fierce. But going up a hill and before it stalled we could switch over to a so-called "creeper gear" and that gave new life to our "Betsie", as we called her, and she was chugging along happily. That way we could tackle every hill, slowly but surely.

We stayed to the right side of every highway in order not to get ticketed for driving below the speed limit.

After a pleasant journey, using many side roads with picturesque towns and villages, we reached Port Huron. As it happened, many other people had the same idea: camping on Ipperwash Provincial Park. By the time we arrived the park was already filled to capacity and we were advised to drive along the beach about another mile where we could pitch our tent up a little slope, right along a fence with a thicket. Nobody would complain as this stretch of land belonged to the State.

We drove on and came to a dried out riverbed, leading from the town into the Lake. It was only about 25 inches deep and no trouble for our two Hilmans to drive through and to the other side.

Pretty soon we came to this aforementioned slope and since my husband did not want us to carry our camping equipment too far, he put the car into second gear and drove up until it stopped dead. We had the two tents pitched in no time and everything put into proper place. Our folding table and canvas chairs were comfortable and our Coleman stove boiled the water we got out of the Lake for a refreshing cup of tea, fortified with some delicious cookies.

Later we played ball on the beach and also walked quite a distance along the lake, being careful not to get our feet wet whenever the waves came up on the beach, as the water was very cold indeed. Little Rainer, our son, had fun collecting shells along the way, but pretty soon got tired and we turned around.

The evening advanced and we heated up the vegetable soup I had prepared at home, and with a slice of buttered rye bread we had an enjoyable supper. The fresh air and all the exercise had given us a good appetite. We had a good view of the beach and the lake from our location and saw many

people taking an evening stroll. But we also saw the dark clouds, pushed by strong winds, advancing and hanging low over the lake. The waves got higher and noisier. Thunder could be heard in the distance. Since we were tired we called it a day and crawled into our comfortable sleeping bags.

Suddenly we were awakened by quite a storm. Rain pelted and shook the tent. Lightning flashed in quick successions and the loud thunder rolled along in an eerie rumble. Quickly we got dressed as we did not trust our tent posts to hold in this fierce wind. With Rainer in my arms I ran to the car, but my husband stayed behind to hold on to the tent from the inside, but he also knew touching the tent like that would make the water run right through. Nevertheless, he held on to it as it would have been blown away in the storm. Our friend did the same and Annelies came to the car with us.

Naturally nobody could sleep that night. We could hear Lake Huron churning and knew the waves would crush to the beach higher and higher up, but since it was pitch dark we could only glimpse a little bit of it during lightning whizzing through the air.

Morning came and many people looked at the devastation along the beach. More than that, people were straining their eyes as they noticed two big cars drifting way out on the lake. The owners, who missed their automobiles on the beach, were frantic. They had not driven their cars closer to where they were pitching their tents as we did. During the storm the waves had washed away the sand under their wheels and finally dragged them into the lake. By the time all this was realized, the cars were way out and a total loss. Nobody could help.

Since everything was wet we packed up and left, but not before we ate a good breakfast of bacon and eggs and toast and tea. We had to be careful driving along the beach, since the sand was wet and tricky. Soon we arrived at the river bed, not dry anymore by a long shot, but a stream rushing into the lake.

Now what? On the other side young men were playing football, so my husband waded through the water and approached them to engage their help. They all were most willing to push our cars through the river real fast while my husband was driving. Alone we would not have been able to overcome the force of the water and the car would have stalled in mid-river and been pushed out into the lake. Both cars got through all right, except the spark plugs had to be tried out quickly and after some worrying the car started and we continued our trip home.

That weekend taught us to be ever so careful and always respect "Mother Nature" with all its power and dangers involved.
What an experience!

Gisela Muench

