

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

sie halten gerade die Frühjahrsausgabe unseres Newsletters in den Händen, denn laut Kalender haben wir seit einigen Tagen Frühling und auch meteorologisch gesehen scheint sich der Winter, der sich ja diesmal sehr viel Zeit gelassen hat, endlich zurückgezogen zu haben. Man kann zwar nie ganz sicher sein, ob er sich nicht doch noch einmal zeigen wird, wir haben aber zumindest keine „weiße Ostern“.

Einen großen Teil dieser Ausgabe nehmen gleich im Anschluss die Berichte über die Veranstaltungen unseres Vereins in den letzten Monaten, wie zum Beispiel unsere Weihnachtsfeier und die Vortragsabende, ein.

Die Olympischen Winterspiele in und um Vancouver im Februar haben bei unserem Vereinsmitglied Gisela Muench wieder Erinnerungen an eine Urlaubsreise Ende der 70er Jahre in diesen Teil Kanadas hervorgerufen, deren ersten Teil Sie ab Seite 7 lesen können. Dieser Reisebericht wird in unserer nächsten Ausgabe fortgesetzt.

Seit einigen Wochen finden wieder die Rennen der Formel 1 statt und so mancher interessierte Zuschauer würde vielleicht selbst einmal an so einem Rennen teilnehmen. Natürlich ist das auch eine finanzielle Frage und in Großbritannien hat sich vor einigen Jahren eine Gruppe von Rennsportenthusiasten Gedanken gemacht, wie man auch mit kleinem Geldbeutel Rennen veranstalten kann. Sie kamen dabei auf die Idee, Rasenmäher dafür zu verwenden, und seit 1973 finden regelmäßig über das Jahr verteilt solche Rasenmäherrennen statt, bei denen ab und zu auch prominente Beteiligte zu finden sind. Lesen Sie mehr zur British Lawn Mower Racing Association und deren Rennen auf Seite 11.

An dieser Stelle möchten wir auf ein momentan laufendes Projekt hinweisen, das schon bei der Jahreshauptversammlung angesprochen wurde und das über das Kulturamt der Stadt läuft. Es geht dabei um den Aufbau von Beziehungen zu einer Gruppe von Nutzern einer Bibliothek in Gateshead in Nordostengland, die an einem Gedanken- und Erfahrungsaustausch über verschiedene Fragen der Kultur mit Deutschen interessiert sind. Die Anbahnung dieser Beziehungen soll zunächst über so genannte Postcards from Europe geschehen, auf denen die Teilnehmer Informationen über sich und ihre Interessen austauschen können. Wir wurden kürzlich informiert, dass einige dieser Karten aus Gateshead im Kulturamt eingetroffen sind. Wer sich dafür interessiert, wendet sich bitte an Herrn Dr. Reimann oder Herrn Rosch, die an diesem Projekt mitarbeiten.

Damit möchten wir Ihnen viel Spaß beim Lesen dieses Newsletters wünschen.

Die Redaktion

Review of the last months

11 December 2009

Christmas party

A festively decorated table with candles and spruce twigs invited to our annual Christmas party. Mrs Tröller heartily welcomed the members and opened the party.

A rich buffet that offered a large variety of delicious food, delivered by the catering service Pooch, and drinks to choose from was prepared for everyone's taste.

Cheerful hours passed by very quickly with funny recitals and amusing stories, talks, bingo and a quiz. We enjoyed singing Christmas carols, accompanied by Mrs Muench and Mr Herold on their mouth organs and later Mrs Muench alone on the keyboard.

This evening was again an amusing and pleasant get-together.

Maria Weiße

Stollenparty

On January 5, members of our society celebrated together with our guests from the "Neue Arbeit Chemnitz", Mrs Müller and Mrs Matzke, our annual Stollenparty in the Veranstaltungsraum at the Otto-Brenner-Haus.

Nicely decorated tables, specially prepared by members of the board, invited to a cosy get-together with coffee, tea and Stollen. The “admission fee” for each member was two pieces of this traditional Christmas cake. Mrs Böhme welcomed the members and guests. Afterwards Mrs Müller, head of the incorporated association “Neue Arbeit Chemnitz”, that deals with the problems of unemployed people, thanked for the invitation and gave a short review of their work of the past 11 months. Later she invited all the members to visit the exhibition of children’s drawings and paintings in the gallery that was established in the ground floor of the house. The impression of this visit: It was a very nice exhibition.

The time went by with pleasing talks and discussions as well as funny recitations by Mrs Zarbuch from her book.

It was again a delightful afternoon.

Dorothea Böhme

28 January 2010

“Stonehenge – old myths and new insights”

A place of ritual worship, a burial place, an observatory or something quite different? Mr **Einde O’Callaghan** couldn’t give a satisfying explanation why Stonehenge was erected and what it was used for and even scientists still argue about the different theories.

The audience experienced an interesting journey into a time long ago – to Stonehenge, the most important prehistoric monument in the whole of Britain. In his talk, Mr O’Callaghan showed by means of a video projector the three phases in the development of this stone circle. He pointed out that the monument we see today is the much ruined final phase of Stonehenge, perhaps a prehistoric temple in use some 3,500 years ago.

The first Stonehenge was a large earthwork ‘henge’ used as a Neolithic worship and burial place about 5,000 years ago.

About 2000 BC, Stonehenge was rebuilt using stones from the mountains in Wales (‘blue stones’). Soon after, the present ‘temple’ was constructed of much larger stones from the Marlborough Downs, the so called ‘sarsens’, and the ‘blue Stones’ were rearranged within the circle.

Mr O’Callaghan furthermore told his listeners that the landscape for a few miles around Stonehenge contained more prehistoric remains than any other area of the same size in Britain.

The monuments themselves are of several different kinds with different purposes. The four best known ‘henge monuments’ are Stonehenge, Woodhenge, Coneybury and Durrington Walls. They are generally thought to be prehistoric temples, though we shall never know how they were used and what religious beliefs they represent. Because the monuments belong to a period long before any written records were made, there are only fragmentary remains of structures, long ruined and decayed, mostly underground and of objects of stone, metal, pottery and bone, excavated at several times. Mr O’Callaghan described Stonehenge as one of the most remarkable achievements of prehistoric engineering. Yet why it was built remains a mystery.

I can repeat only in parts what Mr O’Callaghan spoke about in detail in his extensive talk. The audience was much pleased at his presentation.

Maria Weiße

25 February 2010

“Impressions from Cornwall and Devon”

In the second part of **Silvia Tröller’s** report on her tour of the south-west of England, that she did last year together with her partner, she focussed on Devon and showed again a great number of photos taken during the trip.

They had put up their tent on a camping site at Newton Abbot from where they started their excursions by car to places such as Exeter, Torquay and Dartmouth, to name only a few. But they also went on several walking tours where they followed the Templar Way and enjoyed the impressive scenery of Dartmoor. We saw pictures of the ‘House of Marbles’, the imposing Exeter Cathedral, the Princetown Prison in the heart of Dartmoor, and many more.

Mrs Tröller confessed that she is a big fan of Agatha Christie. So, being in that region, it was a must for her to visit Torquay, the birth place of this world-famous crime writer, and follow the Agatha-Christie-Trail leading to places related to her.

Another trip, also in connection with Agatha Christie, took them to Greenway House, on the banks of the river Dart, which was her Devon holiday home and is open to the public since Spring 2009. Unfortunately, they had to go there twice as it was necessary to book the admission tickets in advance.

Mrs Tröller also reported about an incident that happened on the last day of their stay during a second walking tour on Dartmoor, the so called Houndtor Walk. At the end of the tour she noticed that her camera bag was missing. After an unsuccessful search in some of the places they had visited they decided to give up and return to their accommodation. Here they gave it a last try and Mrs Tröller rang up the Visitor Centre on Dartmoor to ask if the bag had possibly been found and left with them. She was told that a camera bag had been handed in and after describing the content and some of the features of the bag to prove that it was hers she could collect it on the next morning.

She finished her report with photos of Dover, where they boarded the ferry boat for the continent, and the audience thanked her with a long lasting applause.

As for me, many of the pictures brought back memories of several holidays I spent in the region.

25 March 2010

“Die einstige Seemacht Englands – ein Geschichtsrückblick”

Viele Mitglieder unserer Gesellschaft kennen **Winfried Herold** von früheren Vorträgen und wissen, dass er sich sehr für die Seefahrt interessiert. Er hatte diesmal ebenfalls wieder ein maritimes Thema gewählt und zeigte einige Aspekte der Geschichte Englands auf, die dessen Entwicklung zur führenden Seemacht betrafen.

Herr Herold hatte seinen Vortrag in mehrere Kapitel aufgeteilt, in denen er auf einige der Personen genauer einging, die bestimmte Perioden dieser Entwicklung mitbestimmt hatten.

Als erstes berichtete er über Sir Francis Drake, der sich aus eher ärmlichen Verhältnisse zu einem erfahrenen Seemann und berühmten Freibeuter entwickelt hatte und in der Karibik vor allem die Schiffe der damaligen Seemächte Spanien und Portugal mit ihrer wertvollen Fracht kaperte. Auch seine Weltumsegelung mit der ‚Golden Hinde‘ und seine Beteiligung am siegreichen Kampf gegen die spanische Armada wurden erwähnt.

Er ging auch kurz auf die so genannten Pilgerväter ein, die sich mit der ‚Mayflower‘ von Plymouth aus auf die beschwerliche Reise in die ‚Neue Welt‘ machten, um dort ihr Glück zu suchen. Herr Herold wies aber auch darauf hin, dass nicht nur durch siegreiche Seeschlachten gegen die damaligen Beherrscher der Meere das ‚British Empire‘ gestärkt und vergrößert wurde, sondern dass auch friedlichere Forschungsreisen in bis dahin noch nicht entdeckte oder erforschte Teile der Welt, wie z.B. die drei Expeditionen von James Cook in den Pazifik, dazu beitrugen, bei denen neue Länder für die britische Krone in Besitz genommen wurden.

Immer wieder lockerte er seinen faktenreichen Vortrag mit eigenen Erlebnissen auf. Als es um das strenge Regime auf den englische Schiffen ging, erwähnte er ein Beispiel aus seiner eigenen Dienstzeit auf einem Schnellboot der Volksmarine, wo sie auf Befehl eines Vorgesetzten bei strömendem Regen Malerarbeiten ausführen musste, obwohl sie später die entstandene Farbblasen wieder abkratzen und alles noch einmal überstreichen mussten.

Zu einigen der erwähnten Personen und Ereignisse hatte Herr Herold eine Mappe mit Bildmaterial vorbereitet, die er während seines Vortrages herumgehen ließ.

Nach dem Vortrag kamen noch einige Wortmeldungen aus dem Publikum. Ein Gast berichtete über das anscheinend noch heute bestehende gespaltene Verhältnis Spaniens zu Gibraltar, der Insel vor der Küste des Landes, die bekanntlich zu Großbritannien gehört, und Herr Wagenzink wies auf den damaligen fortschrittlichen Stand der Technik in England hin, der mit dazu beitrug, dass sich das relativ kleine Land zu dieser beherrschenden Seemacht entwickeln konnte.

Den Abschluss des Vortragsabends bildete ein interessantes Video in englischer Sprache zum 50jährigen Jubiläum der ‚Sail Training Association‘, das bei seinem letzten Vortrag zu diesem Thema im April des letzten Jahres wegen technischer Probleme nicht gezeigt werden konnte.

Siegfried Rosch

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 29.4.2010, 19 Uhr, Vortragssaal im DASTietz: „In the Land of the Pharaohs, Part 1“, Videovortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

Do., 27.5.2010, 19 Uhr, Vortragssaal im DASTietz: „In the Land of the Pharaohs, Part 2“, Videovortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

Do., 24.6.2010, 19 Uhr, Vortragssaal im DASTietz: „Thomas More's 'Utopia' and the Dialectics of Pessimism and Optimism“, Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Prof. Cecile Sandten, TU Chemnitz "

Im Juli findet wegen der Sommerpause kein Vortrag statt.

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

This and that from the 'island'

Nessie

Loch Ness monster watchers believe the famous Scottish tourist attraction may have died. Only one 'credible' sighting of Nessie was made last year and none in the previous 12 months.

Gary Campbell, president of the Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club, says it could mean the mythical marine creature has sunk to the bottom of the 250m (750ft) deep lake. "Ten years ago we had a lot of good sightings," he said, "but in the last two or three years they have tailed off."

The 2009 sighting occurred just off the Clansman Hotel, located on the shores of the lake, on June 6. "That was a local chap who knows the things that Nessie isn't – boat wakes, debris on the loch or seals in the summer," he added. "A local person will know what those things look like."

No hard scientific evidence has ever been produced to support the animal's existence.

Medal for a dog

A military search dog that sniffed out bombs in Afghanistan has been honoured with the animal version of the Victoria Cross. Princess Alexandra awarded black Labrador Treo the Dickin Medal at the Imperial War Museum in London. The eight-year-old dog was joined by his handler, Sgt Dave Heyhoe, at the ceremony on 24 February.

The pair have worked together for five years and Treo has now become a family pet.



The now retired dog, from 104 Military Working Dog Support Unit, North Luffenham barracks in Rutland, twice found hidden bombs in Helmand province.

Treo was the 63rd animal to receive the medal created by veterinary charity People's Dispensary for Sick Animals - PDSA - to honour gallantry in war.

PDSA director general Jan McLoughlin said: "The medal is recognised throughout the world as the animals' Victoria Cross and is the highest award any animal can receive for bravery in the line of duty. Treo is, without doubt, a worthy recipient."

A total of 26 other dogs, 32 World War Two messenger pigeons, three horses and one cat have won the award, introduced by PDSA founder Maria Dickin in 1943.

Scottish wine

A chef and hotel owner has said he wants to produce Scotland's first commercially-available grape wine. Pete Gottgens said he had planted vines in the grounds of the Ardeonaig Hotel in Perthshire. The South African chef was inspired by the dessert wines produced in countries such as Canada and Sweden.

Mr Gottgens said: "I don't for one minute think we are going to rival any of the great wine-producing areas of the world. But we are going to learn and have a great experience from it." He said he wanted to sell the wine in his restaurant and also allow guests to see the production process.

The hotelier has planted 48 vines, of four different varieties, in the grounds of the hotel, which is on the banks of Loch Tay. He said: "We are looking to produce something this year, whether it is wine or vinegar. Based on what happens, we are looking to plant another 800 vines if we think it is a goer." "Countries such as Canada have harsher winters than Scotland but they have better sunshine in the summer. That is the critical factor," he said. "Will we get a good enough summer for the grapes to ripen? A lot of people said you could not grow soft fruit* in Scotland and we know what a success that has been. I am not as naive as to think we will mirror that success but somebody has got to be the first."

*soft fruit = Beerenobst

Through the Canadian Rockies (Part 1) (The Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia)

Now it would be the right time to talk about this beautiful part of Canada, especially after having seen the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics 2010 in Vancouver. Even though my trip was in the year 1979, the memories are still strong and I don't think they will ever fade away.

My friend, Walli, and I started from the Buffalo N. Y. airport and flew to Calgary, in the Province of Alberta, Canada. Since Walli had relatives living in that city, they were in attendance at the airport when we arrived. We both were to stay for two nights with them until the start of our tour, I declined since I did not know them at all, thanked them for the invitation, but preferred to check into the Airport Hotel right there. Our tour bus would start right at the airport grounds so it all was very convenient. I said goodbye to them and registered at the hotel, picked up some of the many brochures with information for a city tour and made sure I ordered my ticket. Before I had my dinner I went swimming at the pool and went to bed early, because it had been a full day, and slept like a log. There was no noise from starting and landing planes, thanks to the soundproof window.

The next morning, after a hefty breakfast I took a taxi to the place where the city tour was to start. It was quite interesting and we stopped at different well known places with ample time to look around. I did not know what Walli and her relatives had planned, but as I looked around at the third stop, ready to go into the place with a monument and pictures to look at, I saw Walli and her relatives right in front of me. What a surprise! They had the same idea and wanted to show her the city and crossed paths with our tour. I was invited for dinner at their house and just could not say no. They picked me up at my hotel, which was quite a few miles from their home, and we had a very pleasant evening together. Naturally they took me back.

The next morning the members of our group slowly arrived and boarded the bus, with a lady checking off each name. After everybody was seated she explained our tour on a map and answered many questions.

Now, you yourself know how it is when you meet people. With some of them you feel very comfortable right from the beginning and so it was this time. The man of one couple, however, stood out like a sore thumb, right at the beginning. The couple was originally from Germany, but had lived in the States for many years. The man wanted to occupy the seat right behind the driver and he made it known loud and clear. As the time of the departure approached he asked where the driver was and that he hoped we would not start the first day late. What conversation followed this remark, opened up a watergate. The lady with the list under her arm turned to him and in a clear tone said: "I am the driver and the tour guide all in one. If you do not care to be driven by a lady you have the privilege to leave the bus. We shall start in about three minutes and that is exactly the right time for our departure."

Well, I'll tell you, you could have heard a pin drop, that's how quiet it was on the bus. The lady said quite a bit more, also explained for how many years she worked as a forest ranger and since she left that job how many years she had been a driver and tour guide. After she finished everybody clapped. After that down-talk the "loudmouth" didn't say anything for the rest of the day; he kept his big mouth shut. I'll bet you that his wife felt terrible and would have wished herself six feet under. But she was a lovely lady and nobody faulted her for her husband's rudeness. Well, when you travel, you will meet all kinds of people! All day we drove on comfortable roads, with mountains and forest on both sides and our driver was a most interesting tour guide. Her driving was excellent and even with the explanations

of trees and animals, you felt safe to ride with her. She knew the conditions of the soil, the trees that would thrive there the best and the feeding and breeding habits of all the many animals. So there was no boredom among the passengers whatsoever.



We left the highway before we came to Banff and there we checked into the largest hotel of the place. It was built in the early 1800s, very posh, I must say, with a huge concert hall. In the evening we were entertained by a famous boys choir. Many hotel guests and also the people from different hotels and motels around Banff were in attendance and filled the hall. What a beautiful way to end the day!

The next day we explored the city, looked at the lake and the mountains. We enjoyed the stillness and couldn't give it enough praise.

In the year we were there, Banff was more or less a frontier town, but as I have heard recently, the town grew year by year, like they all did, and it would be a

pretty place to stop there now. If I would not be so handicapped as I am now, I would definitely make it a must to visit this region again and go along the same trail we took in 1979.

The next day we took off for Lake Louise, another beautiful area. Up all the way to Banff we did not hear a peep out of the "loudmouth", but one could feel that he was itching to participate in the many questions and answers. Still, our driver managed to somehow sweat it out.

Lake Louise is a sight to behold. We arrived in the afternoon and had plenty of time to explore and look at this splendour. The cameras clicked again but I myself bought picture postcards to send to relatives and friends. They were gorgeous! Some of them I kept for myself.

We had rooms with a wonderful view and found it hard to leave the balcony to go inside, but the daylight waned.

The next day took us to the city of Jasper. The same pleasant trip we had on the days before. We were taken to double-occupancy cottages, four attached to each other.

The hotel and restaurant, we were told, was already reserved for the Canadian Prime Minister at that time, Pierre Trudeau, who, together with his political attendance, were to arrive the following week. We still ate at this dining hall, with waiters standing behind our chairs, ready to jump if we should need something. (What a boring job, I thought, but that's the way one gets treated at such a posh place)

The food was excellent and we lingered a long time and enjoyed every minute of it.

During the next day we explored the area, went around the pretty lake in pleasant weather and congregated in groups afterwards to talk about the many different things we experienced during the day. During the evening a deer had strayed near our cottages and was very frightened not knowing which way to turn to get away. Some of the people still had their cameras at the ready and with all the flashes blinding the poor creature and made it the more nervous.

At this point I should mention the "nearly" eighty year old lady, who took the trip together with her very young companion who, as we learned later, was her dance instructor back home. She attended a course and they danced together very well. Some tongues had already been wagging in not too favourable gossip, that the so called "set-up" was a sham. As we all got to know each other better, the lady explained to us that she invited the young man to accompany her on the trip and see to her comfort. Yes, she did have a family, a daughter with husband and three children, but they lived in another State and never asked about her well-being. They also did not approve of her dance classes and therefore she just did what she wanted to do. The young man really saw to it, that she was in her room in the evening and also, on this special evening with the deer and her camera not working anymore, to take pictures of the animal, to go into the city next morning to buy



her a new camera. We all thought it was a splendid idea to have somebody to look after her and from then on the busybodies stopped talking. Much later, in Vancouver, we went to a dance and we could see how elegantly they danced together.

(to be continued)

Gisela Muench

Our language section

Devilish

Trotz seines schlechten Ansehens genießt der Teufel in der englischen Sprache ziemliche Popularität, wenn es um Redewendungen wie die folgenden geht:

- to have the devil of a time doing something = es verteufelt (verdammte) schwer haben, etwas zu tun
- between the devil and the deep blue sea = sich in einer Zwickmühle befinden, nur die Wahl zwischen zwei gleich unangenehmen Dingen haben
- full of the devil = sehr energisch, spitzbübisch, wagemutig oder schlau
- to give the devil his due = das muss man ihm/ihr lassen (anerkennend)
- to go to the devil = (1) versagen, erfolglos sein, (2) moralisch verkommen, (3) "scher dich zum Teufel!"
- to play the devil with sb/sth = jemandem/etwas übel mitspielen, mit jemandem/etwas Schindluder treiben
- (let the) devil take the hindmost = den Letzten beißen die Hunde
- there'll be the devil to pay = das gibt Ärger
- speak of the devil (and he appears) = wenn man vom Teufel spricht (ist er auch schon da)

Doch auch in anderen Bereichen trifft man manchmal auf den Teufel: **devil's food cake** z.B. ist eine glasierte Schokoladencremetorte und **devils on horseback** sind Backpflaumen im Speckmantel auf Toast.

Ears

Haben Sie ein Ohr für englische Idiome? Entscheiden Sie, welches der beiden vorgegebenen Worte in die Lücke gehört.

1. I don't have the notes for this song. We'll just have to play it by
a) hearing b) ear
2. Sometimes I think Tom's got nothing his ears.
a) behind b) between
3. I haven't heard anything, but I'll keep my ears
a) open b) to the ground
4. She was angry and gave me a real
a) earful b) earring
5. Sorry, I can't come along. I'm my ears in work.
a) up to b) over

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 58 "Anagrams"

1. waitress
2. teacher
3. doctor
4. a computer
5. television
6. video game

RACES FOR THE COMMON MAN

Motor-racing is far too expensive for most of the Britons, so why not race lawn mowers instead? That is the basis on which the British Lawn Mower Racing Association (BLMRA) was founded in 1973. This eccentric sport became an instant success and the association is now responsible for more than a dozen events each season.



The man behind the sport was Jim Gavin, an Irishman who had raced and rallied cars across the world. Having become disillusioned with the increasing costs of motor sport, mainly due to the rise of sponsorship, he got together with a group of locals at the Cricketers Arms in Wisborough Green, West Sussex, to create a cheap form of motor sport easily accessible to all. Their main objectives were: no sponsorship, no commercialism, no cash prizes and no modifying of engines; thus keeping costs down. These objectives have remained to the present day, resulting in lawnmower racing being described by Motor Sport News as "the cheapest

form of motor sport in the U.K."

Whilst downing their pints in the local pub, they looked across the village green to see the green keeper mowing the cricket pitch. They realized that everyone had a lawn mower in their garden shed and it was then that Lawn Mower racing was born. A Championship was held in a local farmers field and up to 80 competitors turned up for what turned out to be a very successful event. The BLMRA now has up to 250 members.

The 12 date race calendar starts in May and ends in October, incorporating The British Championship, The World Championships, The British Grand Prix and the most famous of all, The 12 Hour Endurance Race. Any mower designed and used for cutting domestic lawns can be used. Over the years lawn mower racing has attracted motor racing legends and celebrities. Sir Stirling Moss has won both the British Grand Prix and the annual 12-Hour Race. Derek Bell, five times Le Mans winner and twice World Sports Car Champion, has won the 12 Hour twice and one of those was with Stirling. The actor Oliver Reed, who lived locally, regularly entered a team. The BLMRA also features in the Guinness Book of Records with the fastest mower over a set distance and the longest distance traveled in 12 hours.

(Source: www.blmra.co.uk)