

## Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

dieses Jahr neigt sich langsam dem Ende zu und bei einem Blick zurück kann man für unsere Gesellschaft resümieren, dass der 20. Jahrestag der Gründung unserer Gesellschaft zweifellos einer der Höhepunkte war. Aus Anlass dieses Jubiläums fand im September eine Festveranstaltung im Tietz statt und auf den Seiten 3 und 4 können Sie zwei Texte von Teilnehmern an der Feierstunde lesen, in denen sie ihre Gedanken und Eindrücke schildern und die sicherlich nicht nur bei denen Interesse finden werden, die nicht dabei sein konnten.

Weihnachten ist nicht mehr weit entfernt und natürlich finden Sie auch in diesem Newsletter einen Beitrag zu dem Thema. Diesmal sehen wir ab Seite 6 nach, was an den Feiertagen in Großbritannien auf den Tisch kommt. Sicherlich wird es, wie auch in unserem Land, nicht in jedem Haushalt die gleichen Gerichte geben, denn auch Traditionen spielen eine gewisse Rolle. Aber vielleicht regt Sie der Artikel zum Probieren der einen oder anderen Speise an. Christmas Cake und Plumpudding kann man zum Beispiel über das Internet kaufen.

**Leider müssen wir auch in dieser Ausgabe wieder über das Ableben eines unserer Mitglieder informieren. Mit Bestürzung haben wir kürzlich vom Tod von**

**Frau Gisela Muench**

**erfahren. Vielen unserer Mitglieder wird Frau Muench sowohl durch ihre interessanten und amüsanten Vorträge über ihre Reisen in die verschiedensten Ecken dieser Welt als auch durch so manchen Beitrag für unseren Newsletter bekannt gewesen sein. Wir verlieren mit ihr ein sehr aktives und treues Mitglied und werden ihr Andenken stets in Ehren halten.**

Zum Abschluss wünschen wir Ihnen ein Frohes Weihnachtsfest und ein erfolgreiches Jahr 2011.

Die Redaktion

## Chemnitzer Stadtfest

In 1998 our society participated in the Chemnitzer Stadtfest for the first time. It was just an attempt, for we really couldn't guess that we should continually present our society in the following years. But to our great surprise it became a tradition for us. Thus many people learned about the existence of the German-British Society they had never heard of before.

From August 27 to 29, 2010, we again took part in the Stadtfest. The range of goods on offer, including Irish beer, Scotch whisky, tea, and English brochures concerning Scotland, Cornwall and Wales, found a lot of interested people who visited our stall. The main attraction, as usual, was our raffle with original English articles as prizes.

Although the weather was very changeable, all the members running the stall were successful and satisfied with their work.

Maria Weiße

## Three cheers!

### *Our Society's Twentieth Anniversary*

What do you expect to happen when you are invited to attend a festive meeting? Champagne? Delicious food? And, poor participant, a long and boring speech? Well, when I was getting ready to leave from home for our society's anniversary party, my wife asked me exactly the above questions – and suggested exactly the above answers. Returning home, I was delighted to tell her about a joyful evening.

Yes, our Board had reminded us of the highlights in twenty years' most active club life, but that meant short papers read by a number of people who know best how the Society developed: our chairwoman, a number of the pioneers who started things at the beginning of the nineties, and – good idea – the youngest member of the Board. No long speech. No bored faces. No yawning. Nobody falling asleep. The manager of the city library and the chair-woman of Pushkin Club spoke their congratulation addresses, which suited the occasion. An a cappella choir called *poptales* sang a variety of pop numbers both in German and English: modern, rhythmic and tuneful music which was gladly received and earned much applause. A video summarized all the history of our Society: our meetings, our excursions to places of interest in Saxony, our trips to England, our chairwoman talking to the Queen (what a great moment!), our presentations at the Chemnitz Stadtfest, translations written by some of our members, distinguished people such as the British Ambassador to Germany or professors of Chemnitz University visiting. We never lack ideas.

As the festive programme was over, everybody turned to the buffet the Tietz Café had prepared. Now the meeting featured people chatting, laughing, enjoying the food and drink. When Mrs Tröller asked me to write this for our Newsletter, I had two reasons to agree right away: I had not been part of all the time-taking work prior to our festive meeting so I realized my chance to do something for the event – even if it would be seen weeks later. In addition, I felt it was time to say thank you

to our Board,

to all who support our Society's work,

to the pioneers of the first days.

I feel sure all our members will join in.

May the German-British Society of Chemnitz prosper in times to come. Three cheers!

Harald Linke

## 20 years German-British Society

Nearly all members assembled in the Veranstaltungssaal of the Tietz to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of our society.

Our chairwoman Mrs Tröller welcomed the members and guests and we raised our glasses of champagne for this celebration that was going to be an enchanting evening. Mrs Tröller reminded the members, by means of a presentation of pictures and texts, of the most important activities and events of the last 20 years and some members confirmed these events with their lively reports.

We listened to the words of one of the members of the first days, Mr Wagenzink, and to Mrs and Mr Dr Hoffmann's and Mrs Böhme's memories and experiences of journeys to Great Britain and excursions to places in Germany. Our youngest member, Mr Oehme, spoke about the impressions gained during our last journey to Manchester. Last but not least, Mrs Tröller amused the audience with her vivid report about her unforgettable experience at the state reception given by Queen Elizabeth II in Berlin in 2004.

As one of the highlights and cultural contribution, the "Poptales", an a cappella choir of nine young singers, enthused the audience by their fresh and harmonious voices.

The evening offered the chance to appreciate the untiring activity of Mr Rosch in our society and Mrs Tröller found warm words to recognize the wide variety of his duties. Mr Rosch always says modestly, "The society is my family".

And so, watching the members sitting together, having some snacks and drinks, laughing and chatting, I had the impression that they all are like a family that are interested in each other and will stay together for many years to come.

Ulrike Korward

## Review of the last months

August 26, 2010

### "TITANIC Tragedy"

Mr **Siegfried Rosch** opened his lecture with the remark that probably nobody in the audience has not heard anything about the TITANIC and what happened to this ship.

First Mr Rosch gave a detailed description of the designing, construction, completion and the equipment of this magnificent steamship that, together with her sister ship OLYMPIC, was the largest ship of the time. The audience also got to know some of her specifications. The ship was able to carry up to 3,547 passengers and crew.

The TITANIC surpassed all her rivals in luxury and opulence. Mr Rosch showed some pictures which illustrated the outstanding quality of the ocean liner.

Then he continued his lecture with the voyage. The TITANIC started her maiden voyage on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1912. After crossing the English Channel, she stopped at Cherbourg in France and the next day at Queenstown in Ireland to take up more passengers and mail and finally set out for New York with 2,240 people aboard, among them some of the most prominent people of the day.

While the first days of the voyage went by without any difficulties, the weather changed in the night of Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> April and the temperatures had dropped. Consequently, the TITANIC received several iceberg warnings from other ships, yet the two radio operators didn't feel responsible and the warnings failed to reach the bridge. Twenty minutes to midnight a large iceberg was spotted directly ahead the ship and brushed her right side below the waterline over a length of about 90 metres. The collision couldn't be avoided. Captain Smith ordered a full stop, the lifeboats were ordered to be readied and the international distress call, in those days CQD, was sent out.

Now Mr Rosch mentioned the reasons for the high rate of casualties. Many safety rules of that time were simply out of date, such as the inadequate number of lifeboats. The White Star Line, which was the owner of the ship, was blamed for this situation.

Several ships in the area received the distress call, but they either were too far away to rescue the passengers or had stopped because of the ice. In a short video the audience experienced the dramatic fight of the people to save their lives while the ship was sinking.

On September 1, 1985, the wreck of the ship was located by a joined French-American expedition, 700 km off Newfoundland and 3.8 km below sea level. Several artefacts had been brought up from the wreck over the years and were shown in different exhibitions, for instance in Hamburg in 1997 and 1998.

Mr Rosch presented a well-prepared and interesting lecture. Thus the audience got a rough idea of the unfortunate and special conditions that led to the tragedy of the TITANIC.

Maria Weiße

October 28, 2010

### **“Guy Fawkes and the plot to blow up parliament“**

‘Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November ....’ - these are the first words of a nursery rhyme that deals with a historical event called ‘Guy Fawkes Day’ or ‘Bonfire Night’ which is celebrated throughout England on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Mr **Einde O’Callaghan** presented a lecture about the origin of this festival. In 1605, Guy Fawkes, a Roman Catholic, and his fellow conspirators attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament on the day when King James I, the lords and clerical representatives were present, because they disagreed with the king’s Protestant policies. They managed to store some 30 Barrels of gunpowder in a cellar under the building. The plan, however, failed. Before the session of the parliament opened on November 5, the ‘gunpowder plot’, as it became known, was discovered. Guy Fawkes and his group were caught and executed for treason. Since then the 5<sup>th</sup> of November has been a celebration of the saving of the king’s life and the punishment of Guy Fawkes. To these days children make a ‘guy’, a puppet of the traitor, and collect money in the streets asking for “a penny for the guy”. In the evening, the ‘guy’ is burnt on top of a bonfire.

Mr O’Callaghan illustrated his lecture with several pictures which showed the traitors and the locations and the possible course of the incident of those days. But we also saw photos of the celebrations of the present days.

The audience enjoyed the lecture a lot and listened with interest.

Maria Weiße

November 25, 2010

### **“English Poems of Shakespeare’s Days”**

Mr **Harald Linke** has proved several times his profound knowledge of the life and work of William Shakespeare. This time, however, he didn't limit himself to Shakespeare but also threw light on some of the “bard's” contemporaries, such as Ben Jonson, John Fletcher and Christopher Marlowe, and we learned later on that even Queen Elizabeth I did a little poetry.

At the beginning he handed out sheets of paper with the lyrics of the poems he was going to read as well as their German translations. So everybody in the audience was able to follow his words easily. Moreover, it was interesting to compare the original words with the German interpretations. By the way, the translations were carried out by Mr Linke himself.

Mr Linke started with a brief description of the life in 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century London and the situation of the poets of that time, and before he turned to the main topic of the evening he recited some verses by an author whose name did not survive the centuries.

Mr Linke divided his lecture into several sections in which he read the German translation of a poem and spoke explanatory words about its author and the period in which the verses were written. In the final part, Mr Linke got round to his favourite subject – William Shakespeare. He touched on some of his works and recited sonnet #12, using it to point out some special features of Shakespeare's poetic art, such as the alliteration, that he was trying to keep up also in his German translations. A version of the text in Saxon dialect caused a lot of amusement among the audience. Mr Linke closed his lecture with a recording of sonnet #116, set to music and sung by Ludwig Streng and Sabine Kühnrich, who were both involved in the performance of the play “So ist die Liebe. Ungefähr” at the theatre FATA MORGANA in 2009.

It was a very entertaining evening and the audience thanked Mr Linke with a long lasting applause.

Siegfried Rosch

### **Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen**

Fr., 3.12.2010, ab 18 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Weihnachtsfeier der DBG

Di., 11.1.2011, 16 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Stollenparty, Eintrittsgeld: 2 Stück Stollen

Do., 27.1.2011, 19 Uhr, Vortragssaal im DASTietz: “Heimat/Approaching Home“ – a film project by students of English at Chemnitz University, Referent: Cornelia Neubert

Do, 24.2.2011, 19 Uhr, Vortragssaal im DASTietz: „Whisky – Schottlands kulturelles Erbe“, Vortrag in deutscher Sprache von Felix Jedlicka, freier Referent der VHS Chemnitz

Do, 31.3.2011, 19 Uhr, Vortragssaal im DASTietz: “Welcome to Jersey“, Videovortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

### **Christmas on the table**

Most households with children wake up early on Christmas morning. Many exchange presents after church, sitting round the tree listening to Carols from Kings College, Cambridge. Other members of the family may arrive at midday for a drink, perhaps sherry or champagne and what is known in Yorkshire as a 'biting on', a little smoked salmon on brown bread to keep you going.

This is a trying time for the cook, for whether turkey, goose or duck is being served, the lunch is a challenge to prepare. The meal will probably consist of the bird, together with small sausages, Brussels sprouts, parsnips, carrots and roast potatoes, served with bread sauce, cranberry jelly and

chestnut stuffing. Meanwhile, the Christmas pudding will have been steaming away for the past hour. When the time is right, brandy is poured over the pudding, set alight (to general glee) and a sprig of holly is put on top when the flames have gone out. It is eaten with a sweet white sauce or brandy butter.

Even now the meal is far from over, for the table is once again covered with seasonal food. Mince pies are served and a half stilton wrapped in damask may be served with celery. At this point a decanter of port may be put on the table, baskets of fresh walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds and brazil nuts are passed around; boxes of dates and dried figs too. Only when the last cracker has been pulled and the Queen is about to make her Christmas Day broadcast to the nation and the Commonwealth do many of us leave the table.

The rest of Christmas Day is often spent playing games, often charades (acting out the titles of plays, books, films and songs) or card games. Then at tea-time the Christmas cake is served! This is a rich fruit cake covered with marzipan and crisp white icing and often decorated with the figures of Father Christmas or a snowman.

On Boxing Day (26 December) many people like to venture outside and go for a good walk, then settle in front of a log fire with a new book or even start to write thank you letters. Cold cuts of turkey and ham are often served. It is a day of relaxation and recovery!

## **The Traditional Lunch**

### **To Start**

It is most common to eat on Christmas Day at lunchtime or mid-afternoon, although some people are switching over to an evening meal instead nowadays. Although it is not common to serve a starter before the main course on Christmas Day, the Roast Chestnut Soup is so delicious it should surely be worth fasting a little bit more before the event!

### **The Main Event**

Roast Turkey is by far the most popular meat to serve on Christmas day, although other roasts are becoming more popular such as beef, lamb or capon. Before turkey became the main offering on the British Christmas Day lunch table, other birds such as goose, duck or game birds like pheasant were popular. Indeed, goose is regaining some of its popularity today. Of course, there are many delicious vegetarian dishes served on Christmas Day by and for the country's several million vegetarians. Nut loaves are popular, a typical one being the chestnut loaf above, but other roasts could be made using hazelnuts, almonds or brazil nuts.



### **Accompaniments**

Chestnuts have many associations with winter and Christmas, one often thinks of the famous line from the song *White Christmas* "chestnuts roasting by an open fire" as summing up the cosiness of Christmas. Serving them with Brussels sprouts is an absolute must, unless you are starting with the chestnut soup or having the chestnut loaf, in which case it may be better to serve the sprouts plain! Another essential accompaniment is roast potatoes, the proper kind of course - with a crispy outside and soft inside. For a large gathering, more than one potato dish is a good idea and mashed potatoes are often served in addition to roast potatoes. The other vegetables on offer are largely a matter of personal preference, though usually fresh, seasonal vegetables are the best choice. Parsnips, particularly roasted parsnips, are very popular nowadays as are carrots, which can be roasted, steamed or boiled. Leeks are another popular winter vegetable and have been grown in Britain for centuries.

Two other traditional accompaniments to the turkey are gravy and bread sauce. Cranberry sauce has also become popular over recent years, although most people will buy it in jars rather than make it themselves. Bread sauce is an ancient recipe. Its delicate flavour goes well with most poultry but is

best made at the very last minute because it doesn't keep long. Gravy is another must, preferably made from the juices of the roast.

### **Pudding**

Once everyone has had the main course, and argued over who will have the last roast potato there follows the pudding. Christmas pudding was known as plum pudding or plum duff in the Victorian period, although it does not contain any plums! It is a rich dark steamed pudding packed with fruits and brandy and should be made several weeks in advance to allow it to mature. Brandy butter is the traditional accompaniment, although many people like to serve the pudding with cream or custard instead. An alternative dessert is a trifle - another ancient concoction. This Christmassy version uses fruitcake and brandy instead of sponge cake and sherry.



### **To Finish**

You may wish to serve coffee or tea accompanied with mince pies or slices of Christmas cake or Christmas log. But it may be wise to save these for later in the afternoon, once the lunch has gone down.

(from: [www.greatbritishkitchen.co.uk/](http://www.greatbritishkitchen.co.uk/))

## **This and that from the 'island'**

### **Wine and music**

Playing a certain type of music can enhance the way wine tastes, research by psychologists suggests. The study, carried out at the Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, found that people rated the change in taste by up to 60% depending on the melody heard. The results were put down to "cognitive priming theory", where the music sets up the brain to respond to the wine in a certain way.

The researchers said cabernet sauvignon was most affected by "powerful and heavy" music, and chardonnay by "zingy and refreshing" sounds.

Four types of music were played - Carmina Burana by Orff ("powerful and heavy"), Waltz of the Flowers from The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky ("subtle and refined"), Just Can't Get Enough by Nouvelle Vague ("zingy and refreshing") and Slow Breakdown by Michael Brook ("mellow and soft").



The white wine was rated 40% more zingy and refreshing when that music was played, but only 26% more mellow and soft when music in that category was heard. The red was altered 25% by mellow and fresh music, yet 60% by powerful and heavy music.

Professor Adrian North, Director of Psychology, said the study could lead retailers to put music recommendations on their wine bottles. "Wine manufacturers could recommend that while drinking a certain wine, you should listen to a certain sort of music," Prof North said.

The research involved 250 students at the university who were offered a free glass of wine in exchange for their views.

Previously, Professor North conducted supermarket research which suggested people were five times more likely to buy French wine than German wine if accordion music was played in the background. If an oompah band was played, the German product outsold the French by two to one.

### **Spiders**

Thousands of baby fen raft spiders were released into their wetland habitat at Suffolk Wildlife Trust's

(SWT) Castle Marshes reserve, between Lowestoft and Beccles, in October, as part of a partnership project between Natural England and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust designed to turn around the fortunes of one of the UK's most endangered species.

3,000 baby spiders, or 'spiderlings' had been artificially reared in the kitchen of Dr Helen Smith - an ecologist working with Natural England - who looked after them continuously since spring 2010. They were kept in separate test tubes, so they didn't attack each other, and each had to be fed by hand with fruit flies.

Dr Helen Smith said: "Hand rearing over a thousand baby spiders is an exhausting job. At one stage I was up until 2am, seven days a week, feeding flies to hungry young spiders in my kitchen. I'm excited and relieved to see them making their own way in the world - and I can finally have my kitchen back."



The fen raft spider (*Dolomedes plantarius*) is officially classed as endangered in the UK and tiny populations of the species are now confined to just two remaining sites in England.

## Climate change in London

Climate change is central to London's future. It will affect every aspect of the city, from buildings and public spaces to the way Londoners live and work.

A photographic exhibition of 14 arresting images, which visualise the possible effects climate change may have on the future of London, opened at the Museum of London on 1 October. Familiar views of the capital have been digitally transformed by illustrators Robert Graves and Didier Madoc-Jones of communications firm GMJ.

The display brings home the full impact of global warming, food scarcity, rising sea levels and how all Londoners will need to innovate and adapt to survive. Examples of the striking images that will be on show include Parliament Square put to work as a rice paddy, ice skating down the Thames, Buckingham Palace surrounded by a sea of shanty housing and the Gherkin occupied by thousands of eco-refugees highlight the shocking realities we could face.

Didier Madoc-Jones said: "We want to create a space in which people can consider how climate change may impact on their lives. We are committed to making beautiful and arresting images which tell their own story. We have deliberately chosen 'postcard' shots of London, places that all of us are familiar with. By focusing our creative energy on these well-known panoramas, the images have taken on a life of their own. Even we were surprised by the way the story unfolded as the scene was created. Each picture has become a mini soap-opera, alive with colour, drama, triumph and adversity as our city is transformed and Londoners adapt to meet this change."

The display and related events form part of the Mayor's Story of London festival.

(More at [www.london-futures.com](http://www.london-futures.com))

## Our language section

### A bright future

Das Ende eines Jahres ist für so Manchen Anlass für gute Vorsätze für das neue Jahr. Um Handlungen zu beschreiben, die in der Zukunft stattfinden werden, gibt es in der englischen Sprache mehrere Formen, deren Anwendung sich aus der jeweiligen Sprechabsicht ergibt.

Die drei Hauptformen der Bildung des Futur von Verben sind **will + Infinitiv**, **going to + Infinitiv** und die **-ing**-Form, die sich durch Folgendes unterscheiden:

Die will-Form wird dann angewendet, wenn man sich im Moment des Sprechens entschieden hat, etwas tun zu wollen.

Beispiel: A: "We need stamps for our Christmas cards."

B: "I **will buy** some at the post office when I do my shopping this afternoon."

Auch bei ganz allgemeinen Vorhersagen wird die will-Form benutzt. Falls man sich jedoch seiner Voraussage doch nicht ganz sicher ist, wird häufig "I think ...", "I hope ..." oder "I doubt ..." vorangestellt.

Beispiel: "I **think** our team **will win** the championship this season."

Wenn sich der Sprecher so gut wie sicher ist, dass etwas tatsächlich passieren wird, da schon Anzeichen in der Gegenwart darauf hindeuten, findet die **going to**-Form Anwendung. Auch wenn man sich eine Handlung vorher überlegt und bewusst dazu entschlossen hat, etwas zu tun, benutzt man diese Zukunftsform.

Beispiel: A: "What are you going to do when we finish school?"

B: "I haven't decided yet. What about you?"

A: "Well, I'm definitely going to study medicine."

Wenn man über zeitlich schon feststehende Pläne oder Vereinbarungen spricht, wird die **Verlaufsform der Gegenwart** verwendet. Dabei erscheint meistens eine Zeitangabe oder ein Fragewort der Zeit (when usw.) im Satz, um deutlich zu machen, dass es sich um die Zukunft und nicht die Gegenwart handelt.

Beispiel: "John **is going** to Scotland this month. **He's leaving** on the 18<sup>th</sup>."

Oft sind die going to-Form und die Verlaufsform aber austauschbar.

Beispiel: "Where **are** you **sleeping** tonight?", "Where **are** you **going to sleep** tonight?"

## Happy holidays

Wählen Sie in den folgenden Sätzen das korrekte „Weihnachts“ wort.

1. Robert is going to (1) *decorate* / (2) *make up* the tree.
2. Can you hear the children singing Christmas (3) *carols* / (4) *songs*?
3. This present isn't easy to (5) *pack* / (6) *wrap*.
4. Did you find anything good in your Christmas (7) *stocking* / (8) *sock*?
5. Will you pull the other end of this Christmas (9) *bomb* / (10) *cracker*, please?

## Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 59 "Fast talker"

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. target        | 6. touchline |
| 2. punch         | 7. cross     |
| 3. counterattack | 8. tackle    |
| 4. space         | 9. referee   |
| 5. offside       | 10. penalty  |

## Christmas fun

Santa was very cross. It was Christmas Eve and nothing was going right. The elves were complaining about not getting paid overtime. The reindeer had been drinking all afternoon and the sleigh was broken. Santa was furious.

"I can't believe it!" he yells. "I've got to deliver millions of presents all over the world in just a few hours – all of my reindeer are drunk, the elves are on strike and I don't even have a Christmas tree! I sent that stupid little angel to find one hours ago! What am I going to do?"

Just then, the little angel opens the front door and steps in from the snowy night, dragging a Christmas tree.

"Oi fatty!" she says. "Where d'you want me to stick this?"

And thus the tradition of angels atop the Christmas tree came to pass.

### The four stages of life:

- You believe in Santa Claus
- You don't believe in Santa Claus
- You become Santa Claus
- You really look like Santa Clause

"Santa Claus has the right idea – visiting people only once a year." *Victor Borge, Danish-American humorist and musician*