

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

der Sommer ist hier und ein schöner Urlaub liegt möglicherweise vor Ihnen. Oder haben Sie ihn vielleicht schon hinter sich? So wie **Maria Weiße**, die bereits im April an einer erlebnisreichen Reise nach Cornwall und Devon teilgenommen hat und in ihrem Beitrag darüber berichtet, der gleich im Anschluss folgt.

Einen weiteren Bericht über eine Reise können Sie ab Seite 10 lesen. **Dorothea Böhme** hat in ihrem Artikel über unsere Tagesfahrt zum Grünfelder Park und nach Waldenburg im Mai für uns ihre Eindrücke zusammengefasst.

Vor einigen Tagen ist eine Ära zu Ende gegangen: Das Space Shuttle hatte seinen letzten Einsatz als Transportmittel zwischen der Erde und der Raumstation ISS. Von **Günter Wagenzink** erhielten wir einen Artikel zum Thema, der darlegt, was das Space Shuttle mit Pferden zu tun hat und den Sie auf Seite 9 finden.

An dieser Stelle möchten wir auf **Veränderungen im Konversationszirkel** von **Herrn Linke** hinweisen. Er möchte, beginnend mit dem 1. September, den Zirkel in zwei Gruppen aufteilen. **Gruppe I** ist für Teilnehmer mit geringeren Sprachkenntnissen gedacht und beginnt schon **16 Uhr**. **Gruppe II** für sprachlich versiertere Teilnehmer wird ab **17.15 Uhr** durchgeführt. Die Entscheidung, welche Gruppe die geeignete ist, kann jeder Teilnehmer selbst treffen.

In unserer letzten Ausgabe hatten wir schon darauf hingewiesen, dass im Herbst dieses Jahres, genauer gesagt, am **27.10.2011**, unsere **Jahreshauptversammlung** und die **Vorstandswahl** stattfinden. Unsere Mitglieder finden aus diesem Grund in der Heftmitte die Einladung zur Hauptversammlung sowie den Wahlschein, während die anderen Leser an gleicher Stelle amüsante und erstaunliche Geschichten aus Großbritannien vorfinden. Natürlich besteht auch dieses Mal wieder für die Mitglieder, die nicht an der Hauptversammlung teilnehmen können, die Möglichkeit der Briefwahl. Beachten Sie dazu bitte die Hinweise auf der Einladung.

Die Sprachabteilung erscheint aus Platzmangel erst wieder im nächsten Heft.

In der Hoffnung, dass Ihnen unser aktueller Newsletter gefällt, wünschen wir Ihnen bis zum nächsten Mal einen angenehmen Sommer voller Erlebnisse und einen schönen Herbst.

Die Redaktion

A Journey to Cornwall and Devon

In the morning of the 22nd of April I started together with people from the VHS Aue for a journey to the south-western part of England. Our route led us across Germany and the Netherlands, where we finally reached Hoek van Holland in the evening. We boarded the night ferry and after a pleasant transit we arrived at Harwich early in the morning.

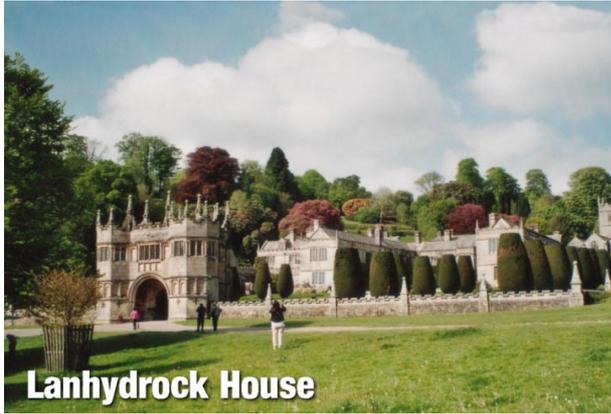
On our way to Bristol, our first stop, we visited Castle Combe, called 'the prettiest village of England'. Its existence dates back to the Middle Ages when it was an important centre of wool production. Castle Combe is also known as host to many filming activities, the most famous of these being 'Doctor Doolittle' filmed in and around the village in 1966. In Bristol we only spent one night.

Next morning we continued our journey and strolled on King Arthur's traces at Tintagel. One group explored the ruins of his castle, while the others took a walk along the cliffs. During a rest we delighted in scones with clotted cream and jam, a new experience for me. In the evening we reached Newquay, our residence for the following three days. This town is situated right on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. From there we undertook a trip to St Michael's Mount, a small island with an interesting castle surrounded by lovely gardens.

Land's End, the most westerly point of England, offered, with its breathtaking cliffs, an unforgettable sight.

In St Ives we were attracted by the picturesque harbour and charming lanes.

The following day we went in for the exploration of the Eden Project. This project was erected in an old clay pit, showing that ruined areas can be restored again and turned into a botanical garden. Two huge greenhouses simulate different vegetation biomes, the Mediterranean and Rainforest ones. 100,000 plants of about 5,000 species grow in greenhouses and on the open ground. Eden Project is thought to be a symbol for optimism and the possibility to change things and is of great educational significance.



We continued our journey and paid a visit to Lanhydrock House, situated in the midst of a beautiful park scenery. It used to be an Augustinian abbey rebuilt after a fire as a Victorian manor house. The interior of the house provides a fascinating insight into the way a late-19th century household was run. The ingeniously terraced garden enchanted with special magnolias, great rhododendrons, fascinating azaleas and many rare trees.

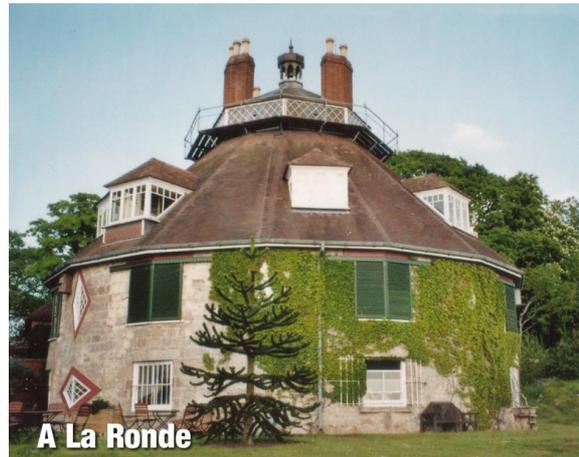
On our way to Exeter we stopped at a curious country seat, 'A La Ronde', a sixteen-sided limestone house, erected in 1798 by Jane and

Mary Parminter after their visit to San Vitale in the Province of Ravenna, Italy.

Our group enjoyed a rest in the heathland of the Dartmoor National Park. It covers a territory of 369 square miles and is the largest and wildest area of open country in southern England. On the edge of Dartmoor we visited Buckfast Abbey, today the home to a community of Benedictine monks.

During a guided tour of Exeter we got knowledge of the various sites and places of interest. The Exeter Cathedral, erected in Norman-Gothic style, attracted our special attention as well as the cathedrals in Wells, early English Gothic and one of the most beautiful in the country, and in Salisbury with the highest church tower of England.

In the late afternoon we stayed in Colchester for some hours before we went aboard the night ferry in Harwich and said 'Good-Bye England'. During our journey we experienced eventful days full of new, beautiful impressions and extraordinarily fine weather.



Maria Weiße

Review of the last months

31 March 2011

“Welcome to Jersey”

Mr **Siegfried Rosch**, our member of board, is fond of travelling. From his journey to Jersey in May 2010 he brought with him a video film and presented to the audience interesting views of the lovely Channel Island.

First he gave some general information about the geographical position and size of the island and the number of population. Although Jersey is situated much nearer to France, the island belongs to the British Crown with its own government, currency and legal system.

Mr Rosch's two-week stay on Jersey was combined with a language course. After the lessons, he undertook together with the other participants trips and walks across the countryside where he found remarkable places to film. A lot of impressive pictures showed orchids of all kinds and colours that were taken at an orchid exhibition.

The audience could not only see the various pictures, but also hear an appropriate specific musical background during the performance and thanked for the successful evening.

Maria Weiße

28 April 2011

“Bored of Bratwurst and Sauerkraut?”

A VACANT BED AND AN OPEN HEART

is all you need.

To do what?

Host an exchange student, as **Peter Krause** says.

Just a smaller audience attended his presentation on student exchange, but all agreed he gave information in great detail and he was a pleasure to listen to.

For all who missed him: Imagine a young, energetic man speaking with a slight American accent, drawing from his own experience as an exchange student in the USA, praising his host family, the school he went to and the impressions he brought from the country of “unlimited opportunities”. He spoke freely, which allowed him to watch his audience and occasionally, he switched over to a question for us to answer. Skillfully done.

He called himself a volunteer working for AFS (American Field Service – www.afs.de), a non-profit organization born in World War I to help the soldiers injured in the bloodshed. Its fathers decided never again should war be given a chance and to this end, they started their project of international youth exchange, hoping it would contribute to everlasting peace.

The first German students who became part of the exchange went to the USA as early as in 1948. By now, some 20,000 students have gone there or respectively, come here. Today, the organization runs branches on all continents, with its office on German soil being located in Hamburg. Peter also mentioned a network of regional advisors active all over Germany. He himself lives just outside Chemnitz, in Amtsberg (peter.amtsberg@web.de). All of us might contact him for two reasons:

(1) The exchange is meant for younger people who would like to spend *a year at school* in a place outside Germany. Most of us will know suitable teenagers so why not refer them to Peter? He says staying abroad will mean a strong push to all exchange students’ development. When they return home, the school report they bring will enhance their prospects on the job market. Peter knows all about how to finance such a year abroad and can tell you about a wide range of scholarships available.

(2) In the framework of the exchange arranged by AFS, hundreds of foreign students come to Germany every year. They all look for a host family or a welcome family (hosting a foreigner for the first weeks of his stay here).

I feel sure all our hearts are open to the most useful project Peter introduced to us.

A vacant bed? Well, I don’t know. Won’t you think the matter over?

Harald Linke

26 May 2011

”Crete – Land of gods and myths”

The Mediterranean island Crete was the destination of **Silvia Tröller’s** holidays of last year, and those in the audience who had taken part in one of her previous talks, knew that this one would be again an interesting and entertaining evening. And her report on her 10-day tour of the island, that she went on together with her partner, did fulfil our expectations.

Mrs Tröller began her report with showing the geographical situation of the island on a map and giving some general facts on Crete. Their journey, which started with difficulties due to a congestion on the motorway to Munich, where they had to catch their plane, brought them eventually to Plakias, a quiet resort on the south coast of the island, where the next problem waited for them: to find their hotel in the middle of the night.

Mrs Tröller described their stay on Crete as a kind of archaeological tour for which they had hired a car that enabled them to go to the places they wanted to see. Her account was illustrated by numerous photos, projected to the wall, which showed impressive landscapes, monasteries and other sites of historical interest, such as Mount Ida, which is said to be the birthplace of the ancient Greek god Zeus, or the Odeon at Gortyn, where on one of its walls the oldest and most complete example of a code of ancient Greek law can be found. She also took us along to sites where excavations had been carried out and brought to light the remains of the Cretan past. We saw the ruins of the ancient

Minoan civilization in Knossos, visited Phaistos and the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion. And we learned a lot about Cretan and Greek mythology.

But, of course, their holidays were not all mythology and archaeology. They also enjoyed the beautiful beaches of the island – first at Plakias, later at Rethymno, on the north coast, where they spent the second part of their stay. Some of the photos gave an idea of the hot weather there.

Mrs Tröller also reported about some incidents in connection with their car. A strike of the lorry drivers, which led to a shortage of petrol, almost messed up their plans for further tours. However, they luckily managed to fill their tank. Another incident happened on the last but one day, when they returned from a tour in the evening and couldn't find a parking space for their car at the hotel. So they parked it on an empty square nearby, not knowing that next day there would be a market on that square. Next morning, when they wanted to collect the car it was trapped behind a market stall and had a parking ticket at the windscreen. They had to wait until the market closed and the stall was removed. As for the ticket, the people on the market advised them just to ignore it. Well, as the saying goes: when in Rome, do as the Romans do.

Siegfried Rosch

30 June 2011

“From Music City USA to Business Metropolis: Nashville, Tennessee and the Evolution of the American South”

In his lecture Mr Evan Braun (who, by the way, has German ancestors, hence the spelling of his family name) introduced his hometown Nashville/Tennessee. His presentation attracted the attention of the audience by its detailed description of the historic development of the town, the foundation of which dates back to the year 1779 and is named after the American Revolutionary War hero Francis Nash.

Mr Braun took us back into the time of slavery in the southern part of North America. He mentioned the problems, difficulties and struggles of the people that arose in combination with the slavery, eventually leading to the Civil War. After this dark epoch was overcome, Nashville gradually developed to a modern cultural city.

Mr Braun pointed out the special importance of the town's music scene for which it is well-known all over the world. The audience followed his comprehensive report about Nashville's change from the Music City USA to a business metropolis nowadays with great interest.

Maria Weiße

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 25.8.2011, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: „Ten years ago ... International Festival of the Sea 2001 in Portsmouth“, Vortrag in deutscher Sprache von Winfried Herold

Do., 29.9.2011, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: „How my penpals in America see their country“, Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Harald Linke

Do., 27.10.2011, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Jahreshauptversammlung und Vorstandswahl

Do., 24.11.2011, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: „Nursery Rhymes“, Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Eide O'Callaghan

Fr., 2.12.2011, 18 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Weihnachtsfeier der Mitglieder der DBG

- Änderungen vorbehalten -

This and that from the 'island'

Persistent offenders

Bungling police have wrongly raided innocent man Matt Jillard's home more than 40 times in the past 24 months. Riot vans and patrol cars have repeatedly raced to Mr Jillard's home because of a mix-up over his address. Officers even tried to kick down his door at 3am on Christmas Day – then called again just 14 hours later.

The 38-year-old said: "I could see the funny side at first but 24 months on, I'm getting really annoyed."

Mr Jillard was told his address in Repton Road, Birmingham, had been confused with nearby Repton Grove. But the raids have continued.

Mr Jillard, a handyman, said: "I've been told three times that they have put a marker against my address – but nothing has changed. You wouldn't think it was that hard to distinguish between a Road and a Grove."

West Midlands Police said 'a number of measures' had now been put in place to stop the problem.



Death rate problem

A fifth of Glasgow's inhabitants will die before they turn 65, a health study has warned. Men living in some parts of Glasgow can expect to die up to 10 years younger than the average for Scotland. The GCPH's (Glasgow Centre for Population Health) 'Let Glasgow Flourish' report found the city had become more affluent in the past 20 years. But despite a reduction in smoking and unemployment, Glasgow's death rate continued to outstrip the birth rate, which could seriously affect population numbers in the future, the report stated.

Highlighting obesity and alcohol abuse, GCPH director Carol Tannahill said the "legacy of poor health" remained. Dr Tannahill said: "Although Glasgow as a city has changed physically, socially and economically over recent decades, its legacy of poor health remains. Health inequalities are stark and are increasing on a whole range of dimensions. Growing health problems such as obesity and alcohol-related harm are not so clearly linked to poverty but are problems that affect the population as a whole."

The report, produced by a team led by Professor Phil Hanlon of Glasgow University, found the average life expectancy for men was 69 and 76 for women.

Researchers hope the study, which is not yet complete, will reveal why people from deprived areas age faster and die younger than those from affluent areas. The lives of their ancestors from several generations past may doom people in poor areas to an early death, they claim.

Prof Hanlon said: "There will be no simple solutions to the problems faced by Glasgow. Certainly, there will be no single initiative that will turn round such a complex set of problems with such deep roots in history."

Living in a Cave

As house prices climb to new heights, buyers are expressing strong interest in acquiring a crumbling home for a troglodyte in Worcestershire. Estate agents selling the sandstone dwelling have had 50 requests for viewings despite the property having only "one bedroom" and no electricity or running water.

Hewn out of a cliff in the 1770s, the derelict cave called Rock Cottage, one of more than 50 in the area, was occupied for almost 200 years and fell vacant in 1948. But now the owner has died. Like many more desired residences, Rock Cottage has a sitting room, a living room, a pantry and overlooks a neatly-trimmed lawn.

The estate agent Halls in Kidderminster is describing the cave - being sold with four acres of surrounding bracken and woodland - as a "most unique opportunity". "The property comprises genuine rock caves of former residential status together with garden area and adjoining woodland and amenity

land area to approximately 4.91 acres," the sales particulars say.

But Halls is warning that home-buyers may find some conveniences taken for granted in the 21st century missing. Aside from no postal deliveries or a telephone landline, there is no mains electricity or water.

And, despite being Grade II-listed in 1958, the property is crumbling: jagged glass sits in the window frames, red dirt covers the floors and the rooms are divided by rickety stable doors on corroding hinges.

A farmer for £30

(no experience necessary)

City dwellers and suburban citizens are to be offered an unprecedented opportunity to become farmers of a 2,500-acre estate, without so much as getting mud on their boots or dirt on their hands. Up to 10,000 volunteer "farmers" are being asked to take part in a unique online experiment that involves taking real decisions on managing Wimpole Home Farm, a 200-year-old mixed farm near Royston, Cambridgeshire, owned by the National Trust.

The experiment, called "My Farm", takes inspiration from the popular Facebook game Farm Ville, where players manage a virtual farm by ploughing land, planting virtual crops and rearing virtual animals.

Those who sign up and pay £30 a year to take part will have to make at least 12 major decisions a year about how the farm is to be run, whether, for instance, to carry on harvesting a wet cornfield and incur the additional cost of drying the grain, or to delay the harvest and see if the weather improves. Each agricultural dilemma will require a democratic vote of all the registered subscribers to the farm's website, and a clear majority is all that will be needed for the vote to be carried and the policy to be enacted.

Dame Fiona Reynolds, the director general of the National Trust, said that the aim of the experiment is to bring people closer to the natural landscape that ultimately provides the rich assortment of food products that adorn supermarket shelves, usually in shiny plastic film.

"This is all about reconnecting people with where the food comes from. We have no idea about whether this will work but we're eager to see what happens," Dame Fiona said.

(Sources: The Independent, Internet)

A HISTORY LESSON

Railroad tracks. This is fascinating.

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used?

Well, because that's the way they built them in England, and English engineers designed the first US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the wagon tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

So, why did they use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that same wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break more often on some of the old, long distance roads in England. You see, that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

And what about the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match or run the risk of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with this?', you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horses' asses)

Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These were solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs were made by ATK Thiokol at their factory in Utah . The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds. So, a major Space Shuttle design feature, of what was arguably the world's most advanced transportation system into space, was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass. And you probably thought being a horse's ass wasn't important?



Grünfelder Park und Waldenburg

Am 28.05.2011 fand unsere diesjährige Tagesausfahrt in den Grünfelder Park mit anschließendem Besuch des Waldenburger Schlosses statt.

Punkt 10 Uhr startete unser Bus vom Busunternehmen der Erzgebirge GmbH von der Haltestelle Zschopauer Straße / Moritzstraße in Richtung Waldenburg. Während der ca. 45 minütigen Fahrt gab ich als „interne Reiseleiterin“ ein paar Informationen zum Grünfelder Park. Er gehört zu den frühesten und bedeutendsten englischen Parkanlagen Deutschlands. 1780 begann der junge Graf Otto Carl Friedrich von Schönburg-Waldenburg diese Parkanlage nach englischem Vorbild anzulegen. Anregungen dazu erhielt er während seiner zahlreichen Studienreisen nach England, Frankreich und der Schweiz.

10.45 Uhr stoppte unser Busfahrer Ulli an einem der beiden Parkplätze des Parkgeländes. Mit einem kurzen Blick auf die dortige Informationstafel befanden wir uns kurz vor dem Eingangsportal des Grünfelder Parks.

Dieses Renaissance Portal, welches früher zum Waldenburger Schloss gehörte und von einem im Jahre 1619 ausgebrochenen Schlossbrand verschont blieb, wurde 1786 in den Grünfelder Park versetzt. Seit dieser Zeit hat es den Namen „Der stillen Naturfreude“ und ist eines der beiden Eingänge zum Grünfelder Park.

Von hier aus begann unsere individuelle Entdeckungsreise des Grünfelder Parks, vorbei am Badehaus, der Felsengrotte, der Freilichtbühne, dem Denkmal des Erstgeborenen, der Gotischen Brücke



und der Gesundheitsquelle. Ein Teil unserer Reisegruppe, an der diesmal auch zwei Mitglieder der Neuen Arbeit Chemnitz teilnahmen, bestiegen noch den Hügel zum Mausoleum.

12.30 Uhr trafen wir uns alle wieder am zweiten Parkplatz in Nähe der Glänzelmühle. Hier wartete bereits unser Busfahrer Ulli auf uns. Doch ohne die Zwergziegen in ihrem Gehege am Parkplatz noch zu begrüßen, konnten wir unsere Fahrt nicht fortsetzen. Anschließend fuhren wir ins Zentrum von Waldenburg. Hier wartete in der Gaststätte „Zum Alten Gewerbehau“ unser Mittagessen, das ich vorher für 13 Uhr bestellt hatte.

Nach dieser Stärkung begaben wir uns nun in das unmittelbar in der Nähe befindliche Schloss. Hier



war 14.30 Uhr eine Besichtigung mit Führung geplant, die Herr Rosch im Vorfeld organisiert hatte.

Die Gründung der Schlossanlage geht in ihrem Ursprung auf eine Burg zurück. Sie wurde 1165 bis 1172 als Stützpunkt für die Kolonisierung des Pleißenlandes errichtet. In der 2. Hälfte des 14. Jahrhunderts fiel die Herrschaft Waldenburg durch einen Erbvertrag an die Schönburger. 1519 zerstörte ein Feuer die Burganlage. Mit dem Neuaufbau entstanden später zwei Schlösser, ein vorderes und ein hinteres Schloss. Am 09. Februar 1619 fiel das hintere Schloss erneut einem Brand zum Opfer. 1778 – 1780 erfolgte durch Fürst Otto Carl Friedrich eine Erneuerung des vorderen Schlosses.

Unter Fürst Otto Victor II. von Schönburg-Waldenburg erhielt das Schloss durch einen Umbau in den Jahren 1909 bis 1912 seine heutige Gestalt mit einer modernen und komfortablen Ausstattung. Herr Rammler, unser guter „Schlossgeist“ führte uns mit viel Enthusiasmus durch den Familienbesitz des Fürsten Otto Victor II. Schönburg-Waldenburg und seiner Gemahlin Eleonore.

Im Alter von 32 Jahren fiel Fürst Otto Victor II. am 14.09.1914 während des 1. Weltkrieges bei Reims / Frankreich. Da die Ehe kinderlos blieb, verließ Fürstin Eleonore das Schloss Waldenburg und heiratete später in das Haus Wittelsbach ein. Sein jüngerer Bruder Prinz Günther übernahm nach Kriegsende 1918 als fünfter Fürst von Schönburg-Waldenburg die Regentschaft.

Nach einer reichlichen Stunde interessanter und informativer Führung genoss jeder auf seine Weise die Schlossparkanlagen. 16.30 Uhr trafen wir uns alle wieder am Bus, der in unmittelbarer Nähe des Schlosses stand. Unser netter Busfahrer brachte uns gegen 17.15 Uhr wieder wohlbehalten an unseren Ausgangspunkt in Chemnitz zurück.

Das Resümee dieses Tagestrips: Es war eine schöne, gelungene Ausfahrt und hat allen Teilnehmern gut gefallen.

Nun steht die Frage: Wohin geht unsere Reise nächstes Jahr? Hier sind die Vorschläge unserer aller Mitglieder gefragt.

Dorothea Böhme

Library lovers

Who says teens nowadays don't read any more? According to a study conducted by Britain's National Literacy Trust, almost half of all British teens go to their local libraries.

The survey found out that of 17,000 young Brits under 16 -

44% use a public library.

47% of those who go to the library read books or e-books in their free time.

38% think going to the library helps them at school.

22% don't go to the library.

