

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

vor 25 Jahren, im September des Jahres 1990, beschlossen mehrere Chemnitzer Bürger, die sich für Großbritannien und die englische Sprache interessierten, die neu gewonnene Freiheit zu nutzen und die Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft zu gründen. Dass es unsere Gesellschaft heute noch gibt – wenn auch mit weniger Mitgliedern, als in den früheren Jahren, ist neben anderen Gründen sicherlich auch auf das rege Gesellschaftsleben zurück zu führen, zu dem nicht nur unsere monatlichen Vortragsabende und Konversationszirkel, sondern auch andere gemeinsame Veranstaltungen gehören.

Wie schon in unserer letzten Ausgabe erwähnt, wollen wir aus Anlass dieses Jubiläums am Sonntag, dem 20. September, eine gemeinsame Autofahrt nach Rathen in der Sächsischen Schweiz unternehmen. Hier folgen einige Details unserer Tagestour: wir fahren 9.03 Uhr ab Hbf. Chemnitz nach Dresden und von dort aus weiter mit S-Bahn und Fähre nach Rathen, wo wir in der Gaststätte "Sonniges Eck" unser Mittagessen einnehmen werden. Schon während der Zugfahrt besteht die Möglichkeit, aus einer Speisekarte eines der Gerichte auszuwählen, das allerdings auf eigene Rechnung geht. Nach dem Mittagessen ist dann Gelegenheit, die Umgebung zu erkunden. Zurück nach Dresden geht es mit einer gemütlichen Fahrt auf einem Elbedampfer, der 15.20 Uhr ablegen wird.

Der Unkostenbeitrag, mit dem die Fahrtkosten abgedeckt werden, beträgt für Mitglieder 20 €, ihre Partner müssen 30 € bezahlen.

Was uns jetzt noch zu hoffen bleibt, ist, dass wir für unsere Autofahrt schönes Wetter und ausreichend Wasser in der Elbe haben werden. Das schöne Wetter ist bestellt worden, es kommt nun darauf an, dass es auch geliefert wird.

In diesem Jahr steht auch wieder die Jahreshauptversammlung und die Wahl des Vorstandes an, die am Donnerstag, dem 26. November, 19 Uhr, im Veranstaltungsraum in der 2. Etage im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125, stattfinden wird. Unsere Mitglieder finden in der Mitte des Heftes die Einladung und die Kandidatenliste, die auch für die Briefwahl genutzt werden kann. Die anderen Leser unseres Newsletters können an gleicher Stelle amüsante Artikel aus britischen Zeitungen zum Thema Sport lesen.

Darüber hinaus finden Sie in unserer Ausgabe neben anderen Artikeln den zweiten Teil des Berichts über die China-Reise von Herrn Hasse sowie einen Beitrag von Frau Weiße über ihre diesjährige Reise nach England und Wales, zu denen wir Ihnen viel Vergnügen beim Lesen wünschen.

Die Redaktion

DOWNSTREAM THE YANGTZE RIVER

From Chongqing to Shanghai

Chongqing is the biggest city in China with 30 million inhabitants, located on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River in the western province Sichuan. Our group visited a tea vending centre there. Until then I had not had any knowledge about a tea variety named "White Tea". This tea is named like this because their buds are wrapped in white fluff. We tried this very mild tea, which has a perfectly good flavour, but the sale was clearly at an increased price. There our group embarked a luxurious passenger ship of 3000 tons displacement. Every couple got a



Photos: Peter Hasse

against floods, which very often destroyed a great territory on lower stretches in the past. Additionally, the conditions of shipping are now extended.

comfortable small cabin with a balcony. For a period of three days we cruised on the river, saw the beautiful landscape of the three gorges, disembarked at some jetties for sightseeing and got some ideas about the rural life in China. It's noticeable that the rural regions are lagging behind. Litter bearers, rickshaws and carts, moved by hand, are still common. The poverty report of the Chinese government corresponds to this impression: According to Chinese standards, 83 million people live in poverty at present.

Our ship passed through the four step-locks of the Three Gorges Dam and was lowered to 100 metres. This dam is not the highest, but the largest hydropower station in the world and paid for itself. The main purpose, we were told, is the protection

Our cruise ended in the city of Yichang, where our group visited a breeding centre for sturgeons and got some information about the protection of endangered species in this area. The pollution of the Yangtze River is on a very high level, basically because a general sewage system does not exist. That's why endangered fish and other species like Yangtze alligators, freshwater dolphins and others live in sanctuaries or some tributaries only. Proceeding our journey from there to Shanghai by train, we saw rice fields everywhere. When we got near to Shanghai, an increasing density of settlements was noticeable. Shanghai and the surrounding region is not only the economical, commercial and intellectual powerhouse of China, but had been the main sphere of European influence during the colonial period. Our group stayed there for three days. Some of the old colonial buildings are still in the city on the riverside, named the Bund, opposite to newly erected sky scrapers - a symbol of prosperous China. Their facades are glistening in various colours, an overwhelming sight not only in the twilight. It is an ideal place for taking photos.

Of particular interest to me was the model of classical Chinese gardening architecture I saw in the so called Yu Garden. This is a composite edifice of halls, corridors, huge rockery, pools, bridges, plants and flowers. (see www.yugarden.com.cn)



Yu Garden

A highlight was a performance of acrobatics on the final day of our tour: Thrilling, when eight motorcyclists circulated without any crash inside a huge, transparent globe and when an acrobat balanced on four small plates, put on top of each other with cups, but rolling on one ball, and grasping six cups one by one with one foot and throwing them up onto his head, lastly purposefully throwing a spoon into the top cup!

With MAGLEV (magnetic levitation train) we rode to Shanghai airport and after a 13-hour non-stop flight we arrived in Frankfurt on Main, exhausted but full of memories.

(Many thanks to Mr Rosch for revising the text.)

Peter Hasse

Impressions of a journey to England and Wales

On my this year's journey to England and Wales I again experienced a lot of unforgettable impressions. At the beginning I enjoyed visiting Canterbury Cathedral as well as Winchester Cathedral. The latter is the longest building of a church, erected in Medieval times, with a length of 170 metres.



Leeds Castle

The 900-year old Leeds Castle, rising majestically from its moat and situated amidst a wonderful park, was also a special event for me.

I think one of the main attractions for all tourists is Stonehenge, the most famous as well as the most mysterious of all prehistoric monuments. There is nothing else quite like it anywhere in the world. It is an awe-inspiring sight.

A guided tour by coach and on foot in Bath offered me famous sights of the town, e.g. the Circus and the Royal Crescent. The Royal Crescent, adorned with 100 columns, is a row of town houses masquerading as a palace and was created by John Wood the Younger. Really a breathtaking sight.

In Wells I paid a visit to one of the most beautiful cathedrals and admired the impressive sculpture galleries at the west façade. I also got to know the Vicar's Close, England's oldest settlement of terraced houses from the 14th century.

The further journey led to Cardiff, the capital of Wales. During a guided tour I learned a lot of interesting details concerning the development of the town from the past till now.

The National Park 'Brecon Beacon' and the Gower Peninsula, a region of extraordinary beauty and famous for its

wonderful coastline, also attracted my attention.

When I arrived in St David's, the smallest town in Britain, I was fascinated at first sight by the great cathedral of Medieval atmosphere.

At the next stop in Tenby, a picturesque little town with colourful houses. I enjoyed strolling along the beautiful sandy beach. I also must mention Aberystwyth, remarkable for its homogeneous beach promenade, the university - founded in 1872, and the ruins of a 13th century castle.

Bodnant Garden - a special experience - was created in 1875 and is one of the most beautiful gardens in Britain. Fortunately I had time to spend many sunny hours there in the morning, admiring the horticultural grounds planted with innumerable seldom plants, precious bushes and foreign trees. At noon, however, the weather changed, it grew foggy and I couldn't undertake anything else any more.

Time quickly went by and the journey had almost come to its end. On the way to the ferry in Hull I had the chance for a visit to the Peak District, the first National Park in Britain, and during a stop in Buxton I learned that the hot springs there already pleased the Romans.

Maria Weiße

This and that from the 'island'

Digging

In March a team of archaeologists began excavating around 3,000 skeletons from a burial ground used during the period of the Great Plague in 1665, to make way for a new Crossrail ticket hall at Liverpool Street station.

The Bedlam burial ground is believed to have been used for almost over 170 years, from 1569 to 1738.



Experts hope

tests on remains from the site, also known as Bethlehem and the New Churchyard, will offer a deeper insight into the evolution of the bacteria which caused the plague which killed between 75,000 and 100,000 of London's rapidly expanding population of about 460,000.

The archaeologists will then begin digging through medieval marsh deposits and Roman remains, as a Roman road runs under the site, which has already yielded several interesting Roman artefacts such as horseshoes and cremation urns.

Crossrail lead archaeologist Jay Carver said: "This excavation presents a unique opportunity to understand the lives and deaths of 16th and 17th century Londoners. The Bedlam burial ground spans

a fascinating phase of London's history, including the transition from the Tudor-period city into cosmopolitan early-modern London."

Food waste

Last year, the British supermarket Tesco threw away 55,400 tonnes of food, 30,000 tonnes of which was perfectly edible. Now Tesco is to start donating its leftover food to charity.

The announcement comes after France recently passed a law preventing supermarkets destroying food – in a bid to put an end to the epidemic of food waste in Europe.

Often food in shops must be removed from shelves once it has passed its 'sell by' date, despite still being perfectly good for human consumption.

Dave Lewis, Tesco's chief exec, has said he does not feel 'comfortable' throwing out thousands of tonnes of food waste each year when it could go to helping people in need.

Mr Lewis told The Huffington Post: 'We know that this is the right thing for us to be doing. We think that we have found a sustainable responsible way of eliminating waste in our business that could be safely consumed and we're going after it. Who would want to throw away food that people could eat when you know that there are people out there who actually for whatever reason unfortunately are not in a position to do that? Everybody wins here if we get



it right.'

Tesco will be the first supermarket in Britain to tackle this problem.

Dog suicide bridge

Overtoun Bridge, an arched approach bridge over the Overtoun Burn, located near Milton, Dumbarton, Scotland which was built in 1859, has gained media attention because of the unusually large number of dogs that have



apparently committed suicide by leaping off of it. The incidents were first recorded around the 1950's or 1960's when it was noticed that dogs - usually the long-nosed variety like Collies - would suddenly and unexpectedly leap off the bridge and fall 15 m (50 feet) to their deaths

What makes this tragic mystery even more mysterious is that many of the dogs that jump from Overtoun Bridge jump from the same side and from almost the same spot: between the final two parapets on the right-hand side of the bridge.

But why is this happening? Some believe that the bridge is haunted. Another theory comes from Celtic beliefs that Overtoun Bridge is a "thin place" where the barrier between the world of the living and the world of the dead meet and sometimes cross over.

A more rational explanation for the "dog suicides" could be the mink population that resides under the bridge in the undergrowth. Veterinarians and animal experts have

pointed out that a dog, overly excited at the smell of the minks and unable to see over the sides of the bridge, might leap over the side on impulse not realizing that they are on a bridge at all.

(Sources: The Independent, Internet)

Sport: It's only a game!

British sportsmen have to admit it - the Australians rule. At cricket, rugby, swimming, athletics and tennis. After England suffered a humiliating 4-1 defeat during Australia's cricket tour of England, Pat Cash, Australian Wimbledon tennis champion in 1987, said, "Australians have a different attitude to winning. It seems Brits think taking part is more important. Our lifestyle is geared to sport while theirs is geared to following the Royals."

The Sun

'The reason why we lose to Australia so often is that we choose to challenge them in minor sports, whereas we would excel if we chose contests of intellect and skill. I refer to conkers, marbles and tiddlywinks, where even our well-known universities are able to field unbeatable teams.'

Robin Draycott, Solihull, West Midlands
Daily Telegraph

British sports journalist Simon Barnes, writing in *The Times*, tells of a 19th-century snooker custom: "In the event of the yellow ball being involved in a foul stroke, it was the custom of watchers to cry out the word 'Bullocks!'" Barnes comments, "I think it is high time this custom was reintroduced. It would add tone."

Random drug tests are to be introduced for sheep competing in hurdle races at a country show in Cuckfield, Sussex.
Birmingham Evening Mail

British newspapers and magazines do their best to maintain the myth that cricket is a gentleman's game. The magazine *Chap* gives this advice for 'keeping the gentleman's game on a decent wicket': "When batting one should aim mainly to retain one's dignity, particularly at the moment when your wicket is lost. The number of runs you score

should be finely balanced so that you do not demoralise the opposition."

Foreign visitors to the sacred Lord's cricket ground in London can buy an explanation of the game on a souvenir tea towel, which says:

"You have two sides. One out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When both sides have been in and out - including the not outs - that's the end of the game."

Any questions left?

A village cricket team in Chacombe, Northamptonshire, was bowled out for three. All the batsmen got ducks - the three runs coming from two wides and a buy.

Northants Chronicle and Echo

Henly-on-Thames Bowls Club has told the town council it is under siege from attacks by youths. One elderly player was struck by a Mars bar.

Henley Standard

Athlets at the Commonwealth Games being held in Manchester are being given 150,000 condoms (30 per contestant). The games will last ten days.

The Sunday Times

Should Muirfield be allowed to host the British Open when it still refuses to allow women golfers to join? The view of Jimmy Hume, the professional at nearby Gullane Golf Club, is, "Few lady members at my club would play there even if they could. It's too full of old men pontificating. More a lunching and drinking club ... full of judges and generals over 70."

Sunday Telegraph

In the row over all-male golf clubs the Guardian reported, 'Signs such as "No dogs or women" really do exist. And at one club the women playing in a championship match were forbidden to walk in front of the clubhouse in case they spoil the view for the men.'

Beer-swilling British sportsmen lost to the Germans as 20 teams battled for supremacy in the World Marbles Championships in the car park of the Greyhound pub in Tinsley Green, West Sussex. An official commented, 'It's a blow for British sport - but if you put a lot of men in a pub environment and there is beer or marbles, what are they going to choose?'

Western Morning News

Mike Deacon, 45, of Kewes, East Sussex, managed to lob a frozen pea 44 m to win the World Pea-throwing Championship held in his home town. The previous record was 29 m.

The Guardian

A junior six-a-side Black Country football league says teams will lose points if parents swear or misbehave on the touchline.

Express & Star

Leicester University is trying to find out if there is any truth in the old saying that football is a game for gentlemen played by hooligans, while rugby is a game for hooligans played by gentlemen.

Daily Telegraph

It was page-one news when Andrew Wilson, a leading member of the Scottish National Party, called on fellow Scots to cheer for England in the World Cup.

The Times was moved to write a leading article saying that Wilson's call was 'a thunderbolt reverberating around Scotland louder than the bugles after Flodden'. The article reminded readers of the old Scots saying: 'We're not biased. We don't care who beats England.'

Not many Olympic medals get pinned onto British chests, but the *Sun* attempted to cheer up its readers by reminding them that '... we're the world champs at wacky sports including gurning (pulling ugly faces), toe-wrestling, lawn-mower racing, arm-wrestling, elephant polo, tug of war, kite-flying, welly-tossing, cheese-rolling, black-pudding throwing, ferret-racing and tiddlywinks.'

(from "You Couldn't Make It Up" by Jack Crossley")

Review of the last months

26 March 2015

"British stereotypes and Manchester"

For a long time, we didn't have native speakers for our talks. That's why I was pleased to hear that Mr Tröller managed to persuade **Lauren Comer** from Manchester, who worked as a language assistant at a school in Marienberg for six months, to give a talk to our society.

Mrs Comer had chosen two topics to speak about: her home town and typical British stereotypes and clichés and to see if they are true or not.

The title of the talk should actually have been the other way round because she began with Manchester. She mainly concentrated on a few things Manchester is famous for such as sport (football) and the music scene (Herman's Hermits, Bee Gees, Oasis), but she also mentioned persons and facts that were not so well-known: the painter Lawrence Stephen Lowry, the women's rights activist Emmeline Pankhurst, and the world's oldest (but not first) still existing train station which is now part of a museum. And she pointed out the similarities and connections between Manchester and Chemnitz.

In the second part about British stereotypes Mrs Comer indicated that some but not all of them were true. She confirmed for instance that the Brits like to drink tea and to queue, are passionate about football and sometimes drink too much alcohol. But she also made clear that, to her mind, the bad reputation of the English cuisine is not true anymore and mentioned the tasty Sunday roast as an example.

Mrs Comer's talk, of which particularly the second part was quite amusing, was accompanied by a lot of photos that also included the typical red buses and black taxis of London.

The audience thanked Mrs Comer with warm applause.

Siegfried Rosch

30 April 2015

"Iceland without ice"

The last Thursday of April 2015 was a specially marked date on my calendar because I looked forward to another interesting video shown by Mr. **Siegfried Rosch**.

Members of our society as well as a lot of other interested people gathered in the library hall. They all were keen on listening to Mr. Rosch's talk in English on the topic "Iceland without ice". This pun (=play of words) certainly attracted many visitors because it had made them curious. Mr. Rosch revealed the mystery right at the beginning of his talk by telling us that he was in Iceland in May, a month when there is usually no ice in the regions he visited.

Besides he supposed that not many of us had already been there and so he started by mentioning some facts and figures. We learned something about the area, the population, and the political circumstances.

Iceland has been a republic since 1944 and covers an area of 103,000 km². With only 329,000 inhabitants it has the lowest population density of any country in Europe.

After a 4-hour-flight Mr. Rosch and his travelling companions arrived in Iceland.

Reykjavik, which is the capital and the largest city, means "smoking bay" and was of course a significant place of

interest during this tour. Its old landmark is Hallgrímskirkja – the biggest church of Iceland. The National Gallery of Iceland, the City Hall, which is situated on the shore of the town lake Tjörnin, as well as the Icelandic Parliament were other highlights on this tour through the capital. The oldest house is made of timber and was built in 1762. Harpa is the name of the modern concert hall and conference centre which opened in 2011. It is made of glass and its outstanding architecture is special.

Mr. Rosch's video continued by showing us grand pictures of the diverse countryside. We were overwhelmed by watching the Icelandic Geysers in the Golden Circle. These springs, which are between 80 to 100°C hot, are visited by hundreds of tourists a day.

Of course, I should mention that we were absolutely amazed at the impressive pictures of waterfalls, lava fields, the dormant volcano Snæfellsjökull, the rocky coastline offering numerous nestplaces to seabirds and last but not least the places where the drift of the continents is clearly visible. Did you know that the American and the Eurasian continents drift apart two centimetres a year?

Moreover we got to know something about the important fishing industry nowadays and how fish was processed in the past. We were surprised that shark meat is made eatable by drying it for months.

Looking at the Blue Lagoon we immediately believed that the mineral water of this spa which is located in a lava field near Grindavíc is very healthy and therefore visited by a lot of tourists.

All in all it was another successful talk by Mr. Rosch whom the audience gave a round applause. Thank you very much Mr. Rosch for this very good talk in English and your skilfully made video providing us an amusing hour.

Marion Rotstein

28 May 2015

"California, Arizona, Nevada - Part 1"

At the beginning of the first part of **Silvia Tröller's** report about her tour of the south-west of the USA she showed a map in which the route and the places she and her partner visited during the two weeks, were marked, and gave some information on the history, the geography and population of California.

The tour started in Los Angeles - a centre of the music and film industries. Mrs Tröller showed several photos of the city and reported about their visit to the Universal film studios, which was a full-day tour.

With a hired car they continued their way on Highway Nr. 1 along the Californian coast. During a short stop at a beach they had time for a bath in the rather chilly sea before they went on to Santa Barbara. There several "Save water" signs attracted their attention and Mrs Tröller explained the reason for the occurrence of draughts in the region.

Their next destination was San Francisco, where they took part in a sight-seeing tour. She mentioned that, although it was August, the temperature was rather low and they were advised to wear a pullover or a cardigan. We learned that the geographical situation of the city next to the San Francisco Bay is the reason for the rough weather there.

Mrs Tröller showed photos of some of the tourist attractions and landmarks of the city, such as the Golden Gate Bridge, the so called Painted Ladies - a row of colourful houses, the winding Lombard Street, the prison island Alcatraz and China Town. And, of course, they also took a ride on the famous cable car.

Mrs Tröller's very informative and entertaining report brought back many good memories but also provided several new insights. As for me, I'm looking forward to the sequels in August and October.

Siegfried Rosch

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 27.8.2015, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "California, Arizona, Nevada - Part 2", Reisebericht in englischer Sprache von Silvia Tröller

So., 20.9.2015: Ausfahrt für Mitglieder der DBG und deren Angehörige nach Rathen

Do., 29.10.2015, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "California, Arizona, Nevada - Part 3", Reisebericht in englischer Sprache von Silvia Tröller

Do., 26.11.2015, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Jahreshauptversammlung und Vorstandswahl

Fr., 4.12.2015, 18 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Weihnachtsfeier der DBG

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

Mixed proverbs

Die zwei Teile (1-8 und a-h) der folgenden Sprichwörter sind etwas durcheinander geraten. Finden Sie heraus, welche zusammen gehören.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Honour to whom | a. but great ones escape. |
| 2. If you grease well | b. is power. |
| 3. In the country of the blind, | c. honour is due. |
| 4. It is better to give | d. short legs. |
| 5. Knowledge | e. is blind. |
| 6. Lies have | f. than to receive. |
| 7. Little thieves are hanged, | g. you speed well. |
| 8. Love | h. the one-eyed man is king. |

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 73 "Alphabet riddle"

1. It is always in the middle of the FUN.
2. smiles - there is a **mile** between the two letters "s".
3. short - **shorter**
4. The letter "a" can make her hear.
5. It's the letter "e".
6. one - **gone**
7. today, **tomorrow**
8. The letter "w".

WELCOME

Hiermit begrüßen wir

Frau Dr. Andrea Völker

als neues Mitglied unserer Gesellschaft.