

Jahreshauptversammlung 2015

Der Vorstand der Deutsch-Britischen Gesellschaft hatte für Donnerstag, dem 26.11.2015, zur Jahreshauptversammlung und Vorstandswahl eingeladen und 25 Mitglieder waren der Einladung gefolgt. Versammlungsleiter Herr Dr. Hoffmann begrüßte die Anwesenden und nach Feststellung der Beschlussfähigkeit übergab er das Wort an die Vorsitzende Frau Tröller, die den Rechenschaftsbericht des Vorstandes zur Arbeit der Gesellschaft in den letzten zwei Jahren verlas. Es folgten der Finanzbericht von Herrn Rosch, der Bericht der Revisionskommission von Herrn Oehme sowie der Rahmenarbeitsplan für die nächsten zwei Jahre, den Frau Böhme vorstellte. Dann leitete Herr Dr. Hoffmann zur Aussprache über bestimmte Punkte der Berichte über. Auf die Bitte von Frau Tröller, Vortragsthemen zu benennen, für die sich die Mitglieder interessieren, meldete sich Herr Hasse, der gern etwas über Deutsche hören würde, die am amerikanischen Bürgerkrieg beteiligt waren, während sich Herr Schreckenbach für Vorträge über große britische Städte aussprach. Mehrere Mitglieder wiesen darauf hin, dass manche Referenten bei englischsprachigen Vorträgen zu schnell sprechen würden. Frau Tröller erklärte dazu, dass man in letzter Zeit versucht habe, auf dieses Problem einzugehen, was in einigen Fällen auch zu Verbesserungen geführt hat.

Frau Tröller gab auf Nachfrage noch einmal einige Informationen zur Satzung, die auf Veranlassung des Finanzamtes in einigen Punkten geändert werden musste, um die Gemeinnützigkeit unseres Vereins zu erhalten. Herr Linke, der bisherige Leiter des Konversationszirkels I, informierte die Anwesenden über die Gründe seines Ausscheidens aus der DBG ab Ende dieses Jahres. Er betonte aber auch seine Bereitschaft, weiterhin Vorträge für unsere Gesellschaft zu halten und verwies auf seinen Vortrag im Januar. Seine Aufgabe als Zirkelleiterin übernimmt Frau Rotstein, die darauf hinwies, dass der Zirkel ab **Februar** an jedem ersten **Dienstag** im Monat ab **17 Uhr** stattfindet.

Weitere Diskussionsthemen betrafen mögliche Ziele für gemeinsame Ausfahrten. Frau Böhme hatte im Rahmenarbeitsplan die Miniwelt Lichtenstein und den Pücklerpark in Bad Muskau genannt. Als weitere Vorschläge kamen von verschiedenen Mitgliedern die Raumfahrtausstellung in Morgenröthe - Rautenkranz und eine Fahrt nach Bad Frankenhausen.

Nach der Diskussion bat Herr Dr. Hoffmann um die Zustimmung zu den Berichten, was einstimmig erfolgte. Als nächstes dankten Frau Tröller und Frau Böhme Herrn Linke und den ausscheidenden Vorstandsmitgliedern Frau Rüdiger und Frau Weiße ganz herzlich für ihre geleistete Arbeit.

Herr Dr. Hoffmann ging dann zum nächsten Tagesordnungspunkt und übergab das Wort an Herrn Dr. Reimann, der wieder als Leiter der Wahlkommission fungierte. Nach der Wahlhandlung wurden in einer kurzen Pause die Stimmen durch die Wahlkommission, die aus Herrn Burkhardt, Herrn Hasse und Herrn Wagner bestand, ausgezählt. Das Wahlergebnis wurde nach der Pause durch Herrn Dr. Reimann bekanntgegeben. Demzufolge wurden alle Kandidaten mit "DDR-üblichen Resultaten", wie es Herr Dr. Reimann ausdrückte, zwischen 96,4 und 100% gewählt. In einer kurzen konstituierenden Sitzung des neuen Vorstandes erklärte Frau Tröller ihre Bereitschaft, weiterhin das Amt der Vorsitzenden auszuführen. In einer abschließenden Ansprache bedankte sie sich bei allen Anwesenden im Namen der Vorstandsmitglieder für das ausgesprochene Vertrauen, und mit einem optimistischen Ausblick auf die neue Wahlperiode beendete sie die Versammlung.

As time goes by ...

The 25th anniversary

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of our Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft Chemnitz, members and their partners undertook an excursion to Rathen, in the Elbsandsteingebirge region.

On September 20th, 24 people met at the central train station in Chemnitz and went by train to Rathen via Dresden. When we got off the train we were welcomed by bright sunshine, but before we crossed the river Elbe by means of a small ferry all hobby photographers took a lot of photos of the picturesque scenery. Finally we crossed the river and looked for the restaurant "Sonniges Eck" where we had preordered our lunches. Mrs Tröller, our chairwoman, made a short speech on the occasion and after that we raised our glasses of sparkling wine to 25



Foto: Karsten Oehme

years DBG Chemnitz. During the following get-together we had lively and amusing chats.

Before we could start our stroll to Amselsee and Amselfall a short downpour stopped our walking tour. But afterwards everybody hurried more or less quickly to the destinations mentioned.

The next shower of rain annoyed us just before our departure to Dresden. Nevertheless, we went on board the river boat "Leipzig".

As the weather remained changeable we could only stay on deck when the sunshine guaranteed some beautiful views of the varying river banks. After a three-hour cruise we arrived at Dresden and went home by train.

Maria Weiße

Review of the last months

25 June 2015

"Better to be cruel: Inhumanity in Thomas Hardy's last novel *Jude the Obscure*"

Lectures about literary topics can be quite boring. But that was not the case with **Eike Kronshage's** talk on the English author Thomas Hardy, which was one of a series of lectures about British writers of the Victorian era that the Anglistics department of TU Chemnitz organized this year.

Mr Kronshage focused in his presentation on Hardy's last novel, that was published in 1895 and caused a scandal in Victorian England because of its criticism of Christianity and social institutions.

In a few words Mr Kronshage introduced the main characters and outlined the content of the story, that is set in the imaginary county Wessex and blends real and fictional England using existing as well as invented place names.

With two short video clips from a film, an adaptation of the novel quite true to the original, Mr Kronshage made visible Hardy's style of writing with its twists and turns and sharp cuts. In the first clip, for instance, a jolly wedding celebration is immediately followed by the slaughter of a pig. Before playing it, Mr Kronshage had warned the audience about the cruel scene and seeing it is certainly harder to take than just reading about it in a book.

After the second clip he read some passages of the novel, that were simultaneously projected onto the wall, and presented parts of a review of the book in the English literary magazine *Athenaeum* from the year of its publication which stated that the story would irritate the readers.

Mr Kronshage closed his very interestingly presented lecture with an explanation of the word "obscure", which has different meanings, and he said that it could be interpreted best as "difficult to understand or to fathom".

The evening ended with the opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

27 August/29 October 2015

"California, Arizona, Nevada - Part 2/Part 3"

In the second and third parts of her series of reports about a tour of the south-west of the United States, **Silvia Tröller** presented again very informative and entertaining talks. Both events were well attended.

Part 2 began where Part 1 had ended: in San Francisco. Mrs Tröller showed photos of the almost invisible Golden Gate Bridge, hidden in fog, as an example for the weather conditions that sometimes prevail in the area. The following report was generally characterized by a lot of trees because she and her partner visited several National Parks such as the Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the Redwood National and State Park. Mrs Tröller mentioned that she learned only there that Redwood trees are not red and that those trees with red trunks are called Sequoia trees. It was interesting to see these gigantic trees, that can grow higher than 100 metres, in comparison with the

people and cars. To make the actual height of those trees more conceivable she showed a photo of the Hotel Mercure, in Chemnitz, next to one of a Sequoia tree that was as high as the building.

But, of course, we didn't see only trees all the time. Mrs Tröller also showed a short video that she made during a stop at a beach with big waves and photos of places such as Junction City and Jackson. We saw pictures of the remains of a settlement in the Coloma State Park, that had its big time during the gold rush in the 19th century and is now a tourist attraction, and were impressed by spectacular views of the scenery in the Yosemite National Park.

For Part 3 we only had the reading room in the library at our disposal which was almost too small for the large number of people who had come to listen to Mrs Tröller's report. This time she took us mainly to places in Nevada and Arizona such as the Sierra Nevada with its unusual rock formations and amazing variety of colours, the Death Valley, where they experienced temperatures of up to 48 °C, the glitter world of Las Vegas, and the breathtaking Grand Canyon. The fantastic photos of the latter particularly caused a wow-effect in the audience.

On the way back to California they went along the famous Route 66 and came to the London Bridge in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, that was bought by an American entrepreneur in 1968 and shipped stone by stone from England across the ocean to the USA. Before they reached Los Angeles, where the tour ended, they visited the Joshua Tree National Park with its unusual trees and rocks.

In addition to her report about the tour, Mrs Tröller also gave some facts and figures about the three states and, as usual, there were several humorous moments, too. The talks really gave an "appetite" for her report about Boston that unfortunately had to be cancelled in spring and will be given next year.

Siegfried Rosch

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Di., 5.1.2016, 16 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: unsere traditionelle Stollenparty, Eintritt: 2 Scheiben Stollen

Do., 28.1.2016, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Will and his women", Vortrag in englischer Sprache (Zitate teilweise auch in Deutsch) zum Shakespeare-Jahr von Harald Linke

Do., 25.2.2016, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Studying English in China and Chemnitz - a comparison", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von chinesischen Studenten der TU Chemnitz

Do., 31.3.2016, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Windy Wellington", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

FUNNY TRADITIONS



In Britain, many different events and celebrations take place traditionally around the days of Christmas and the New Year.

Burning the Clocks is a unique festival celebrating the winter solstice and it takes place each year at Brighton on the 21st of December with a parade, fireworks and bonfire for the whole community. Local people make their own paper and willow lanterns. A spectacular procession through the city with torches and flaming sculptures culminates with a blazing bonfire of all the lanterns on Brighton beach. The festival was created in 1994 by Same Sky – Brighton's community art charity – as a way to celebrate the festive season.

The Winter Solstice is marked each year at Stonehenge by a Druid Ceremony. The solstice is the shortest day, when

the sun is at its most southerly and furthest from Earth; it varies in date between the 21st and 22nd of December because the modern calendar does not exactly correspond with the solar calendar. A crowd of up to some thousand druids, pagans and onlookers usually attend the event. It's a religious service based around the sun rising, marking the turn of the year.

Every 21st December the custom of the Sheriff's Riding takes place after dusk in York. Nowadays it's a blend of two ancient traditions: that of the Sheriff's Ride around the streets on horseback accompanied by musicians, which in earlier days took place during November, and Yulegirthol which has always been on December 21st and originally involved brief proclamations at set locations around the city. Now the two are combined and the Sheriff is accompanied by the York Waits in their livery; they process around the city, music playing all the while. The event begins with a lengthy proclamation at Micklegate Bar and further proclamations and horn blowing take place at several points on the tour which ends after about three-quarters of an hour at the Mansion House. Afterwards the participants celebrate with venison pasties and sherry.

A number of locations around the UK host midwinter swimming events – not all of them are even on the coast – and they seem to be growing in popularity through the twenty-first century. On Christmas Day there are events at



Padstow Mummers

pram race was born with a fruit cake as the prize for the winners. The 3-mile course in a route around the village takes in local pubs and entrants must drink three pints en route in order to comply with the rules. Competitors complete the course in pairs (one pushing and one riding in the pram) or groups; they must walk briskly as running is not permitted. The money raised is donated to local good causes.

It greens so green

*A tourist group from Germany
had fun in a distillery.*

*But there was much more to be seen
on this pretty island of green
worth to store in the memory.*

Brighton, Bournemouth, Exmouth, Polkerris and Porthcawl; on Boxing Day at Liverpool's Albert Dock, Aberdeen's Nippy Dipper, Whitley Bay, Tenby, Redcar or Seaburn; at New Year Saundersfoot, Broughty Ferry, Queensferry's Loony Dook, Whitley Bay or Clevedon. Some events have a competitive element but most are just a group of brave enthusiasts proving their hardiness!

Matlock Raft Race began in the early 1960s to raise cash for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), and every Boxing Day 40 or so craft begin the race over a four-mile course along the River Derwent. The rafts are an assortment of home-made vessels, some made for racing and others for comic effect with their crew in appropriate fancy dress. It is usual for some to sink or disintegrate long before the finish, particularly near the hazard of the weir by Masson Mill! Viewing is possible from the banks for most of the route. There are other raft races in the UK but this is one with a long pedigree and takes place annually.

Mummers Day is celebrated twice in the midwinter season in Padstow, once on Boxing Day and once at New Year. Participants dress like minstrels and perform music-hall style songs in nineteenth century style, with their faces disguised by black make-up. They parade all around the town centre calling at pubs en route and raising money for charity.

Pagham Pram Race takes place at Pagham, West Sussex, on Boxing Day. It is the oldest event of its kind in the world! It all started just after World War II when a group of soldiers returned from the conflict full of bright ideas for some peacetime fun – the

With this limerick I invite you to a short trip of my thoughts through the Republic of Ireland.

The name "Ireland" stands for the whole island whose Irish-Gaelic name is Eire. The custom to name villages and cities in English and Gaelic alike is common. Ireland is also called the "Emerald Island" and is said to appear in 40 shades of green. Who may have counted them?

Thanks to steady rain falls, the near Gulfstream, and the temperate climate is green the predominant colour. The symbol of this country is the shamrock because St Patrick, the national saint, explained by means of the three leaves of clover the Holy Trinity to the inhabitants when he brought Christianity to the island.

During our bus ride from Dublin to the west and south of the island in July 2015 we experienced the green scenery interrupted by endless drystone walls that limit the meadows for the grazing sheep and cattle and prevent the erosion of land.

During the first stop at the Kilbeggan Distillery - founded in 1757 and still used as a whiskey distillery and a museum - we got familiar with the Irish national beverage.

Galway's nice old city impressed us with its vivid and attractive atmosphere and garishly painted houses, while the near Connemara region with its original wilderness and with peat - cutting as a common tradition. But also the stony desert of the Burren offered a calm contrast.



The Cliffs of Moher, that rise up to 200 metres above the ocean, belong to the most spectacular beauties of Ireland.

Instead of the famous Ring of Kerry we got to know its beautiful "sister": the Sleat Head Drive on the peninsula Dingle. The impression of this coastal road is similar to the Ring of Kerry as I remember the photos Mrs Rotstein showed us in her report last year.

We also visited Kilkenny with its castle and the former beer brewery, stopped in Adare, the most beautiful village of Ireland, had a photo-stop near the Rock of Cashel and a short visit to the

former monastery of St. Kevin in Glendalough before we returned to Dublin to attend the historic and the modern buildings of the capital of the Republic of Ireland.

Visiting this island is like stepping back in time and we enjoyed this 8-day holiday very much.

Ulrike Korward

This and that from the 'island'

Beavers

A family of wild beavers has been seen in the English countryside earlier this year in what is believed to be the first sighting of its kind in up to 500 years.

Three European beavers (*Castor fiber*), believed to be adults, have been filmed together on the River Otter in east Devon and can be seen gnawing at the base of trees, grooming themselves and playing together.

Experts said the sighting was "highly significant" as it strongly suggested a small breeding population of beavers now existed outside captivity.

European beavers were once widespread in the UK but were hunted to extinction by the 16th century in England and Wales for their fur, medicinal value and meat.

There have been successful reintroduction schemes in other parts of the UK. In 2009, three beaver families were released into forest lochs near the Sound of Jura in Argyll, Scotland, while plans to release the species into the wild in Wales have also moved a step closer. The sighting in Devon would be the first time in centuries that European beavers have bred in the wild in England.

Steve Hussey from the Devon Wildlife Trust said he supported the reintroduction of beavers to England but that it had to be "properly planned".

"This group of beavers provides us with a unique opportunity to learn lessons about their behaviour and their impact on the local landscape ... [the group] could contribute to this process if they are subjected to thorough



scientific study", he explained.

Puddings against puddings

A British builder won the World Black Pudding Throwing Championships which are held annually in Ramsbotton, Greater Manchester, on the second Sunday of September. Mark Cannon, 52, knocked down the most Yorkshire puddings from a 25-foot (7.6 metres) high plinth by hurling three black puddings, a type of sausage made of congealed pigs' blood, fat, meat and fillers that is a favourite in northern England.

The competition, in which the ancient grudge between Yorkshire and Lancashire is played out, dates back to the 1980s. Legend has it that the contest is based on an incident during the Wars of the Roses in the 1400s, when the armies for the royal houses of Lancaster and York ran out of ammunition and threw food at each other.



Quick flight



Papa Westray is one of Orkney's smaller isles, only about six square miles in extent, and much less hectic than its bigger neighbours in Orkney. With a population of around 70 people, including a significant number of new arrivals from the south in the past decade, Papay, as the locals call it, is renowned internationally for its bird life, its archaeology, and its wonderful beaches.

But it is also the destination for the world's shortest scheduled flight. It takes just two minutes - including taxiing - to complete the 1.7 mile flight between Westray and Papa Westray, which is about the same length as the runway at Edinburgh Airport.

A single-manned, eight-seater Britten-Norman Islander aircraft is used on the service - and is in high demand during the summer months. Passengers get a certificate to prove they were on the flight.

Sources: The Guardian, Internet

Our language section

What a lovely countryside!

So mancher von uns war im Laufe des Jahres im mehr oder weniger erholsamen Urlaub. Wenn man nun über seine Erlebnisse und Eindrücke berichten möchte und das auch noch in Englisch tun will, stößt man manchmal auf sprachliche Probleme, die einen ins Straucheln bringen können.

Wenn Sie z.B. über die herrliche Landschaft schwärmen möchten, spricht man dann eigentlich über *landscape*, *scenery* oder *countryside*?

Das Wort *countryside* betont das Erlebnis der Landschaft als Ganzes und oft den anmutigen Charakter; für den Engländer heißt *countryside* vorwiegend sattes Grün, sanfte Hügel und Felder usw.

Beispiel: I'm really looking forward to our holiday in Ireland - all that lovely *countryside* to go for long walks in.

Bei *scenery* liegt die Betonung auf der beeindruckenden Schönheit einer Landschaft, wie sie an einem (z.B. bei einer Zugfahrt) vorbeizieht.

Beispiel: We saw so much spectacular *scenery* on our bicycle tour through New Zealand.

Mit *landscape* bezeichnet man ganz allgemein das Landschaftsbild bzw. eine Landschaft aus der Ferne betrachtet. In der Malerei ist *a landscape* der Terminus für ein Landschaftsbild.

Außerdem ist es auch eine neutrale, fast wissenschaftliche Bezeichnung. *Landscape* betont den (geologischen) Charakter, die Konturen der Landschaft, und wird oft mit flachen und/oder trostlosen Gegenden assoziiert.

Beispiele: From the top of that hill you get a marvellous view of the whole *landscape*. It's a volcanic *landscape* with very unusual vegetation.

Das Wort *landscape* dient darüber hinaus zur Konkretisierung von Berufsbezeichnungen, wie z.B. *landscape architect*, *landscape gardener*, *landscape artist*.

Zum Schluss noch der Hinweis, dass mit dem Anhängsel *-scape* auch andere Landschaften (townscape=Stadtansicht, moonscape=Mondlandschaft, seascape=Meeresansicht, Seestück) bezeichnet werden.

Christmas card

Jane hat ihrer Freundin Rachel eine Weihnachtskarte geschickt. Leider hat Regen einige der Worte so verwischt, dass sie nicht mehr lesbar sind. Können Sie Rachel helfen? Benutzen Sie dazu die folgenden Wörter:

carols decorations holiday reindeer roast spirit together wrapped

Dear Rachel,

I hope this card arrives on time. I've just finished putting up little (1) and other (2) all over our house. This is my favourite (3) of the year because everyone is full of Christmas (4) ! We're getting (5) with my cousins again, and we'll have a (6) dinner and sing (7) I've bought all my presents but I haven't (8) any of them yet. So I have to make sure everyone stays out of my room.

Merry Christmas!

Jane

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 74 "Mixed proverbs"

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

Her Majesty's stamps

Did you know that Queen Elizabeth II owns Britain's largest collection of stamps? Housed in St. James's Palace, the Royal Philatelic Collection is said to be the world's most comprehensive collection of postage stamps of Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

Starting in the early nineteenth century, the Collection was put together by Royal stamp enthusiasts. Key figures in its development were Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, the second son of Queen Victoria, and King George V, a keen stamp collector who built up a collection of world renown.



Later monarchs continued to preserve, develop and enjoy the Collection. Stamps collected by King George V are mounted in red albums. Those acquired by King George VI are in blue albums and boxes, and those by The Queen in green.

Today the Collection continues to grow. It receives stamps of the UK and many Commonwealth countries in mint blocks of four or six. Occasional purchases of rare historical items are also made to enhance the Collection further. During The Queen's reign a considerable volume of material has been acquired. These acquisitions are to be kept in green albums and boxes, although much has yet to be mounted.

It is impossible to say how many stamps there are in the Collection, or to put a value on it. The Royal Philatelic Collection has never been counted in terms of total stamp numbers. It is also difficult to value the collection as it contains unique items (including drawings and proofs) for which the market has never been tested.

Unlike the Crown Jewels and the Royal residences, the Royal Philatelic Collection is privately owned by The Queen, rather than belonging to the nation. Her Majesty does give permission for selections from the Collection to be shown at major exhibitions internationally and in the UK.

Source: Internet

Christmas Fun

Q: Who is Santa's favourite singer?

A: Elf-is Presley

Q: What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

A: The elf-abeth

Q: What is the best Christmas present?

A: A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

