

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

2016 ist ein Jahr, in dem es in Großbritannien mehrere Anlässe zu örtlich begrenzten, aber auch landesweiten Feierlichkeiten und Jubiläen gibt. Als erstes wäre da der 90. Geburtstag von Königin Elizabeth II. zu nennen, den sie ja eigentlich am 21. April begeht. Offiziell wird er jedoch erst mit dem Zeremoniell Trooping the Colours im Juni gefeiert.

Etwas länger, nämlich 150 Jahre, liegt der Geburtstag von Beatrix Potter zurück, die speziell in englischsprachigen Ländern mit ihren Tiergeschichten um Peter Rabbit und Jemima Puddle-Duck bekannt wurde. Obwohl in London geboren, verbrachte sie viele Jahre ihres Lebens im Lake District, wo sich in Bowness-on-Windermere ein Museum befindet, das dem Leben und Werk von Beatrix Potter gewidmet ist. Auf Seite 8 finden Sie einen Beitrag zu dieser Künstlerin und Autorin.

Auf eine 500-jährige erfolgreiche Geschichte kann in diesem Jahr die britische Post zurück schauen, die sicherlich für viele Postsysteme der Welt als Vorbild diente. Ab Seite 6 können Sie einen kurzen Überblick über die Entwicklung der Royal Mail lesen.

Es ist sehr erfreulich, dass wir in dieser Ausgabe auch wieder den Text eines unserer Mitglieder abdrucken können. Siegfried Burkhardt hat aus eigenem Erleben einen Artikel über die Landschaften von Sussex und Kent geschrieben, den Sie gleich im Anschluss lesen können.

Zum Abschluss wünschen wir Ihnen viel Spaß bei der Lektüre des Newsletters und bis zur nächsten Ausgabe einen schönen Frühling und Sommer.

Die Redaktion

Do you know Kent and Sussex?

I think many of you have already done one of the popular journeys through the south of England. I don't want to repeat everything I experienced, but I will tell you some of my personal impressions and feelings.

If you have in your mind the rosy descriptions about the "Garden of England", the county Kent, that you can read again and again, then you will be disappointed in the first time. A very busy traffic network spreads into the country beginning at the starting point Dover. You see ordinary landscapes there. Motorways and country roads are running through the area, totally unhindered and side by side with railway lines. It can be frightening when you see the wild disorder of roads and you imagine you have to drive here with your car.

But then the countryside is slowly changing. You will notice it when you drive on normal roads towards north and west, away from the main traffic routes. Here I quickly made my peace with the countryside of Kent and Sussex. You see an extensive scenery that is soothing the eye. Large and wide valleys alternate with ranges of hills so that you often have far reaching views of the countryside. As far as the eye can see, no settlement, no village, but large meadows and fields, sometimes surrounded by strips of trees and bushes, and larger groups of trees, mainly deciduous trees. Although "real" forests are seldom in England, you get the impression to travel through a country which is rich in trees.

Let's stay in this lovely region. With a bit of luck you will pass some small places with their typical houses in the English style. Modernity can't be seen here. Here the time takes a rest from the turmoil that was also running through this country. You see small houses of red bricks or lime and sandstone and with their typical chimneys. The doorways are at ground level and the windows are very low. Even a fox would be able to look in. There don't seem to be any burglars here.

And then there are the churches with their cemeteries that seem so ghostly to you. You think they are all more than 1000 years old, and you're not quite that wrong! The patina of time lies over everything but nothing is really dirty or disorderly.

Didn't we want to look at the castles, gardens and parks of Kent? It is well known that there were lots of earls, counts, peers, dukes and whatever these nobilities are named. They all had their estates and the following generations have done something of them, till today.

It is said there are 22 big and well-known parks in Kent alone, in the whole of Britain there are more than some thousand. We visited a few, but that was a mere drop in the ocean.

Leeds Castle Garden: To my mind, this is the best known of them all. It is in fact a public park for families. The typical green English lawns invite you to lie down, to play and to picnic. There are many possibilities for children's activities, an interesting layout of the park, extended paths for walks, ponds and lakes, extremely old trees, two cedars with extraordinary circumferences.

And then the castle! It is surrounded by a moat, about 1000 years old, and saw several architectural changes. Its most famous owner was Henry VIII; he owned it since 1520 and had it rebuilt for his first wife Catherine of Aragon. She was lucky then: he didn't have her murdered but only divorced her.

Sissinghurst Garden: I think it is the nicest of them all. This splendid example of a garden has rural origins. Very well-to-do owners built a large manor house in the 16th century and erected a look-out tower which is still a striking landmark today.

In the following periods, it was used during the Seven Years' War as a prisoner camp for French seamen, later as a shelter for homeless people. Today Sissinghurst is connected with agricultural activities again, very successful, as it looks. There is also livestock breeding here.



In 1930, the estate was bought by the poet and gardening writer Vita Sackville-West and her husband, the author and diplomat Harold Nicolson, whose names are still very popular in this region. They created this world-famous garden in the following years. Arrangements of blossoms, flowers and plants in different "rooms" with different characters of colours, odour and sorts of plants, fruit and vegetable gardens as model layouts. It is obvious that gardening is a matter of love.

But I liked best Sheffield Park and Garden, an artificial nature park which has everything you wish to see in a nice landscape: paths for a walk with permanently changing views, lakes, waterfalls, changing stands of trees in an amazing diversity of species, mammoth trees of an age and with circumferences that I have never seen before, water lily areas with different colour arrangements. You must have seen all this with your own eyes.

It is impossible to describe all the castles and gardens that we saw. Therefore, in addition, here is the most interesting of them all: Hever Castle. It is over 800 years old, built in a typical English style and is of a manageable size. No enormous splendor halls, rooms in dimensions fit to live in. A lot of original wainscoting, furniture, equipment, paintings and books from the Tudor period.

Here Anne Boleyn spent her childhood and early youth. Later she went to the French court for a royal education and after her return she was seeking to marry within her social class. Or was it rather Henry VIII, looking for a new wife, who took the initiative? At any rate, at Hever Castle they met which led into a later marriage. Henry allowed her to reside at Hampton Court where she was nearer to the blood-dripping executioner's axe of the White ("Bloody") Tower.

Yes, there seems to be no end to the castles and gardens in Kent. But I would also like to point out the interesting offers and opportunities for eating out in all these parks.

You should have tried them all at least once ...

Siegfried Burkhardt
August 2015

Review of the last months

28 January 2016

"Will and his Women"

Harald Linke's presentation took place in the almost overcrowded reading room of the library. He talked about a number of Shakespeare's female characters and about some of the women the poet really came across. In this context, he took time to illustrate the role Queen Elizabeth I, a theatre-enthusiast, played.

At the beginning, each listener was given a sheet of paper that listed the titles of the plays he was going to talk about, such as Romeo and Juliet, Othello, and Macbeth, the main male and female characters of these plays as well as some useful vocabulary.

Mr Linke divided the women of the plays up into three categories: the morally spotless, the morally ruthless and the self-confident. He also spoke about the conditions in which women generally lived at that time. Referring to Shakespeare's wife Anne, Mr Linke explained how scholars today comment on the second best bed the poet bequeathed to his wife in his last will.

It was again a pleasure to listen to Mr Linke's talk and if there was anybody in the audience who hadn't known yet that he is well versed in Shakespeare and Shakespeare's time - by the end of the talk at the latest they knew.

25 February 2016

"Studying English in China and Chemnitz - a comparison"

Inspired by Mr Hasse's report about his tour of China that was published in two parts in our Newsletter, **Prof. Dr. Josef Schmied** of the TU Chemnitz had offered a presentation about the different ways of studying in China and Germany. To this end, he took advantage of a student exchange programme which brought Chinese students of the Sun Yat-sen University of Guangzhou to Chemnitz.

After some introductory words from Prof. Schmied, who was accordingly dressed in a red Chinese jacket, the four female and one male students introduced themselves and showed on a map from which part of China they come. It was interesting to learn that beside their Chinese names they also have English first names.

The students had chosen different topics for their presentations that lasted about five minutes each. One presentation was about Chinese food, another one dealt with the tough competition for a university place in China. We saw photos of Guangzhou and the university campus, that is like a little town of its own, and heard about what participation in the exchange programme had required. One of the students expressed her initial surprise at the short distances in Chemnitz compared to those in China.

After each presentation, Prof. Schmied gave some additional information, which was quite useful in some cases because not every student was easy to understand.

Prof. Schmied concluded this interesting presentation with some photos and a short report of his stay at the university in Guangzhou last year, and the final applause showed that the audience really enjoyed it.

31 March 2016

"My China Summer Camp Experience - How I have taken the Middle Kingdom into my heart"

After the presentation with Chinese students in February, China was again the topic in March. But this time it was a German pupil, **Katrin Reichel**, who gave an interesting and vivid report on her participation in a two-week summer camp in China last year. Her report was accompanied by several photos that were partly quite amusing.

Ms Reichel was one of 20 other German pupils who were chosen to take part in the camp.

Right at the beginning, she emphasized that many of the prejudices against China were not true and that she had experienced it as a very beautiful country.

We learned that the camp included three stations: Beijing, Hefei and Shanghai. She spoke about the things that were unusual or new to her such as the toilets or eating with chopsticks and reported about their visit to the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. During their stay they had lessons in kung fu, calligraphy and other subjects. Ms Reichel showed a folding fan that she had decorated with Chinese signs in one of the lessons.

It was curious to hear that the second city, Hefei, with 5 million inhabitants, is regarded in China as a small town. There she was invited to a birthday party where she taught the guests different German party games. She also told us full of pride that she managed, within two days, to teach the two children of her host family how to swim.

For Ms Reichel, Shanghai was the best of the three cities. She was particularly enthusiastic about the Pearl Tower which offers a fantastic view of the town.

From her words it became clear that China and its people have made a deep impression on her and that she would really like to go there again.

Siegfried Rosch

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 28.4.2016, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Windy Wellington", Videovortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

Do., 26.5.2016, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Syria - Pictures from better days", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Cornelia Neubert, TU Chemnitz

Do., 30.6.2016, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "English Heritage in Ghana", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Jacinta Sarpong Edusei von der TU Chemnitz

Im Juli findet kein Vortrag statt.

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

Royal Mail

500 years of serving the country



Since Tudor times, the British postal network has been connecting families and friends, enabling business and driving innovation across the country.

Henry VIII created the Royal Mail in 1516, appointing Brian Tuke as "Master of the Postes". Tuke had the influence and authority to establish key post towns across the country and build a formal postal network. Later Elizabeth I appointed Thomas Randolph as "Chief Postmaster". Under Thomas Witherings, chief postmaster under

Charles I, the Royal Mail was made available to the public (1635), with a regular system of post roads, houses, and staff. From this time until the postal reforms of 1839 - 1840 it was most common for the recipient to pay the postage, although it was possible to prepay the charge at the time of sending.

In 1661, Charles II made Henry Bishop the first Postmaster General. In answer to customer complaints about delayed letters, Bishop introduced the Bishop mark (or postmark as it is known today), a small circle with month and day inside. This identified the date of dispatch to give confidence in the speed and reliability of the mail. The postmark was applied at London, in the General Post office and the Foreign section, and soon after adopted in Scotland, (Edinburgh), and Ireland, (Dublin). In subsequent years, the postal system expanded from six roads to a network covering the country, and post offices were set up in both large and small towns, each of which had its own postmark.

In 1680 William Dockwra established the London Penny Post, a mail delivery system that delivered letters and parcels weighing up to one pound within the city of London and some of its immediate suburbs for the sum of one penny.

As Britain was the first country to issue prepaid postage stamps, British stamps are the only stamps that do not bear the name of the country of issue on them.

The first Mail coach ran in 1784, operating between Bristol and London. Delivery staff received uniforms for



the first time in 1793, and the Post Office Investigation Branch was established; it is the world's oldest recognised criminal investigations authority. The first mail train ran in 1830, on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. The Post Office's Money order system was introduced in 1838.

In September 1911, the first scheduled air mail service took place from Hendon to Windsor, as part of the celebrations for the Coronation of King George V. The launch of airmail meant the UK could communicate on a global scale like never before.

Today Royal Mail handles more than one billion parcels and more than 16 billion letters a year. With a workforce of more than 140,000 people, the company is one of the UK's largest employers. On average, one in 180 employed people in the UK works for Royal Mail.

For most of its history, Royal Mail has been a public service, operating as a government department or public corporation. However, following the Postal Services Act 2011, a majority of the shares in Royal Mail were floated on the London Stock Exchange in 2013. The UK Government initially retained a 30% stake in Royal Mail, however it sold its remaining shares in 2015, ending 499 years of public ownership.

Source: <http://500years.royalmailgroup.com>

This and that from the 'island'

Year of the English Garden

To mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of England's greatest gardener, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, best-known for designing gardens and landscapes at some of the country's grandest stately homes, and in celebration of England's many fabulous gardens, landscapes and events, VisitEngland is promoting 'Year of the English Garden' as a key PR theme for 2016.

VisitEngland is the National Tourist Board for England that works with Government and industry to safeguard the sector's successful and sustainable future, and develop the visitor experience across England.

Gardens are one of England's greatest attractions for overseas and domestic visitors. Internationally, more than half of holiday visits include a trip to a park or garden, second only to shopping as an activity. Research shows that one in five English residents (18%) visited a garden on their last break in England.

'Capability' Brown's landscape gardens are synonymous with England's green and pleasant land with their seemingly natural rolling hills, curving lakes, flowing rivers and majestic trees.

A nationwide festival and programme of events is planned with the opportunity to visit over 150 Brown gardens and landscapes in England, including some not usually open to visitors.



Potty for teapots

Teapot Island is a museum in Kent, England, that has more than 6,000 teapots of different sizes, shapes and designs on display. The collection has been valued at £15,000.

Owner Sue Blazye said: "My collection began in 1983 when my grandmother gave me one of her teapots ... Family and friends began to give me teapots, and before I realised it, I was a teapot collector. "

When Sue's collection outgrew her house in Sidcup she opened Teapot Island in Yalding, near Maidstone – in November 2002.

The building used for the collection used to be a café called the Riverside Diner, which has been in operation since the 1950s.

Mrs Blazye said, "I collect all sorts of teapots, I especially like the novelty ones - many of them are not very good for making tea with but look spectacular.

"My favourite is a teapot of Princess Diana which was made when she got engaged to Prince Charles. It is a really ugly thing but it is just so special to me - it is now estimated to be worth around £1,200."

Teapot Island was featured in the *Guinness Book of World Records* in 2004, for being the largest collection of teapots. The museum lost this title in 2011, when it was awarded to a man in China with a collection of 30,000.



Sources: www.visitbritain.com, www.teapotisland.com

Beatrix Potter



This year in July, England's Lake District will be marking the 150th birthday of author and artist Beatrix Potter.

Beatrix Potter was born on July 28th, 1866 at No 2, Bolton Gardens, Kensington, London. A typical Victorian family, the Potters lived in a large house with several servants. Beatrix was cared for by a nurse, and she spent long hours alone, only seeing her parents at bedtime and on special occasions.

Her brother Bertram was born when she was six, and the children were educated at home by a governess until Bertram was old enough to attend school. Beatrix stayed at home under the care of a sequence of governesses who encouraged her to read and write and taught her music and art.

Beatrix Potter began to draw at a very early age, encouraged by her parents, Rupert and Helen. Her earliest drawings were mostly sketches of plants and animals.

The family's friendship with the painter Millais gave her an insight into the world of artists, and visits to the Royal Academy developed her critical skills. She very much enjoyed the work of Gainsborough, Reynolds, Raphael and Titian. There are many detailed accounts of her visits to these exhibitions in her Journal.

During the 1890s Beatrix concentrated on natural history and in particular fungi, although at the same time she was earning a small income by selling illustrations for booklets, greetings cards and albums. Throughout her life she was guided by the principle of portraying nature as accurately as possible in her art.

Beatrix Potter is usually associated with her famous animal character illustrations, and many people are surprised to learn of the wide variety of subjects in her sketches and paintings, ranging from animals to landscapes, flowers to fossils.

She was a key figure in saving the traditional Herdwick sheep from extinction. With the profits from her publications, she bought Hill Top farm, other hill farms and estates in the Lake District. She became an expert Herdwick sheep breeder and the first female president designate of the Herdwick Sheepbreeders' Association.



"Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail and Peter." This is the introduction to one of the best-loved children's stories of all time - *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. However, the story of how Beatrix Potter's most famous character came to have a book published about him is another tale entirely.

On September 4th, 1893, Beatrix sat down to write a picture letter to Noel Moore, the five-year-old son of her ex-governess, all about a naughty rabbit called Peter. Noel was ill in bed and so Beatrix wrote to him: "My dear Noel, I don't know what to write to you, so I shall tell you a story about four little rabbits..."

Some years later, Beatrix thought of publishing the story as a book. She rewrote it into an exercise book and sent it to six publishers. It was rejected by every one of them. It was not until Beatrix had printed the book herself that Frederick Warne agreed to publish it. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* was published in 1902, costing one shilling (the equivalent of just 5p today), and became one of the

most famous stories ever written.

Though Beatrix always believed in her book, even she was surprised by quite how popular it became. It was an overnight success, and she believed that this was because the story had originally been written for a real child.

Peter Rabbit has always been Beatrix Potter's most popular character - he also features in *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*, *The Tale of The Flopsy Bunnies*, and *The Tale of Mr. Tod*.

In 1905, Beatrix Potter purchased Hill Top, a little farm in Sawrey, near Windermere. Over the next few years she spent there as much time as possible, gaining inspiration for her stories from the farmhouse and the local villages.

It became the setting for some of her Original Tales, such as *The Tale of Samuel Whiskers* (1908), for which she used exterior and interior views of Hill Top in her illustrations.

Tom Kitten had earlier appeared in his own story *The Tale of Tom Kitten* (1907), playing in the garden with his sisters and climbing on to the wall. All of these scenes and more can still be recognized today.

Beatrix Potter actively supported the National Trust for much of her life and bequeathed Hill Top and her surrounding land to the Trust upon her death on December 22nd, 1943. In 1946 the Trust opened Hill Top to the public, and since then this beautiful farmhouse has become increasingly popular with visitors from the world over. By now almost three million pairs of feet have walked through the six rooms.

Another popular attraction for Potter fans is "The World of Beatrix Potter" in Bowness-on-Windermere, a scenic and bustling town on the banks of Lake Windermere. With panoramic views of the lake and mountains it is a popular destination all year round with visitors to the Lake District. It hosts a lot of attractions including all 23 of Potter's tales created in three dimensions and more interactive features such as a Jemima Puddle-Duck flying machine.

Our language section

Make it shorter

Vielleicht ist Ihnen schon einmal aufgefallen, dass englische Sätze häufig kürzer sind, als ihre deutschen Entsprechungen. Im Englischen dienen Partizipien oft dazu, einen Satz sozusagen auf elegante Art "schrumpfen" zu lassen.

Das Partizip Präsens (Mittelwort der Gegenwart, -ing-Form) wird zur Verkürzung von Nebensätzen (deutsch "da", "als", "indem", "und") verwendet. Beide Satzteile müssen dabei das gleiche Subjekt haben.

Beispiele: *Coming out of the café, we bumped into our English teacher.* - *Als wir aus dem Café kamen, sind wir unserem Englischlehrer über den Weg gelaufen.*

Doing a bit every day, David managed to tidy his room up in a month. - *Indem er jeden Tag ein bisschen was machte, schaffte es David, in einem Monat sein Zimmer aufzuräumen.*

Seeing he was asleep, I left George at the bar and went to bed. - *Da ich sah, dass er eingeschlafen war, ließ ich George an der Bar zurück und ging ins Bett.*

Auch Vergangenes wird von den Engländern gern gekürzt wiedergegeben.

Beispiel: *Having learnt English so easily, she decided to try Japanese.* - *Da sie Englisch so mühelos gelernt hatte, entschloss sie sich, es mit Japanisch zu versuchen.*

"*Having + past participle*" entspricht im Deutschen "da/nachdem hatte(n),".

Relativsätze bleiben von diesen Kürzungen nicht verschont. Sie können mit dem Partizip Präsens oder dem past participle verkürzt werden. Das Partizip steht dabei unmittelbar nach dem Substantiv, die Worte in Klammern können weggelassen werden.

Beispiele: *The man (who is) shouting up there on the stage is my fiancé.* - *Der Mann, der da oben auf der Bühne herumschreit, ist mein Verlobter.*

The painting (that was) found on the rubbish dump was one of my early works. - *Das Gemälde, das auf dem Müllplatz gefunden wurde, war eines meiner Frühwerke.*

Dann gibt es schließlich noch ein Partizip, das manchmal von Englischlernenden überstrapaziert wird, nämlich *being*. Um nicht den gleichen Fehler zu machen, sollte man daran denken, dass *being* nur selten am Satzanfang steht. Wenn es dort steht, entspricht es im Deutschen ausschließlich der Konstruktion "da/weil ...".

Beispiel: *Being a rather shy type of person, he rarely shows his face.* - *Da er ein ziemlich scheuer Typ ist, zeigt er sich nur selten.*

Amazing mothers

Sie finden den Sinn des folgenden Textes heraus, wenn Sie ihn mit den notwendigen Leer- und Satzzeichen schreiben.

THEWOMANWHOHADTHEMAXIMUMNUMBEROFCHILDRENINGERMANYLIVEDABOUT500YEARSAGOHERTOMBS
TONESTATESTHATSHEGAVEBIRTHTO38BOYSAND15GIRLSATOTALOF53BABIESTHISISNOTAHIGHNUMBERWHENC
OMPAREDTOARUSSIANFARMER'SWIFEWHOISSUPPOSEDTHATHAD69CHILDRENALMOSTALLOFWHOMWERE
BORNASQUADRUPLTSTRIPLETSORTWINSITISNOTKNOWNHOWMANYOFTHEMSURVIVED

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 75 "Christmas card"

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. reindeer | 5. together |
| 2. decorations | 6. roast |
| 3. holiday | 7. carols |
| 4. spirit | 8. wrapped |

A good remark

At a lecture, a well - known authority on economics mentioned the fact that in some parts of America the number of men was considerably larger than that of women and he added humorously: "I can therefore recommend the ladies to emigrate to this part."

A young lady, seated in one of the last rows of the audience, got up and, full of indignation and anger, left the room rather noisily, whereupon the lecturer remarked: " I did not mean that it should be done now and in such a hurry!"

THE CHRONICLE

What happened



.... 90 years ago: 21 April 1926 - Queen Elizabeth II born

... 100 years ago: 21 May 1916 - Clocks put forward by one hour for the first time

.... 35 years ago: 29 July 1981 - Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer married