

*Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,*

zwei Jahre sind eine kurze Zeit. Das merken wir immer dann, wenn wir unsere Mitglieder zu unserer **Jahreshauptversammlung und Vorstandswahl** einladen, wie es in diesem Jahr wieder der Fall ist. Die Versammlung ist für **Donnerstag, den 30. November** geplant und die offizielle Einladung sowie die Kandidatenliste erhalten Sie mit der nächsten Ausgabe des Newsletters, der Anfang August erscheinen wird. An dieser Stelle rufen wir auch diesmal wieder unsere Mitglieder auf, sich zu melden, wenn sie im Vorstand mitarbeiten möchten.

Ein weiteres Vorhaben, über das wir unsere Mitglieder informieren wollen, ist unsere für **Sonntag, den 2. Juli** geplante **Tagesfahrt nach Leipzig**, wo wir an einer Schiffsfahrt auf der Weißen Elster teilnehmen werden. Es existiert eine Liste, in die sich diejenigen, die mitfahren möchten, eintragen können und die bei unseren nächsten Veranstaltungen (Vorträge, Konversationszirkel) ausliegt. Es besteht jedoch auch die Möglichkeit, sich telefonisch während unserer Bürozeiten zu melden oder sich persönlich an eines unserer Vorstandsmitglieder zu wenden.

Im Vorfeld der Olympischen Sommerspiele in London im Jahr 2012 konnten Sie in unserem Newsletter Nr. 65 einen Beitrag über William Penny Brookes lesen, der Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts einen nicht unwesentlichen Beitrag zur Wiederbelebung dieses sportlichen Großereignisses geleistet hat. Es gab in der Vergangenheit jedoch auch andere Briten, die schon viel eher sportliche Veranstaltungen organisierten, allerdings in kleinerem Rahmen und mit etwas ungewöhnlichen Disziplinen, wie z.B. Schienbeintreten. Die Rede ist von den so genannten Cotswold Olimpick Games, die 1622 durch Robert Dover ins Leben gerufen wurden und die auch jetzt noch alljährlich stattfinden. Lesen Sie mehr darüber ab Seite 10.

Als weiteres Thema nimmt in dieser Ausgabe Ostern in der englischsprachigen Welt allgemein und in Großbritannien speziell einen größeren Platz ein, das dort zwar nicht sehr viel anders als bei uns begangen wird. Allerdings haben sich im Laufe der Zeit verschiedene Bräuche entwickelt, die in Deutschland unbekannt sind. In dem Beitrag ab Seite 3 können Sie einiges darüber erfahren.

Nach diesen kurzen Hinweisen wünschen wir Ihnen ein frohes Osterfest sowie viel Freude beim Lesen dieser Ausgabe.

Die Redaktion



## Hinweis des Schatzmeisters

Während der Mitgliederversammlung, die vor unserer Weihnachtsfeier am 16.12.2016 durchgeführt wurde, wurde beschlossen, den Jahresbeitrag um jeweils 5 Euro zu erhöhen. Diese Maßnahme wurde leider wegen der um über 100% gestiegenen Gebühren für die Kontoführung bei der Sparkasse notwendig. Ich bitte die Mitglieder, diese Änderung bei der Bezahlung des Beitrages für das kommende Jahr zu beachten.

Siegfried Rosch

## Easter in the English-speaking world

Since its origins, Easter has been a time of celebration and feasting and many traditional Easter games and customs developed, such as egg rolling, egg tapping, Pace egging, cascarones or confetti eggs, and egg decorating. Today Easter is commercially important, seeing wide sales of greeting cards and confectionery such as chocolate Easter eggs, marshmallow bunnies, marshmallow chicks (Peeps), and jelly beans, as well as other Easter foods. Even many non-Christians celebrate these holidays while going without the religious aspects.



Throughout the English-speaking world, many Easter traditions are similar with only minor differences. For example, Saturday is traditionally spent decorating Easter eggs and hunting for them with children on Sunday morning, by which time they have been mysteriously hidden all over the house and garden. Other traditions involve parents telling their children that eggs and other treats such as chocolate eggs or rabbits, and Peeps, have been delivered by the Easter Bunny in an Easter basket, which children find waiting for them when they wake up. Many families observe the religious aspects of Easter by attending Sunday Mass or services in the morning and then participating in a feast or party in the afternoon. Some families have a traditional Sunday

roast, often of either roast lamb or ham. Easter breads such as Simnel cake, a fruit cake with eleven marzipan balls representing the eleven faithful apostles, or nut breads such as potica are traditionally served. Hot cross buns, spiced buns with a cross on top, are traditionally associated with Good Friday, but today are often eaten well before and after (and, indeed, are sold in many supermarkets and bakers' all year round).

In the UK Easter is one of the major Christian festivals of the year. It is full of customs, folklore and traditional food. However, Easter in Britain has its beginnings long before the arrival of Christianity. Many theologians believe Easter itself is named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn and spring - Eostre.

Easter occurs at a different time each year. It is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This means that the festival can occur on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Not only is Easter the end of the winter, it is also the end of Lent, traditionally a time of fasting in the Christian calendar. It is therefore often a time of fun and celebration.

The Friday before Easter Sunday and the Monday after are a bank holiday in the UK. Over Easter schools in the UK close for two weeks, just enough time to digest all the chocolate.

**Maundy Thursday** is the Thursday before Easter. Christians remember it as the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist. The word "Maundy" comes from the French word, "Mande", meaning "command" or "mandate" and is taken from the command given by Christ at the Last Supper, "love one another as I have loved you."

In Britain, the Queen takes part in the Ceremony of the Royal Maundy, which dates back to Edward I. This involves the distribution of Maundy Money to deserving senior citizens (one man and one woman for each year of the sovereign's age), usually chosen for having done service to their community. They receive ceremonial red and white purses which contain coins made especially for the occasion. The white purse contains one coin for each year of the monarch's reign. The red purse contains money in place of other gifts that used to be given to the poor.

In the 17th century, and earlier, the King or Queen would wash the feet of the selected poor people as a gesture of humility, and in remembrance of Jesus's washing the feet of the disciples. Suffice to say that doesn't happen anymore, in fact the last monarch to do this was James II.

On **Good Friday**, the Friday before Easter, Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It is a day of mourning in church and special Good Friday services are held where Christians meditate on Jesus's suffering and death on the cross, and what this means for their faith.

Calling it 'Good Friday' may seem a bit bizarre, but it's thought that it was once called God's Friday or Holy Friday.

The week of Easter begins on **Palm Sunday**. Why *Palm Sunday*? Well, in Roman times it was customary to welcome royalty by waving palm branches, a bit like a ticker-tape parade. So, when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on what is now known as Palm Sunday, people welcomed him with palm branches carpeting the streets and waving them. Today, on Palm Sunday, Christians carry palm branches in parades, and make them into crosses and garlands to decorate the Church.

Easter eggs are a very old tradition going to a time before Christianity. Eggs after all are a symbol of spring and new life.

Exchanging and eating Easter eggs is a popular custom in many countries. In the UK, before they were replaced by chocolate Easter eggs, real eggs were used, in most cases, chicken eggs. The eggs were hard-boiled and dyed in various colours and patterns. The traditionally bright colours represented spring and light.

An older more traditional game is one in which real eggs are rolled against one another or down a hill. The owner of the egg that stayed uncracked the longest won. Even today in the north of England, for example at Preston in Lancashire, they still carry out the custom of egg rolling. Hard boiled eggs are rolled down slopes to see whose egg goes furthest. In other places another game is played. You hold an egg in the palm of the hand and bang against your opponent's egg. The loser is the one whose egg breaks first.

Nowadays people give each other Easter eggs made of chocolate, usually hollow and filled with sweets. On TV you will see adverts for Cadbury's Crème Eggs, a very sweet confectionery. And British children hunt for (chocolate) Easter eggs hidden about the home or garden by the Easter bunny.

Rabbits, due to their fecund nature, have always been a symbol of fertility. The Easter bunny (rabbit) however may actually be an Easter hare. The hare was allegedly a companion of the ancient Moon goddess and of Eostre.

Strangely the bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 16th century. The first edible Easter bunnies appeared in Germany during the early 1800s, they were made of pastry and sugar.



(Adapted from Hone's Every Day Book)

## Review of the last months

26 January 2017

### "The Beautiful South - From Arundel to Winchester"

Everybody, who is interested in England's scenery, knows that the South of England is especially beautiful. Members of our society as well as guests were looking forward to see beautiful pictures in a video film made by Mr **Siegfried Rosch** and shown on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. The title of this film was "The Beautiful South – from Arundel to Winchester".

Right at the beginning of the film we were fascinated by the beautiful architecture of some ancient buildings at Arundel, such as the Arundel Castle. Arundel is situated in the county West Sussex and named after the river Arun. From the 11<sup>th</sup> century this castle served as the home of the Duke of Norfolk for 400 years. In the English Civil War it was damaged and later restored in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

We were really surprised by the relatively modest and simple interior of the Roman Catholic Church which serves as a Bishop's seat.

What about a cup of tea or coffee and a delicious piece of cake? Not far away from the castle you can find Belinda's Tea Shop in one of the oldest houses of Arundel. Apart from cake you can buy a wide range of home-made jams here.

The following place in the film was Salisbury whose landmark is the Salisbury Cathedral dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is not only another great example of early English architecture but also famous because one original copy of the historically important Magna Carta, written on animal skin, is exhibited in the Chapter House.

Besides the cathedral clock is supposed to be Europe's oldest working clock.

Passing Stonehenge you should not forget to visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Lyme Regis, a coastal town in the county Dorset is another beautiful place and a World Heritage Site. Mr Rosch informed us that it is noted for the fossils found in the cliffs and beaches. It was not difficult for us to guess what is served in local restaurants – fresh sea food of course. And logically the inhabitants' favourite hobby is fishing. And it seems to be great fun for children, too.

Another seaside town of Dorset is Weymouth which is a well-preserved example of the Georgian time. Admiring the nice places we were not surprised to hear that it is a popular holiday resort.

Bournemouth is the largest settlement in Dorset with a population of ca. 180,000 inhabitants. But every year five million visitors come into this coastal resort. Among them are lots of young people who want to improve their English in summer courses. Mr Rosch's film provided us with an insight in the busy life in this summer resort showing us street musicians in the pedestrian zone.

The following destination was the Isle of Wight which can be reached by ferry from Southampton.

Osborne House is certainly the most distinguished place there because it was the summer residence of Queen Victoria and her husband. The film let us take part in a cultural highlight - a Victorian military ceremony - and the country fair in the park of Osborne House. Visitors can also stroll through the lovely walled garden admiring the flowers and fruit trees.

From there you should take a walk to Queen Victoria's private beach. You can get a lot of information about her family by reading some quotations from her diary.

Winchester, about 20 km from Southampton, had us admire again a unique architecture. Winchester Guildhall, Winchester City Mill and the Great Hall (the only remains of the ancient castle) belong to the famous historic buildings.

Winchester Cathedral is probably the most outstanding landmark as it is Europe's longest cathedral. Here is the burial place of Jane Austen who lived in this area.

Today Winchester is a busy place. It's Saturday and you can enjoy different street performances of choirs, dance groups and other artists in the main street. We were amused at the sight of a market stall selling German sausages.

Time went by extremely fast and so everybody regretted that Winchester had been the last destination.

Thank you very much Mr Rosch for this interesting experience. Perhaps your video film has encouraged some of those present to spend their next holidays in the beautiful South of England.

Marion Rotstein

23 February 2017

## "The Music and Poetry of Bob Dylan"

**Einde O'Callaghan**, who has already given quite a number of talks to our society, had chosen the winner of the Nobel prize in Literature of 2016, Bob Dylan, as a topic, which obviously attracted a lot of people because the room was well-filled.

At the beginning Mr O'Callaghan stated that in his opinion there were some more singer-songwriters who deserved to be awarded for their lyrics and named among others Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison and Leonard Cohen. But he also mentioned that for the latter an award would sadly come too late because he died last year.

Then he gave an account of Bob Dylan's life and musical career, which began as a member of a Rock 'n' Roll band at his school before he, impressed and influenced by the American singer and songwriter Woody Guthrie, turned to folk music in the early 1960s. At that time he performed as a soloist with the acoustic guitar and harmonica and in his lyrics he mainly described and criticized the American society. With his decision to play with a band and to use electric instruments from the mid-1960s he annoyed many of his old followers, but also won a lot of new fans. Also, his lyrics were less direct and politically influenced and turned more lyrical.

Furthermore, Mr O'Callaghan spoke about the impression Dylan's music made on him. He told us that he was a schoolboy in 1965 when he heard the song Like A Rolling Stone for the first time from a jukebox in a local café, where he and his friends frequently went to after school to listen to the latest records. He said that he had never heard something like this before.

At this point Mr O'Callaghan turned to the "practical" part of his talk for which he had brought quite a number of CDs with him. But he also mentioned that the German copyright laws would allow him to play only short extracts from the songs he wanted to play. So he played at least the first verses of some songs from Dylan's different creative phases, beginning with Like A Rolling Stone, and projected the lyrics of these songs to the wall, which made it, in some cases, easier for the audience to follow.

He also reported about three very good concerts, one in England and two in Germany, where he saw Bob Dylan and The Band playing live.

Mr O'Callaghan concluded his presentation with some newer songs from Dylan's latest album, and the audience thanked him with long lasting applause.

Siegfried Rosch

## Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 27.4.2017, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "According to Dr. Johnson ...", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

Do., 18.5.2017, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Yoga in Goa", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Jana Schreiber

Do., 29.6.2017, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: Präsentation in englischer Sprache von Dr. Eike Kronshage und Studenten der TU Chemnitz aus Anlass des 200. Todestages von Jane Austen

Juli: Sommerpause

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

## This and that from the 'island'

### Millions for the Palace

Buckingham Palace is to undergo a phased 10-year refurbishment, beginning in April and costing the taxpayer £369 million, the Treasury has announced. Ageing cables, lead pipes, wiring and boilers will be replaced, many for the first time in 60 years.

Away from the splendour of the state rooms, Buckingham Palace shows its age. It is striking while walking through the back corridors that the overall look is a little shabby.



The Treasury said an "urgent overhaul" of the palace was needed to prevent the risk of fire, flood and damage to both the building and the priceless Royal Collection of art belonging to the nation.

Tony Johnstone-Burt, Master of the Queen's Household, said that by making the investment now, "we can avert a much more costly and potentially catastrophic building failure in the years to come". He added that phased works offered the "best value for money" while keeping the palace running.

Questions will be asked over why the palace has been allowed to get to such a state and whether the enormous estimated costs could have been reduced if services had been regularly updated.

The Queen will remain in residence during the refurbishment. As Her Majesty's administrative headquarters, the Queen spends a third of the year hosting events at Buckingham Palace. When in town, she holds weekly audiences with the prime minister, and every year welcomes more than 50,000 people as guests to state banquets, dinners, receptions and garden parties.

The palace has 775 rooms, including 19 state rooms, 52 royal and guest bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices and 78 bathrooms.

([www.bbc.com/news/uk](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk))

### **Box office**

The red telephone box is a cherished part of British culture. It was voted the nation's greatest design achievement, ahead of the Spitfire aircraft and the London taxi. These days, however, the smartphone is king, reducing telephone boxes to pavement-straddling relics.

Some of the UK's iconic telephone boxes have now been converted into small personal offices. Bar Works, a company operating a trio of co-working spaces in New York, has leased 15 of BT's old phone booths in London, Leeds and Edinburgh. Called "Pod Works", they were kitted out with Wi-Fi access, a printer and scanner, a 25-inch monitor, a wireless mouse, a plug powerbank and even a coffee machine. Aimed at entrepreneurs, the "Pod Works" subscription costs £19.99 per month and allows access to any box, at any time of day or night. Access is regulated through a smartphone app.



Bar Works CEO Jonathan Black, who is originally from London, says, "Entrepreneurs constantly on the move need a convenient, affordable and private place to work. Why should they sit in Starbucks or any other coffee bar when using one of our Pods will allow them to truly focus on their job before an important meeting or presentation at less than the price of two cups of coffee a week?"

([www.techinsider.io](http://www.techinsider.io), [www.engadget.com](http://www.engadget.com))

### **Sleeping in the church**

Luxury camping is more popular than ever, with yurts, tipis and stylish cabins popping up around the country. But while 'glamping' - glamorous camping - has already well-established, there is one new trend that's about to take off: champing.

Champing is the combination of the words church and camping.

The Churches Conservation Trust, which is a charity and takes care of 347 churches around the UK that are no longer used for regular worship, is offering overnight stays for holidaymakers who want the ultimate unique experience.

Overnight, the guests will have the entire building to themselves and plenty of time to explore the nearby countryside during the day.

Peter Aiers, Director of The Churches Conservation Trust in the South East, said: "As a veteran 'champer,' I can recommend it without reservation. There's something so special about the silence and tranquility of a rural church and enjoying this over two days is a great way to commune with centuries of history, whilst escaping the push-button trappings of modern life. It's great to be able to give guests the opportunity to be the key holder of one of our churches for a weekend."

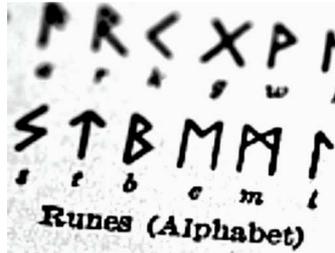
(Daily Mail)

## Our language section

### 26 letters

Dass das heutige englische Alphabet aus 26 Buchstaben besteht, dürfte allgemein bekannt sein. Aber das war nicht immer so.

Doch ehe wir zu einigen der zusätzlichen Buchstaben kommen, die es im englischen Alphabet einst gab, werfen wir einen kurzen Blick auf das so genannte Old English.



Old English wurde zuerst nach dem angelsächsischen Futhark-Runen-alphabet geschrieben. Die Angeln und Sachsen kamen aus Germanien und siedelten sich im 5. Jahrhundert in Britannien an. Die Region, die sie bewohnten, wurde als "Angle-land", später England, bekannt.

Christliche Missionare führten schließlich das lateinische Alphabet ein, das nach und nach den Platz des angelsächsischen einnahm. Für eine gewisse Zeit beinhaltete das Alphabet jedoch nicht nur lateinische Buchstaben und Zeichen, sondern auch noch Buchstaben des Alt-Englischen.

Als sich das moderne Englisch entwickelte, wurden die altenglischen Buchstaben verworfen oder ersetzt.

Hier ist ein Beispiel dafür: Im Alt-Englischen stand der Buchstabe Thorn ( Þ ) für den "th"-Klang im modernen Englisch (wie in "that"). Ab dem 14. Jahrhundert wurde Thorn immer häufiger durch den Digraphen "th" ersetzt; gleichzeitig näherte sich die Form des Buchstaben immer weiter der des Buchstaben "Y" an. Als Resultat wurde "Y" (z. B. im Druckereiwesen) als Ersatz benutzt – die aus Kontinentaleuropa importierten Schriftsätze enthielten kein Thorn. Gesprochen wurde es aber immer als "th". Deshalb ist das Wort "Ye", das man z.B. in "Ye Olde Booke Shoppe" findet, die veraltete Schreibweise von "The".

Ein weiteres Beispiel: Der altenglische Buchstabe "wynn" ( ƿ ), der den w-Laut darstellte, wurde durch "uu" ersetzt, das sich schließlich zum modernen "w" entwickelte und das deshalb auch jetzt noch als "Double-U" buchstabiert wird.

Die Buchstaben "u" und "j" wurden übrigens erst im 16. Jahrhundert Bestandteil des englischen Alphabets.

Ebenfalls interessant ist das Zeichen "ampersand", über das Sie Näheres in der nächsten Ausgabe erfahren werden.

(Quelle: <http://blog.dictionary.com/letters-alphabet/>)

### Birds

Frühling ist die Jahreszeit, in der die Natur aus der Winterstarre erwacht und sich auch wieder viele Vögel zeigen. Füllen Sie die Lücken in den folgenden Worten, um 10 Vogelnamen zu bilden.

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. S _ A _ L _ W       | 6. C _ C _ O _           |
| 2. S _ A _ R _ W       | 7. B _ A _ K _ I _ D     |
| 3. W _ O _ P _ C _ E _ | 8. N _ G _ T _ N _ A _ E |
| 4. F _ N _ H           | 9. S _ A _ L _ N _       |
| 5. L _ R _             | 10. N _ T _ A _ C _      |

### Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 78 "Festive food"

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. gingerbread  | 5. yule log       |
| 2. roast turkey | 6. mince pie      |
| 3. eggnog       | 7. Christmas cake |
| 4. plum pudding | 8. mulled wine    |

### Dover's Games

Forget London and Rio, the **Cotswold Olimpick Games** are 300 years older ... and the big draw is competitive shin-kicking.

The Games is an annual public celebration of games and sports held on the Friday after Spring Bank Holiday near Chipping Campden, in the Cotswolds of England. They were started by a local lawyer, Robert Dover, in

1622, with the approval of King James. Dover's motivation in organising the Games may have been his belief that physical exercise was necessary for the defence of the realm, but he may also have been attempting to bring rich and poor together; the Games were attended by all classes of society, including royalty on one occasion.

The Games took place in a natural amphitheatre on what is known today as Dover's Hill, then called Kingcombe Plain, above the town of Chipping Campden, in Gloucestershire. They were held on the Thursday and Friday of Whit-Week, or the week of Whitsun, which normally fell between mid-May and mid-June. Dover presided over the Games on horseback, dressed ceremonially in a coat, hat, feather and ruff, donated by King James. Horses and men were decorated with Dover's favours, yellow ribbons pinned to a hat or worn around the arm, leg, or neck. Tents were erected for the gentry, who came from the surrounding counties of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Worcestershire.

Events included horse-racing, coursing\* with hounds, running, jumping, dancing, sledgehammer throwing, fighting with swords and cudgels, quarterstaff, and wrestling. Booths and tents were erected in which games such as chess and cards were played for small stakes, and food was supplied in abundance for everyone who attended. A temporary wooden structure called Dover Castle was erected, complete with small cannons that were fired to begin the events.

In 1636, the *Annalia Dubrensia* (Annals of Dover) was published, a collection of poems praising Dover and his achievements in promoting and managing the Games. The contributors included then well-known poets such as Michael Drayton, Ben Jonson, Thomas Randolph, and Thomas Heywood. They saw the Games as revitalising traditional English social life, and they countered opposition from the critics of such events, who complained of "drunken behaviour and sexual licence".



Shin-kicking

The Games had acquired their title of "Olimpicks" by the time the *Annalia Dubrensia* was published, a name approved of by Dover. It secularised the proceedings, while adding an air of gentrification to the sports by linking them with the Olympics of ancient Greece.

By the time of King James's death in 1625, many Puritan landowners had forbidden their workers to attend such festivities; the increasing tensions between the supporters of the king and the Puritans resulted in the outbreak of the English Civil War in 1642, bringing the Games to an end.

Revived after the Restoration of 1660, the Games gradually degenerated into a drunk and disorderly country festival according to their critics. The Games ended again in 1852, when the common land on which they had been staged was partitioned between local landowners and farmers and subsequently enclosed.

Dover's Hill was bought by the National Trust in 1928, and until recently contained a monument to Robert Dover. The Games were revived for the 1951 Festival of Britain, but did not return to being a regular event until the Robert Dover's Games Society was founded in 1965. Except when exceptionally bad weather or an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has forced their cancellation the Games have been held each year since 1966, on the evening of the Friday after Spring Bank Holiday, and attract thousands of visitors. An actor dressed as Dover arrives on horseback to open the games. Events have included the tug of war, gymkhana, shin-kicking, dwile flonking, motorcycle scrambling, judo, piano smashing, morris dancing, and, in 1976, poetry. After dusk a bonfire is lit, followed by a torchlight procession to the square in Chipping Campden, where the entertainment continues well into the night.

The British Olympic Association, in its successful bid for the 2012 Olympic Games in London, recognised Dover's Games as 'the first stirrings of Britain's Olympic beginnings'. The athletics coach and sports journalist Ron Pickering wrote in 1972, "The influence of English rural sports, and the work of William Penny Brookes and Robert Dover, have been significant in the development of the Olympic Games philosophy. Almost half the events in the Modern Games are historically connected to British rural sports. Therefore we have a certain arrogant claim and a responsibility to the development of the Modern Olympic Games."

The next Games will be held on Dover's Hill on Friday 2nd June 2017.

**\*Coursing** is the pursuit of game or other animals by dogs - chiefly greyhounds and other sighthounds - catching their prey by speed, running by sight, but not by scent. Coursing was a common hunting technique, practised by the nobility, the landed and wealthy, and commoners with sighthounds and lurchers.

A **cudgel** (also known as a **club**, **baton**, **truncheon**, **cosh**, **nightstick**, or **bludgeon**) is among the simplest of all weapons: a short staff or stick, usually made of wood, wielded as a weapon since prehistoric times.

**Gymkhana** is an equestrian event consisting of speed pattern racing and timed games for riders on horses.

**Shin-kicking**, also known as **hacking** or **purring**, is a combat sport that involves two contestants attempting to kick each other on the shin in order to force their opponent to the ground.

The English game of **dwile flonking** (also **dwyle flunking**) involves two teams, each taking a turn to dance around the other while attempting to avoid a beer-soaked dwile (cloth) thrown by the non-dancing team. "Dwile" is a knitted floor cloth, from the Dutch *dweil*, meaning "mop", and "flonk" is probably a corruption of *flong*, an old past tense of *fling*.

([www.olimpickgames.co.uk/](http://www.olimpickgames.co.uk/))