

*Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,*

Ostern steht vor der Tür und wenn in dieser Zeit von den Passionsspielen die Rede ist, wird so manchem Oberammergau in Bayern in den Sinn kommen. Dass im gleichen Atemzug auch London genannt werden kann, wird bisher vielen unbekannt gewesen sein. Seit einigen Jahren werden am Karfreitag mitten im Zentrum Londons in zwei Aufführungen durch eine Amateurtheatertruppe vor tausenden Zuschauern die letzten Tage im Leben von Jesus Christus dargestellt. Lesen Sie mehr dazu in dem Beitrag gleich im Anschluss.

Im Februar dieses Jahres ging die Meldung durch die Medien, dass die englische Schriftstellerin Rosamunde Pilcher gestorben ist. Die Autorin erlangte besonders in Deutschland durch die Verfilmung ihrer romantischen Liebesromane durch das ZDF große Beliebtheit. Unser Mitglied Dieter Wagner hat aus Anlass des Todes von Rosamunde Pilcher einen kurzen Artikel geschrieben, den Sie auf Seite 6 finden.

Vor 200 Jahren, im Mai 1819, wurde eine Frau geboren, nach der sogar ein ganzes Zeitalter benannt wurde: Königin Victoria. Durch die Verheiratung vieler der aus ihrer Ehe mit dem deutschen Prinzen Albert von Sachsen - Coburg und Gotha stammenden Kinder innerhalb des europäischen Adels wird sie oft auch als "Großmutter Europas" bezeichnet. In dem Beitrag ab Seite 7 können Sie mehr zu dem Thema lesen.

An dieser Stelle möchten wir unsere Mitglieder auf die in diesem Jahr wieder fällige **Jahreshauptversammlung** und **Vorstandswahl** aufmerksam machen. Sie ist für **Donnerstag, den 24. 10. 2019** geplant. Die offizielle Einladung zusammen mit der Kandidatenliste kommt mit der nächsten Ausgabe des Newsletters, die Anfang August erscheinen wird. Wie üblich, kommt hier auch wieder der Aufruf an diejenigen unserer Mitglieder, die im Vorstand mitarbeiten möchten, sich rechtzeitig bei einem der Vorstandsmitglieder zu melden, damit sie für die Kandidatenliste berücksichtigt werden können.

Zum Schluss noch eine traurige Mitteilung. Im Dezember des letzten Jahres erreichte den Vorstand die erschütternde Nachricht vom Ableben unseres Mitglieds

#### **Roland Schönitz**

Roland Schönitz, der im Jahre 1991 der DBG beitrug und damit zu einem der langjährigsten Mitglieder zählte, wollte sich eigentlich nach dem Übergang in den Ruhestand mehr als bisher in die Arbeit unserer Gesellschaft einbringen, doch eine kurze heimtückische Krankheit vereitelte leider seine Pläne.

Wir werden sein Andenken stets in Ehren halten.

Die Redaktion

## **The Passion of Jesus**

Easter is just around the corner and for the British it is the first holiday (Bank Holiday) of the year. This does not only mean off duty four days in a row, but also loads of chocolate eggs, hopefully spring weather and a lot of diverse Easter events.



Now a regular addition to Easter in London, **The Passion of Jesus** is a recreation of the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, put on for free for the public in Trafalgar Square on Good Friday. Supported by the Mayor of London, one hundred Wintershall players will bring their electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus to this iconic location in the capital. The play is written and produced by Peter Hutley of the Wintershall Players\*. The visibility of the production is maximised by using large TV screens.

Not to be outdone by the scores of Easter egg hunts and other events across the city, Trafalgar Square hosts this special adaptation giving viewers the chance to get to grips with the story at the heart of Easter. Featuring a cast of over a hundred, a donkey, horses and authentic costumes of Roman soldiers in the 12th Legion of the Roman Army, the 90-minute show attracts up to 20,000 people for each of its two performances at 12noon and 3.15pm and undoubtedly has a big impact on the watching crowds as they witness the tale of Christ's betrayal by Judas and his trial before Pontius Pilate. It

culminates in the act of the crucifixion, when Christ and two thieves are strung up on crosses with nails in their hands and feet.

Dramatic performances of the last hours of Jesus' life are a key part of the Easter celebrations in many European countries. In Britain, the tradition has been less strong but has seen a resurgence in recent years, with more than a dozen performances taking place in the UK.

(\*The Wintershall Players, based on the Wintershall Estate in Surrey, perform several biblical theatrical productions each year. They were founded by enthusiast Peter Hutley.)



[www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london](http://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london)

## Review of the last months

29 November 2018

### "The Hottentot Venus - Historical and Contemporary Representations of Sarah Baartman"

**Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten**, who is known to our members mainly because of her talks on British literature, this time had chosen quite an unusual topic.

After some theoretical remarks about the human body and a short outline of her talk, she introduced the story of Sarah Baartman, a young woman from South Africa who, due to her unusually large buttocks, was taken to England in 1810 and exhibited for money as an attraction in freak shows under the name Hottentot Venus. She presented a poster that promoted such a show in London in 1811, and pointed out the contradiction between the terms Hottentot and Venus, the Roman goddess of love. With various examples she made clear how African people were depicted in the past and what influence the fate of Sarah Baartman had and still has on different genres of art, especially in recent years. We saw photos of scenes from theatre plays dealing with the story of Sarah's life.

A short excerpt from a French feature film, entitled *Black Venus* and released in 2010, showed her in such a freak show behind the bars of a cage, acting like a wild animal, and the reactions of the audience of that time to her. Another video clip contained scenes from a New York theatre performance that was based on the story of Sarah Baartman as well, starting with her death in 1815.

But Prof. Dr. Sandten also presented examples of rather controversial projects such as *The Painful Cake* by the Afro-Swedish artist Makode A. J. Linde, or artist and performer Theresa Maria Diaz Nerio's *Hommage à Sara Baartman* of 2007, where she displayed herself as a statue in different museums, dressed up in a black leather suit showing the remarkable body features of Sarah Baartman.

Prof. Dr. Sandten finished her interesting talk with answering to questions from the audience.

31 January 2019

### "More Experiences in the Land of the Rising Sun"

The second part of **Silvia Langhoff's** report on her honeymoon tour of Japan was originally scheduled for September of last year. Unfortunately, it had to be canceled due to technical problems. This time, however, everything went well.

Mrs Langhoff began with a short summary of part one and outlined on a map the route of the second stage that started in Nara. She also showed some small presents they got from Japanese people during their stay.

We saw several photos of the places they visited such as Himeji Castle, which is the largest and most visited castle in Japan and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, or the A-Bomb Dome and the Peace Memorial Park in

Hiroshima, which is dedicated to the victims of the nuclear attack on the town in 1945. A short video clip, taken during a ride on a cable car going up a hill, offered a view of Hiroshima from above. She reported about a trip to Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's main islands, and a visit to Kotohira-gu, a popular Shinto shrine on top of a hill. Her photos made clear that it was rather arduous climbing up more than 750 steps in the hot weather.

These are only some of the places and sights they visited, but it would certainly lead too far to list them all.

As in her previous talks, Mrs Langhoff showed again photos of the meals they had which, in some cases, seemed to be a little unusual to the European palate, and gave some other useful pieces of information for those in the audience who may be planning a similar journey. She pointed out that in Japanese restaurants it is very often necessary to be able to eat with sticks. She explained how to book hotel rooms and how to pay on a bus of the public transport and mentioned the road toll system.

Mrs Langhoff's presentation was very informative, and as for me, I'm really looking forward to part three.

28 February 2019

### "Undiscovered Beauty of Pakistan"

Some of our talks of the last months dealt with countries in Asia that may have been rather unfamiliar to the majority of us such as Mongolia in October. This time **Mir Hammal Usman**, a student from Pakistan who studies at Chemnitz University, introduced his home country to our society.

At the beginning Mr Usman showed a picture of the green and white national flag and we learned that the official name of the country is Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He also explained the name Pakistan which means "land of the pure".

Then Mr Usman gave an overview of the geographical and administrative situation by means of a map and spoke about the history of the country that has existed as an independent state only since 1947. He also mentioned the disputed region Kashmir.

In the further course of his presentation, Mr Usman mentioned the 60 languages that are spoken in Pakistan, with Urdu and English as the official languages, and the most important cities. He touched on issues like religion, culture, sport and education. It was surprising to hear that the literacy rate of the population is only at about 58%.

He also showed several pictures of people in colourful clothes and of different national dishes and pointed out that the Pakistani cuisine is mostly spicy and similar to the Indian one.

Mr Usman finished his relatively short talk with photos of a couple of tourist attractions and showed the pictures of two young women: Eva Zubeck, a Polish video blogger, and Rosie Gabrielle, a Canadian motorcyclist, who both had travelled through Pakistan and reported about their travels on the internet.

After Mr Usman's presentation, the audience had the opportunity to ask him questions which developed to quite a lively second part of the talk in which he eventually showed some photos of the undiscovered beauty of the countryside of Pakistan.

28 March 2019

### "Trekking on the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path"

**Josephin Kunze**, a former pupil of Mrs Langhoff's, began her presentation with explaining why she went, together with her friend Claudia, on a trekking tour along the coastal path on the Welsh island Anglesey: she wanted to experience the unspoiled nature there. She also mentioned their cycling tour to Portugal and a similar trekking tour in the north of England, near the Hadrian's Wall, some years ago.

Ms Kunze gave an idea of the geographical position of Anglesey by means of some maps and showed a picture of St Cybi's Church in Holyhead, which was their starting point. Between the numerous photos of lovely and sometimes rather rough landscapes with nobody else around but a few sheep and cows, and quiet coves and beaches, she faded in maps that showed the route and the distance they had covered during the respective day.

She mentioned an incident where her friend possibly saved the life of a sheep that was caught with its head in a fence and certainly wouldn't have been able to free itself without help.

For the nights they had a tent with them because they didn't want to bother themselves trying to find a lodging. But she also spoke about the noise of the wind and the flattering of their textile accommodation that sometimes disturbed their sleep.

Ms Kunze assured the audience that she really enjoyed the trekking tour that added up to more than 200 km. We learned, too, that the weather and temperatures were just right for walking and that there was only one rainy day.

Siegfried Rosch

## Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 25.4.2019, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "On the Whisky Trail", Videovortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

Do., 23.5.2019, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Visiting a Seoulmate - How I discovered South Korea's capital", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Katrin Reichel  
Beachten Sie bitte, dass dieser Vortrag wegen des Feiertages am 31.5.19 **nicht am letzten Donnerstag** des Monats stattfindet!

Do., 27.6.2019, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Further Experiences in the Land of the Rising Sun", dritter Teil des Reiseberichts in englischer Sprache von Silvia Langhoff

Kein Vortrag im Juli wegen Sommerpause

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

## Rosamunde Pilcher

Born: 22 Sept. 1924, in Cornwall

Died: 06 Feb. 2019, in Scotland

The stories of her novels follow a very simple but successful pattern: a boy meets a girl, they fall in love with each other, a third person appears on the scene causing difficulties, but finally it comes to a happy ending.

Rosamunde Pilcher began writing as a school girl and published her first short stories at the age of 18. After leaving school she signed up for the military service. Later she worked in British-India.

When the war was over she met Graham Pilcher and they married in 1946. They moved to Dundee in Scotland where his parents ran a textile firm.

The couple had four children. Her eldest daughter remembers that at home she never spoke about her work.

She wrote at the kitchen table because there was not enough space for a writing desk in their house.

Her first success came in 1987 with the novel "The Shell Seekers", when she was already 63 years old. The German TV station ZDF made a film of this novel and the viewing figures encouraged the station to produce further Rosamunde Pilcher films. 145 television films in total have been made, all set in the wonderful and charming scenery of Cornwall with its coastlines, cliffs, mansions and manor houses. The unique pictures made this underdeveloped region of Britain a popular destination for (mainly German) tourists and the success of her books gave Rosamunde Pilcher's family a fortune running into millions.

In 2002 she was made Officer of the Order of the British Empire.



Dieter Wagner

Sources: "Freie Presse", Internet

## The Grandmother of Europe - Queen Victoria

**Victoria** (Alexandrina Victoria; 24 May 1819 – 22 January 1901) was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death. On 1 May 1876, she adopted the additional title of Empress of India.

Victoria was the daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, the fourth son of King George III. Both the Duke and the King died in 1820, and Victoria was raised under close supervision by her mother, Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld. She inherited the throne at the age of 18, after her father's three elder brothers had all died, leaving no surviving legitimate children.

The United Kingdom was already an established constitutional monarchy, in which the sovereign held relatively little direct political power. Privately, Victoria attempted to influence government policy and ministerial appointments; publicly, she became a national icon who was identified with strict standards of personal morality.

At birth, Victoria was fifth in the line of succession after the four eldest sons of George III: George, the Prince Regent (later George IV); Frederick, the Duke of York; William, the Duke of Clarence (later William IV); and Victoria's father, Edward, the Duke of Kent.

Victoria later described her childhood as "rather melancholy". Her mother was extremely protective, and Victoria was raised largely isolated from other children under the so-called "Kensington System", an elaborate set of rules and protocols devised by the Duchess and her ambitious and domineering comptroller, Sir John Conroy, who was rumoured to be the Duchess's lover. The system prevented the princess from meeting people whom her mother and Conroy deemed undesirable (including most of her father's family), and was designed to render her weak and dependent upon them. The Duchess avoided the court because she was scandalised by the presence of King William's illegitimate children, and perhaps prompted the emergence of Victorian morality by insisting that her daughter avoid any appearance of sexual impropriety. Victoria shared a bedroom with her mother every night, studied with private tutors to a regular timetable, and spent her play-hours with her dolls and her siblings. Her lessons included French, German, Italian, and Latin, but she spoke only English at home.



Victoria and Albert

*to render me perfectly happy. He is so sensible, so kind, and so good, and so amiable too. He has besides the most pleasing and delightful exterior and appearance you can possibly see.*" However at 17, Victoria, though interested in Albert, was not yet ready to marry. The parties did not undertake a formal engagement, but assumed that the match would take place in due time.

By 1836, the Duchess's brother, Leopold, who had been King of the Belgians since 1831, hoped to marry his niece to his nephew, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Leopold, Victoria's mother, and Albert's father (Ernest I, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha) were siblings. Leopold arranged for Victoria's mother to invite her Coburg relatives to visit her in May 1836, with the purpose of introducing Victoria to Albert. William IV, however, disapproved of any match with the Coburgs, and instead favoured the suit of Prince Alexander of the Netherlands, second son of the Prince of Orange. Victoria was aware of the various matrimonial plans and critically appraised a parade of eligible princes. According to her diary, she enjoyed Albert's company from the beginning. After the visit she wrote, "*[Albert] is extremely handsome; his hair is about the same colour as mine; his eyes are large and blue, and he has a beautiful nose and a very sweet mouth with fine teeth; but the charm of his countenance is his expression, which is most delightful.*" Alexander, on the other hand, she described as "*very plain*".

Victoria wrote to her uncle Leopold, whom Victoria considered her "*best and kindest adviser*", to thank him "*for the prospect of great happiness you have contributed to give me, in the person of dear Albert... He possesses every quality that could be desired*

Victoria married her first cousin Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in 1840. Their nine children married into royal and noble families across the continent, tying them together and earning her the sobriquet "the grandmother of Europe". After Albert's death in 1861, Victoria plunged into deep mourning and avoided public appearances. As a result of her seclusion, republicanism temporarily gained strength, but in the latter half of her reign, her popularity recovered. Her Golden and Diamond Jubilees were times of public celebration.

Her reign of 63 years and seven months was longer than that of any of her predecessors and is known as the Victorian era. It was a period of industrial, cultural, political, scientific, and military change within the United Kingdom, and was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire. She was the last British monarch of the House of Hanover. Her son and successor, Edward VII, initiated the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the line of his father.

Source: Wikipedia

## This and that from the 'island'

### Foreigners for the Forces

Foreigners living abroad will be allowed to join Britain's Armed Forces, the government is set to announce.

Currently, citizens from Commonwealth countries can only join if they have lived in the UK for five years. But in a bid to recruit more servicemen and women to the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Ministry of Defence is lifting this rule.

The Armed Forces is short of 8,200 soldiers, sailors and air personnel, a report found earlier this year.

It is the worst shortage since 2010, said the independent government watchdog, the National Audit Office.

Ministers announced the change to recruitment rules in November last year. It means people from Commonwealth countries - including India, Australia, Kenya, Fiji and Sri Lanka - will be considered for roles, even if they have never lived in Britain.

The government already allows 200 Commonwealth citizens who have not met the requirement of living in the UK for five years to apply for a limited number of jobs every year. They introduced the rule in 2016. Now, that cap of 200 will be lifted.



### Where did the stones come from?

Geologists have known since the 1920s that the bluestones of Stonehenge came from the Preseli Hills in north Pembrokeshire, west Wales, but only recently have some of their exact geological sources been identified.



Excavations at Carn Goedog

Two of these quarries — Carn Goedog and Craig Rhos-y-felin — have now been excavated to reveal evidence of megalith quarrying around 3000 BC — the same period as the first stage of the construction of Stonehenge.

In an article published in the scientific journal *Antiquity*, geologists of the University College London (UCL) present evidence for the extraction of the stone pillars and consider how they were transported, including the possibility that they were erected in a temporary monument close to the quarries, before completing their journey to Stonehenge.

The builders of Stonehenge made use of two main types of stone: a silcrete, known as 'sarsen', was used for the large trilithons, sarsen circle and other monoliths, and a variety of 'bluestones' — used for the smaller standing stones — were erected in an inner 'horseshoe' and an outer circle. Of these 43 bluestone pillars, 27 are of spotted dolerite, known as 'preselite' — an igneous blue-green rock characteristically speckled with ovate patches of pale-coloured secondary minerals. This can be provenanced in Britain only to the Preseli Hills (Mynydd Preseli) — approximately 230km from Salisbury Plain.

Stonehenge's spotted dolerite was once thought to have come from Carn Menyn, the largest dolerite outcrop in the Preseli Hills. A reassessment of sampled bluestones from Stonehenge, however, identified the outcrop of Carn Goedog as a closer chemical match. Recent geochemical analysis has revealed two main groups of Stonehenge spotted dolerite, the larger of which (stones 33, 37, 49, 65, 67) matches most closely with Carn Goedog. The second group (stones 34, 42, 43, 61) has not yet been provenanced to a specific Preseli outcrop, but may derive from Carn Goedog, or from nearby outcrops, such as Carn Breseb or Carn Gyfrwy.

The dating evidence from the bluestone quarry sites at both Carn Goedog and Craig Rhos-y-felin arguably places monolith extraction in the second half of the fourth millennium BC. Most of the prehistoric dates for Carn Goedog fall within the period c. 3350–3000 BC, while those for Craig Rhos-y-felin provide a slightly longer chronological span.



Stonehenge in the sunset

## Hen Power

Equal Arts, a British charity, wants older people to help care for pet chickens in an attempt to tackle loneliness. The idea, by the project HenPower, has experienced significant success with the scheme in England. What started with a couple of hens in Northumberland has expanded to more than 40 care and residential homes across England and Wales.



The inspiration for the project rested in the experiences of staff and service users of a residential care home with hen-keeping and its associated activities. Residents found that interacting with the hens was enjoyable and was a stimulus for social interaction with others involved in this activity. The male residents reported that they had kept hens when they were younger, thus this form of human – animal interaction was something that was familiar and an inherent part of their personal history. It was notable that the male residents were drawn to the hens and got involved in looking after them.

The staff noted that the majority of the resident population was female and many of the activities that were arranged in the home tended to be activities that were popular amongst the female residents. Rarely had the men engaged with the crafts, music and dance activities. These observations led the programme developers to reflect on the relevance of hen-keeping in care settings beyond this situation to older men living in other settings such as sheltered housing or alone in their own home.

Sources: [www.bbc.com/news/uk](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk), [www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org), [www.equalarts.org.uk/](http://www.equalarts.org.uk/)

## Our language section

### Here and there

Deutsche, die Englisch lernen, beachten manchmal nicht, dass in der englischen Sprache teilweise sehr streng danach unterschieden wird, von wo aus man über etwas spricht. Ein oft benutztes Beispiel, um diesen Unterschied deutlich zu machen, sind **bring** und **take** im Sinne von **bringen**. Während wir im Deutschen das Wort **bringen** wahlweise dafür verwenden können, wenn wir etwas fortschaffen (Ich werde den Brief zur Post **bringen**.) als auch wenn wir etwas herholen (Kannst du mir bitte ein Glas Wasser **bringen**?), werden dafür im Englischen die beiden unterschiedlichen Wörter verwendet.

Beispiele: "I'll **take** the letter to the post office." "Can you **bring** me a glass of water, please?"

Ein weiteres Beispiel ist die unterschiedliche Verwendung von **come** und **go**, je nachdem, wo man etwas sagt und wo sich der Angesprochene befindet. Wenn ich z.B. in Deutschland bin und in Englisch sagen will, dass ich schon lange mal nach Schottland reisen wollte, kann ich sagen: "I've always wanted to **go** to Scotland." Der

gleiche Satz, zu jemandem z.B. in Edinburgh gesprochen, müsste dagegen lauten: "I've always wanted to **come** to Scotland." Wenn ich jedoch von Schottland aus mit einem Briten telefoniere, der momentan in Deutschland ist, und ich will in korrektem Englisch sprechen, muss in diesem Satz wieder **go** verwendet werden, da der Angesprochene sich ja nicht in Schottland befindet. Das Gleiche gilt allerdings auch anders herum: Wenn ich von Deutschland aus unseren Beispielsatz meinem schottischen Freund in Glasgow fernmündlich mitteilen will, muss ich in dem Fall wiederum **come** benutzen. Ganz schön verwirrend, nicht wahr? Dabei wird immer behauptet, Englisch sei leicht.

### Fix the idioms

Jeweils ein Wort in den folgenden Redewendungen ist falsch. Finden Sie heraus, welches das ist und ersetzen Sie es mit dem korrekten Begriff aus der Liste. Aber Vorsicht! In der Liste stehen mehr Wörter, als gebraucht werden.

cat fish iceberg log sheep's spots spoon touch zebra

1. He's a wolf in cheap clothing.
2. I wouldn't eat that with a ten-foot pole.
3. A leopard can't change his stripes.
4. It's as easy as falling off a dog.
5. He's like a duck out of the water.
6. That's just the tip of the ice cream.

### Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 84 "Christmas song questions"

1. b) sleigh bells
2. c) the crib
3. a) delightful
4. a) gold rings
5. b) two front teeth

## THE CHRONICLE

### What happened ....



..... 80 years ago: 11 April 1939 - Glasgow bans 'Darts' from all pubs as too dangerous

.... 690 years ago: 7 June 1329 - Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, died

.... 160 years ago: 11 July 1859 - Big Ben rang out for the first time