

*Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,*

am 9. November ist es 30 Jahre her, dass sich in Berlin die Mauer öffnete und damit im Nachgang die Wiedervereinigung der beiden deutschen Staaten vollzogen werden konnte. Unser Mitglied Peter Hasse hat diesen Jahrestag zum Anlass genommen, seine Erfahrungen in einem Artikel darzulegen, den Sie gleich im Anschluss lesen können.

Nicht ganz so lange her ist unsere letzte Jahreshauptversammlung, die vor 2 Jahren stattfand und damit in diesem Jahr wieder ansteht. Unsere Mitglieder finden in dieser Ausgabe wie üblich die Einladung zur Versammlung sowie die Kandidatenliste für die Vorstandswahl, die im Zuge der Hauptversammlung durchgeführt wird. Alle anderen Leser finden auf diesen Seiten eine erweiterte Ausgabe von "This and that from the 'island'".

Unsere diesjährige gemeinsame **Ausfahrt** ist für **Sonnabend, den 14.9.2019**, geplant und soll uns zum Fasanenschlösschen in Moritzburg führen. Ursprünglich war vorgesehen, Zug und Bus für die Reise zu nutzen, doch leider wurde das Wochenendticket, mit dem die Reise etwas günstiger geworden wäre, durch die Deutsche Bahn abgeschafft. Wir haben uns deshalb entschlossen, mit privaten PKW zu fahren. Der Start in Chemnitz soll gegen 9 Uhr sein. Welche Mitglieder ohne eigenes Fahrzeug bei wem mitfahren, muss allerdings noch geklärt werden.

Zum Schluss eine Anfrage bei den Teilnehmern unseres **Grillnachmittags am 11.6.**: Wer vermisst seit diesem Tag einen **Regenschirm**? Der Hausmeister des Otto-Brenner-Hauses hat uns einen Schirm übergeben, den er im Hof gefunden hat und von dem er vermutet, dass eines unserer Mitglieder ihn dort vergessen hat. Sollte das der Fall sein, dann melden Sie sich bitte in unserem Büro in der Hainstr. 125 zu den üblichen Geschäftszeiten.

Die Redaktion

## Thirty years ago

### The thirtieth anniversary of the peaceful revolution and the winding up of the East German secret service (known as *Stasi*) in our home town

People in their mature years will certainly remember those days whereas the younger generation will see them as part of Germany's younger history. Anyway, they marked the wind of overwhelming change for all of us.

Hope and illusion, the triumph of Christian faith, feelings of revenge, wrath, envy, fear and paranoia characterised the time. Often enough, they were expressed in words of slander and libel, of hoax. Luckily, people limited themselves to words. There was no uncontrollable outburst of violence. Many became losers, some became winners. Those who had lived their dream of a socialist way of life woke up and had to accept their total failure.

Inspired by the events in Leipzig, our home town saw demonstrations led by *Neues Forum*. Then, a committee was born aiming at the winding-up of the *Stasi*. People representing all political colours joined, many of them following Christian beliefs. Motives varied. Some members of the committee were turncoats who hoped to whitewash their past, some others hoped to push their future career.

Winding up the *Stasi* turned out to be a very difficult task which would have required expertise. Although two members of the committee were quite familiar with the work of secret services, they lacked insight into the internal structure of the *Stasi*. One member was a PhD of theology who also brought in some experience with diplomacy. Another one had even worked against a number of political tricks played by the Soviet *KGB*. The majority of the members, however, were amateurs on the matter. Consequently, the result achieved was unsatisfactory. For instance, no light could be shed on the financial situation of the *Stasi*.

Winding-up work was going on, a second committee trying to do the same job got together, which meant ineffective rivalry. However, with the two units uniting, a number of remarkable results were accomplished.

**The change proceeding, there were peaceful activities only.**



Checkpoint Charlie

This showed the high moral standards of all who were active, in particular of the police who faced the task to master the transition from one legal system to another.

The *Wismut* corporation turned out to be an exceptional challenge. Producing uranium for the Soviet nuclear armament, it stood under particularly heavy *Stasi* control. On the one hand, the public wanted the corporation to be observed, on the other hand, Soviet interests had to be maintained as there was hope Gorbachev would support the peaceful German unification. This came out a full success.

The committee took full responsibility and enjoyed the sole right to dispose of all *Stasi* archives. Within less than no time thousands of people wanted to read the files the *Stasi* had composed about them. The committee was expected to allow quick access where patience was necessary. The atmosphere became explosive:

Bus drivers in Hohenstein-Ernstthal were ready for strike. The newspaper "Chemnitzer Morgenpost" labelled in lurid caption: "Stasiauflöser schützt Stasi" (Member of wind-up committee protects Stasi), a number of deputies of the new Saxon Landtag (Regional Parliament) wanted intelligence about their political competitors, some local representatives of *Neues Forum* sensed betrayal and, worst of all, everyone suspected everyone of having been involved in *Stasi* activities. This was particularly characteristic of officials of the newly established administration, which made it difficult to employ qualified staff.

The media supported by the Lutheran Church succeeded in calming down the heated public mood so the administration could start work.

At that time, Joachim Gauck, the later German President, took over the central winding-up committee. He introduced steps to make all regional committees' work effectively and well-coordinated.

Local committees, however, were not involved in the analysis of the *Rosewood files* nor in the study of the foreign *Stasi* activities. Yet some important information could be provided.

By now, the archive work has been subordinated to a state authority so things go a well-regulated way to further analysis of the *Stasi* past.

Peter Hasse

## This and that from the 'island'

### Baristas behind bars

Coffee can do so much more than just giving a morning pick-me-up. Redemption Roasters, a social enterprise, launched an initiative to help young offenders to successfully reintegrate into society after their release. A brainchild of the former St Andrews University students Max Dubiel and Ted Rosner, the enterprise opened a roastery and barista training at Aylesbury Prison for young prisoners as well as operating in HMP Bullington and HMP Springhill. Redemption Roasters is also opening an academy in Wormwood Scrubs and a café in Broadgate to add to the existing eateries in Bloomsbury, Farrington and King's Cross.

The prison roasteries offer a direct path from working inside to helping ex-offenders find work in the London coffee-shops or elsewhere in the industry.

Prisons Minister Rory Stewart MP said: "Redemption Roasters is a shining example of a social enterprise business helping young offenders sustain a crime free life by offering them employment and life skills training whilst serving their sentence and ultimately, helping them secure employment upon release. It's initiatives like this that make a real difference with the wider benefits felt by society."

Next on the agenda is to move the operation into Scotland. As it's already working closely with the Ministry of Justice south of the border, Redemption Roasters also aims to engage with the Scottish government about operating in Scottish prisons.

[www.redemptionroasters.com/](http://www.redemptionroasters.com/)

### Stones for the world

As of 2004, 60–70% of all curling stones in use were made from granite from the Scottish island Ailsa Craig and it is one of only two sources for all stones in the sport, the other being the Trefor Granite Quarry in Wales. Ailsa Craig produced two types of granite for curling, *Blue Hone* and *Ailsa Craig Common Green*. *Blue Hone* has very low water absorption, which prevents the action of repeatedly freezing water from eroding the stone. *Ailsa Craig Common Green* is a lesser quality granite than *Blue Hone*. In the past, most curling stones were





made from *Blue Hone* but the quarry is restricted by environmental conditions that exclude the use of explosives to break the stone.

From the mid-nineteenth century the island has been quarried for its rare type of micro-granite. *Kays of Scotland* has been making curling stones since 1851 and has the exclusive rights to the Ailsa Craig granite, granted by the Marquess of Ailsa. The last "harvest" of Ailsa Craig granite by *Kays* took place in 2013, after an interruption of 11 years; 2,000 tonnes were harvested, sufficient to fill anticipated orders until at least 2020.

Ailsa Craig is an island of 99 hectares (240 acres) in the outer Firth of Clyde, 16 kilometres (10 miles) west of mainland Scotland. The now uninhabited island is formed from the volcanic plug of an extinct volcano. It is today a bird sanctuary, providing a home for huge numbers of gannets and an increasing number of puffins.

Source: Wikipedia

### Eating squirrels

Many members of the public were horrified, but over the past few years, squirrels (the cute and fluffy critters) have been appearing more and more frequently in restaurant menus. At the Jugged Hare, a stylish gastropub in London's Barbican which has a reputation for serving excellent game dishes, they are one of the most popular items. "They sell extremely well," says head chef Stephen Engelfield. "They can be a bit tricky to get hold of, but we buy all we can get, and can easily sell 40 or 50 portions a week. I have people coming for dinner this week who have already reserved them."

The meat of grey squirrel is similar to rabbit – lean and gamey. The animal's diet of acorns also gives it a lovely nuttiness (perhaps unsurprisingly)! Chef Paul Wedgwood of Edinburgh's Wedgwood restaurant has cooked with squirrel for many years, "I use grey squirrel for several reasons; it's healthy, nutritious, very low in fat and actually really delicious. I've never had a negative comment from a diner who has eaten squirrel in the restaurant; it's always been given the thumbs up and people say they would definitely eat it again," he explains.

And you can't beat the provenance either; squirrel is always wild and won't have been shipped the length of the country to reach your plate. Paul adds, "Grey squirrel is a natural pest in this country so, by eating them, we are helping the native red squirrel too."



Grey squirrels were imported to Britain in the 1870s as fashionable additions to estates, but they soon became the main threat to the survival of the native red population. Being larger than red ones and capable of storing up to four times more fat, grey squirrels necessarily stand a greater chance of surviving tough winter conditions.

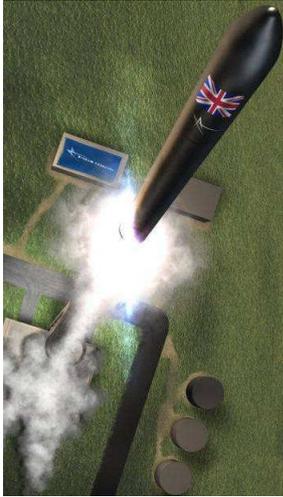
Eating squirrel isn't new. In America, where the grey squirrel originates, stew made from the rodents used to be as ubiquitous as sweet potato pie, and still isn't uncommon, especially in the South. Even in the UK, the animals used to be fairly widely eaten, especially during times of hardship. But they fell out of favour after the Second World War, as more prosperous Brits upgraded to chicken breasts and salmon fillets.

[www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk), [www.greatbritishfoodmagazine.com](http://www.greatbritishfoodmagazine.com)

### From Scotland into space

The UK Space Agency has selected the first vertical launch site in Sutherland on the north coast of Scotland and is making available a new £2 million fund to boost horizontal spaceport development across Britain, Business Secretary Greg Clark announce last year.

Scotland is the best place in the UK to reach in-demand satellite orbits with vertically launched rockets. Initial funding of £2.5 million will go to Highlands and Islands Enterprise to develop the vertical launch site in



Sutherland which will use a combination of proven and innovative rocket technologies to pave the way for a world-leading spaceflight market.

Business Secretary Greg Clark said: "As a nation of innovators and entrepreneurs, we want Britain to be the first place in mainland Europe to launch satellites as part of our Industrial Strategy. The UK's thriving space industry, research community and aerospace supply chain put the UK in a leading position to develop both vertical and horizontal launch sites. This will build on our global reputation for manufacturing small satellites and help the whole country capitalise on the huge potential of the commercial space age."

Horizontal launch sites have significant potential in a future UK spaceflight market, which could attract companies from all over the world to invest in Britain. Sites such as Newquay, Glasgow Prestwick and Snowdonia will be boosted by a new £2m fund to grow their sub-orbital flight, satellite launch and space plane ambitions.

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

### Maths anxiety

Children are experiencing a variety of emotions from rage to despair due to "maths anxiety" – with some reduced to tears and others struggling to breathe, researchers have found.

Maths anxiety – a negative emotional reaction to the core subject – causes fear, physical suffering and behaviour problems among young pupils, according to a University of Cambridge study.

Schools should treat the problem with "real concern" as both primary and secondary school pupils who suffer anxiety linked to maths can fall into a "vicious circle" of poor performance, it warns.

The study, which looks at 1,700 UK pupils aged from 8 to 13, alongside 1,000 Italian pupils, says parental pressure and confusing teaching methods can contribute to the development of maths anxiety in a child.

Students in the UK highlighted a general feeling that maths was more difficult than other subjects and that often contributed to their worries, leading to a lack or loss of confidence.

Other common "triggers" for anxiety included poor marks, teasing by classmates and pressure from tests – including Sats, the national tests taken by pupils in year 6.

The report, by the Centre for Neuroscience in Education at Cambridge University, was prompted by a "mathematics crisis" in the UK, the authors say.

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

### Red Baron

A German GP has taken to the skies in a replica First World War aircraft that took him a decade to build. Dr Peter Brueggemann (53), who has lived in the UK since 1992, took to the skies of Norwich in his German Fokker triplane in the autumn of last year.

He obtained permission from the Civil Aviation Authority to fly the fixed-wing plane after strict safety checks. He reached speeds of 110mph at 3,000ft before landing in front of supporters as well as a representative of the German Airforce.

The GP, who has been nicknamed the Red Baron of Norfolk by his patients in Holt, said: "When I got the permit to fly there was excitement but also trepidation because I realised I actually had to fly it now, it was no longer a dream. I was sat on the runway and I asked myself, 'Should I do this?' But you have to commit to it so I put the engine on at full power and went for it."

It is a replica built on the same specifications as the aircraft flown by the pilot Manfred von Richthofen. He was the fighter ace known as the Red Baron who was shot down and died on April 21, 1918 near Amiens, France, while attempting to defend his cousin.



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

## Sun, Moon and Star in London

At a scenic duck pond in Central London near Buckingham Palace are some unusual residents - the famous pelicans of St. James's Park. The birds can roam freely but usually choose to stay close to the lake.



Now there are three new arrivals: Sun, Moon and Star. The newbies have made their way to the capital all the way from Prague Zoo, and will join permanent residents Isla, Tiffany and Gargi. They actually arrived here at the end of May, but have been kept hidden from public view while they settled into their new surroundings.

Hugh Smith, Senior Wildlife Officer for The Royal Parks, predicts it will take a few weeks for the two flocks to come together: "At first we are expecting minimal interaction between the new and the established pelicans. There will be a period of adjustment as we are putting three relatively tame

birds with three semi-wild birds. I don't think there will be any disagreements, just a bit of suspicion whilst they get to know each other."

Pelicans first arrived at the park in 1664 when the Russian ambassador sent a gift to King Charles II. It's the third time the Czech capital has sent pelicans to live in the famous park next to Buckingham Palace. Prague Zoo sent four in 1995, and three more in 2013. Zoo director Miroslav Bobek, said: "We are very honoured to help St James's Park in London keep this 350 year tradition alive. We know Sun, Moon and Star will have a very happy life there with the resident pelicans."

[metro.co.uk](http://metro.co.uk)

## A secret garden

In London lies a very old botanical garden, which is an oasis in the hustle and bustle of the city.

Chelsea Physic Garden was founded in 1673, as the Apothecaries' Garden, with the purpose of training apprentices in the identification and use of medicinal plants. The location was chosen due to its proximity to the River Thames. This allowed the Apothecaries to moor their barge, collect plants in the surrounding areas and take advantage of the river's warm air currents, which contribute to the Garden's unique microclimate. River access also allowed plants arriving from around the world to be introduced to the British Isles via the Garden. Its international reputation was established early on as a result of the global seed exchange scheme, known as Index Seminum, which it initiated in the 1700s and continues to this day.



During the 1680s trainee physician Hans Sloane studied at the Garden. He later became its primary benefactor when he purchased the Manor of Chelsea from Charles Cheyne and leased the Garden to the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London for just £5 a year in perpetuity.

Under a number of notable curators, such as Robert Fortune and Thomas Moore, the Garden has adapted to the changing times, whilst always retaining its medicinal plant collection. Different growing environments have been established such as the Grade II listed Pond Rockery, Fortune's Tank Pond and an evolving collection of glasshouses including one of the first heated greenhouses in the world. The Pond Rockery, which was completed in 1773, is the oldest planted structure of its type in Europe and employs Icelandic lava (brought to the Garden by Sir Joseph Banks in 1772 on a ship named St. Lawrence) and carved stones from the Tower of London.

The Garden has also had a wide impact around the World, playing a key role in introducing the rubber industry to Malaysia and cotton to the southern US. Perhaps most significant was the establishment of the tea industry in India. This was as a result of tea seedlings being transported from China to India by Robert Fortune in the newly developed Wardian cases (a type of portable glasshouse).

By the end of the 19th century the Apothecaries decided they could no longer retain the Garden. As a result the City Parochial Foundation took over running the site until 1983, when it became a registered charity and its gates were opened to the public for the first time.

Chelsea Physic Garden continues to play a significant role in education, running a range of courses for adults and activities for over 5000 school children a year.

<http://chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk>

## Review of the last months

23 May 2019

### "Visiting a Seoulmate - How I discovered South Korea's capital"

If you look at the topics of the talks of the last months you may notice that our lecturers took us more than once to Asian countries. This time, too, **Katrin Reichel** reported about a visit to Seoul. A friend of hers, who studies there at Yonsei University, had invited her to come and see her.

In her talk, Ms Reichel presented some of the districts of South Korea's capital such as Sinchon, where the university is situated, and Gangnam, which had become famous through the song "Gangnam Style" that was a huge hit on the internet some years ago. She showed photos of buildings and landmarks that are typical for the respective districts. We saw that the cityscape is characterized by a mix of traditional Korean and modern architecture. In the pictures it was also visible that the air in Seoul is not very clean. Many people in the streets were wearing masks as a protection against the pollution.

Another aspect of Ms Reichel's presentation was the food of which she had taken some photos as well. She said that she had eaten a lot during her stay but didn't put on weight because many of the dishes were made of rice. She also mentioned an indoor BBQ that would certainly be nothing for vegetarians, and spoke about the various themed cafés in Seoul and the fondness of the Koreans of drinking coffee even though it is rather expensive.

One day Ms Reichel's friend, who, by the way, is from Vietnam, showed her around the university campus and told her that, if she wanted to become a student at this university, she would have to learn the Korean language first.

On 1 March, which is Independent Movement Day, they visited Seoraksan National Park that lies in a mountainous region in the northeast of the country. We saw pictures of colourful temples, a large statue of Buddha and a waterfall that completely freezes over in winter.

At the end of her talk, Ms Reichel summarized her impressions of Seoul and described the city as an example for "capitalism at its best" where you could find conservative and modern things next to each other. She also repeated some of the catchphrases she had mentioned during her presentation such as "beauty oasis" and "food porn", and finished with the words "temples, temples, temples".

Siegfried Rosch

25 April 2019

### "On the Whisky Trail"

In August 2017 **Siegfried Rosch** participated in a special coach tour of Scotland organized by Tilo Erdmann, a whisky expert from the small Saxon town Floeha.

On this tour from the Lowlands to the Highlands, the tourist group discovered a lot of whisky distilleries and tasted numerous samples of whisky.

You are completely mistaken thinking that whisky is only something for men. There were a lot of women in this tourist group.

And openly spoken, I also like Scottish whisky. So I was very curious to watch the video about this tour well made and commented by Mr Rosch.

In the whisky distilleries the local guides explained the production process and how the special flavour comes into the whisky. Some distilleries still use old equipment from the 19<sup>th</sup> century beside modern computer technology. In the visitors' rooms the tourists saw some special bottles of whisky on display at very special prices. Of course, they tasted the brands of those distilleries and finally they were offered to buy them as well as other souvenirs in the gift shops.

Furthermore, they experienced some highlights, e.g. after the visit to the Auchentoshan Distillery they went into a former church now serving as a pub.

Moreover they visited several distilleries on the isles of Arran and Islay as well as in Oban, a port in the west of the Scottish mainland. Its story began in 1794 but even today craftsmanship, traditions and luxurious flavours distinguish this distillery from others.

An outstanding place for them was Dufftown in the Speyside, an area in the north-east of the Highlands that hosts the largest number of distilleries.

The Whisky Trail did not only provide stories about whisky and visits to distilleries but also numerous sights and marvellous places. The group stopped at Gretna Green in the Lowlands that has been a place for couples being underage to get married without their parents' permission since 1754. And still today lovers have weddings there. Besides they had a look at Mc Caig's Tower at Oban which is an unfinished replica of the Colosseum in Rome. Arriving in the Highlands they were lucky to see the Hogwarts Express Train well-known to all Harry Potter freaks. Carrbridge, a small town in the Cairngarns, was another highlight because its landmark is the oldest stone bridge in the Highlands.

To my mind the greatest experience was the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh being the final destination of the trail. It is a colourful musical event with artists from several countries. At the end of such a performance all participants gather on the Esplanade. All the spectators of the festival as well as the people watching Mr Rosch's film were impressed by that scene.

Thanks to Mr Rosch for the amusing evening and the interesting English explanations.

Marion Rotstein

27 June 2019

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

At the beginning of the third part of the report about her and her husband's honeymoon tour of Japan, **Silvia Langhoff** gave a short look back on the two previous talks. Additionally she showed on a map the course of the stages 1 and 2 and the remaining final part.

This time she wore the kimono that during the other two talks had served only as a decorative item.

She started with photos of two impressive bridges they had to cross from Shikoku, the smallest of the Japanese main islands, where part two had finished, to get back to Honshu and further on to Kyoto, the first destination of stage 3. Later they went north to Fukui, where they had booked a very small hotel room with a hi-tech toilet and where they took the chance to attend an Onsen, the Japanese version of a sauna, which uses hot water from natural mineral springs. After that they continued their journey to Matsumoto and crossed the Japanese Alps before they returned to Tokyo where the tour ended.

On their way through the mountainous region of the Alps they had to pass several long tunnels and it was interesting to learn that at the entrances of the tunnels they were informed about the weather on the other side.

Mrs Langhoff showed again a multitude of pictures of various cityscapes and the countryside, peaceful and quiet gardens and parks, and beautifully decorated temples and shrines. She also had taken photos of the meals they had in different restaurants. She pointed out that it was sometimes difficult to decide which dish to choose when the menu was in Japanese language only and the service personnel or the owners of the places didn't speak English. In some cases there were at least pictures of the respective dishes they could point at to place their order. She assured us, however, that most of the meals were very delicious even though they didn't always know what they were eating.

But even if something was written in English it didn't always mean that it was understandable. Mrs Langhoff showed a picture of a sign she found at a bus stop that left her completely puzzled because the text, although in English, didn't make any sense whatsoever.

At the end of her quite long talk, Mrs Langhoff gave an account of their adventurous journey back home. After a rather turbulent flight on a Taiwanese airplane to Taipeh they were forced to stay at the airport for hours due to a typhoon that was raging in the area, before they were able to continue their journey home, again on a Taiwanese airplane, that, to their surprise, flew all the way back towards Japan and on to the eastern part of Russia since Taiwanese airplanes are not allowed to fly over Chinese territory.

Siegfried Rosch

## **Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen**

Do., 29.8.2019, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "William Butler Yeats - An Irish Poet", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Einde O'Callaghan

Do., 26.9.2019, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "The Proms", Vortrag in deutscher Sprache von Winfried Herold

Do., 24.10.2019, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto - Brenner - Haus, Hainstr. 125: Jahreshauptversammlung und Vorstandswahl der DBG

Do., 28.11.2019, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Launching 'Turning Pages', Reading from TU Chemnitz' First Creative Writing Journal", Students and teachers from TU Chemnitz and beyond will read in English their own texts from the journal

Fr., 6.12.2019, 18 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Otto - Brenner - Haus, Hainstr. 125: Weihnachtsfeier der DBG

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

## **Moon songs**

Wegen des 50. Jahrestages der ersten bemannten Mondlandung war unser Erdtrabant in letzter Zeit sehr oft in den Medien. Es gibt auch einige englischsprachige Lieder, die sich mit unserem himmlischen Nachbarn befassen. Erkennen Sie aus den kurzen Hinweisen die Titel?

1. Im Film "Breakfast at Tiffany's" singt Audrey Hepburn über ein fließendes Gewässer, das den Mond im Namen trägt.
2. Schon 5 Jahre vor der Mondlandung bat Frank Sinatra darum, zum Mond geflogen zu werden.
3. In ihrem Hit von 1968 warnte die Gruppe CCR vor dem aufgehenden bösen Mond.
4. Cat Stevens sang in einem seiner Lieder über etwas, das man wirft, wenn der Mond besonders hell scheint.
5. In einem Song der Rockband R.E.M. aus dem Jahr 1992 wird im Refrain erwähnt, dass ein Mensch auf dem Mond war.