

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

in diesem Jahr befindet sich unser Verein im **30. Jahr** seines Bestehens. Aus diesem Anlass ist eigentlich geplant, dieses freudige Ereignis im **September** (24.9.2020) mit einer **Feierstunde** zu würdigen. Die Frage ist nun, wie lange das Coronavirus Deutschland noch in seinem Griff hält und ob sich bis dahin die Lage so weit entspannt hat, dass das öffentliche Leben in unserer Stadt wieder seinen gewohnten Gang gehen kann. Sicherlich können wir in unserer nächsten Ausgabe Anfang August schon Genaueres bekannt geben.

Das gilt übrigens auch für unsere diesjährige **Tagesfahrt**, auf die wir uns am **Sonnabend**, dem **10.10.2020**, begeben wollen und die unter anderem zur Raumfahrtausstellung in **Morgenröthe-Rautenkranz** führen wird.

Die gegenwärtigen Beschränkungen betreffen momentan auch unsere **Konversationszirkel** sowie die für die nächsten Monate geplanten **Vorträge**. Wir sind zwar optimistisch und drucken deshalb die Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen ab, weisen aber gleichzeitig darauf hin, dass sie möglicherweise **nicht stattfinden** können. Bitte informieren Sie sich diesbezüglich entweder auf der Internetseite unserer Gesellschaft oder rufen Sie in unserer Geschäftsstelle an, die jeweils am 2. und 4. Dienstag im Monat in der Zeit zwischen 15.30 Uhr und 17 Uhr durch ein Mitglied des Vorstands besetzt ist.

Auch in dieser Ausgabe finden Sie wieder verschiedene Beiträge, von denen wir hoffen, dass sie Ihr Interesse finden werden. Unser Mitglied Winfried Herold hat z.B. einen Artikel in der *Freien Presse* zum Anlass genommen, einen kurzen Text zur Telekommunikation vor 150 Jahren zu verfassen. Dem englischen romantischen Dichter William Wordsworth, der vor 250 Jahren, am 7. April 1770, geboren wurde, ist ein weiterer Beitrag gewidmet. Eines seiner bekanntesten Werke ist "The Daffodils" (Die Narzissen), das sehr gut in die aktuelle Jahreszeit passt. Darüber hinaus finden Sie in der regelmäßigen Rubrik "This and that from the 'island'" wieder kuriose, manchmal auch erstaunliche und interessante Meldungen aus Großbritannien. In unserer Sprachabteilung geht es diesmal um nicht ganz ernst gemeinte Anmerkungen zur englischen Sprache und um Zugvögel.

Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß beim Lesen und hoffen, dass Sie nicht mit dem bösen Virus Bekanntschaft machen müssen.

Die Redaktion

Telegraphy 150 years ago

Nowadays, in our electronic age, it is no big problem to communicate with almost every place in the world by simply pushing some keys on your telephone or with a click of the mouse on your computer. At the beginning of the 19th century, however, this was inconceivable. Only the invention of the electromagnetic telegraph by Samuel Morse in the 1840s created the prerequisite which made the worldwide use of telegraphy possible.

The installation of an Indo-European telegraphy connection via landline and submarine cable was a milestone in this venture. Already in 1863, the Siemens brothers had made an offer to England to forward telegrams over long distances by means of induced current. In February 1870, it was a sensation to be able to send messages over an 11,000 kilometres long telegraph line. A telegram from London to Teheran took only one minute; a message to Calcutta, on the Bay of Bengal, arrived within half an hour. The telegraph line between London and Calcutta used already existing infrastructure. It was connected to a submarine cable near Bushehr (today Iran) on the north coast of the Persian Gulf that had been laid in 1865 between Karachi (Pakistan) and the northern tip of the Gulf, near Al-Faw (today Iraq).



Telegraph by Samuel Morse

(Source: FREIE PRESSE, text abridged)

Winfried Herold

Review of the last months

30 January 2020

"The Legend of Cuchulainn"

Our first talk of this year was near to being cancelled because the originally planned speaker had called off her talk at very short notice. That's why we are most grateful to **Einde O'Callaghan** who, when asked, spontaneously agreed to stand in. His readiness has to be thought even higher because his computer at home, where the draft of his talk was stored, had given up working and so he had to tell the whole story from his memory and without any pictures. He also pointed out at the beginning that he might be jumping back and forth in the story in case he forgets to mention something important.

We learned that Cuchulainn, whose original name was Sétanta, is one of the main heroes of the old-Irish legend Tain Bo Cuailgne (The Cattle Raid of Cooley), which dates from the 2nd century BC and is set in the Ulster region, in the north of Ireland. Mr O'Callaghan described the Irish society of that time, in which it was not unusual that women were rulers. He also explained how Cuchulainn eventually obtained his name.

After having been trained as a warrior in Scotland, Cuchulainn returned to Ireland where he, according to legend, successfully defeated whole armies of enemies before he was mortally wounded in a battle for his queen by a magical spear and died.

Despite the fact that Mr O'Callaghan couldn't show any pictures, he did quite well and due to his pictorial account the pictures were not missed very much.

Siegfried Rosch

27 February 2020

"The Beautiful South: Cornwall"

On 27th February 2020 we had the chance to visit "The Beautiful South – Cornwall" by watching Mr Rosch's video film. A lot of our members as well as guests and friends of our society followed the invitation to come to the cultural centre "DASTietz". Perhaps some of them had collected own holiday experiences in this wonderful region or planned to go there. Several destinations in this film reminded me of my own stay there some years ago.

Lanhydrock, one of the beautiful landmarks of Cornwall, had made a deep impression on me because I had felt like a noble lady when going by an English old timer car to the gate of the park. The driver, of course, was dressed in the Victorian style. You see, I was fascinated by this region again, right from the beginning of the film.

Strolling through the 50 rooms you can imagine what life was like in the Victorian Age. Even a well-equipped kitchen can be visited. You are probably surprised by the numerous suitcases, but the noble family often travelled between Lanhydrock and their London home. Lanhydrock House is surrounded by a well-kept garden and a large country park.

In contrast to the old sights the Eden Project is a contemporary one which made a deep impression on me. It was set up in a former clay pit and opened in 2001 and is a centre of education, art and entertainment for the whole family. It shows how we can work towards a better future. Two giant Biomes, housing plants in a rainforest climate and in a Mediterranean one, were erected.

Another English Heritage is Tintagel on Cornwall's north coast. Tintagel Castle is said to be the birthplace of the legendary King Arthur. The houses at Tintagel have no numbers, but names, e.g. Belmont House.

St Ives is a village of artists with a population of 11,000 inhabitants. Twice as many tourists come here every year. They walk along the narrow streets and lanes, meet painters at work or visit the art galleries. Cornish pasty is a speciality you should try in one of the cafés.

I believe Lands End is known all over the world because the peak of this headland is the most western point of the mainland Britain. It attracts a lot of tourists who can see the place where the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Channel meet. After walking through the Visitors' Centre and looking at exhibitions and souvenirs they can have a rest in the first and simultaneously the last refreshment house in England.

A spectacular open-air theatre, which is nearby, is the Minack Theatre. Rowenda Cade built it together with her gardener. She was a very practical woman who did a lot of work herself. The theatre is located directly at the sea, carved in the cliffs. The first performance took place in 1932.

St Michael's Mount is another landmark that is accessible from Marazion. This place is not far away from Land's End. At low tide you can reach the Isle of St Michael's Mount on foot across a causeway but at high tide you have to take a boat. There is a castle, which is nowadays managed by the National Trust, whereas some parts are still inhabited by the private owner. Queen Victoria and her husband Albert visited it in 1846.

Having seen the most western part of the mainland Great Britain it might be interesting to go to the most southern part, The Lizard Point. The peninsula is characterized by farming, especially cattle breeding. An old lighthouse is at the most southern tip.

While enjoying the beautiful landscape pictures and listening to the informative talk we were also given reason to laugh. The letterbox at the gate to a house could not be used for letters because a bird nest was in it and so a small bin served as letterbox.

Besides we heard of picturesque fishing villages on the coasts and smugglers. In The Smugglers Museum at Bodmin Moor you can learn more about this profitable job around the Cornish coast in the past centuries.

All in all the video film fulfilled the expectations of all those present. It was skilfully made and provided beautiful pictures combined with highly interesting and clearly understandable information.

Thank you Mr Rosch for this entertaining evening.

Marion Rotstein

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 30.4.2020, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Erdgeschoss im DASTietz: "London from the Air", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Silvia Langhoff

Do., 28.5.2020, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Erdgeschoss im DASTietz: "Hunting with the Mongolian Altai Eagles", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Jana Schreiber

Do. 24.6.2020, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Erdgeschoss im DASTietz: "Introduction to the SCHLINGEL: International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Frau Prof. Cecile Sandten, TU Chemnitz

Juli: Sommerpause

(Änderungen vorbehalten. Beachten Sie bitte, dass die Vorträge kurzfristig abgesagt werden können!)

william wordsworth

250 years ago, on 7 April 1770, William Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth, Cumberland, part of the scenic region in northwestern England known as the Lake District. He was the second of five children born to John Wordsworth and Ann Cookson. William's sister, the poet and diarist Dorothy Wordsworth, to whom he was close all his life, was born the following year, and the two were baptised together.

Wordsworth was an English Romantic poet who, with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to launch the Romantic Age in English literature with their joint publication *Lyrical Ballads* (1798).

Wordsworth made his debut as a writer in 1787 when he published a sonnet in *The European Magazine*. That same year he began attending St John's College, Cambridge, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1791.

In 1790 he went on a walking tour of Europe, during which he toured the Alps extensively, and visited nearby areas of France, Switzerland, and Italy.

The year 1793 saw the first publication of poems by Wordsworth in the collections *An Evening Walk* and *Descriptive Sketches*. In 1795 he received a legacy of £900 from his childhood friend Raisley Calvert and became able to pursue a career as a poet.



Painting by Benjamin R. Haydon

It was also in 1795 that he met Samuel Taylor Coleridge in Somerset. The two poets quickly developed a close friendship.

In the autumn of 1798, Wordsworth, his sister Dorothy and Coleridge travelled to Germany. During the harsh winter of 1798–99 Wordsworth lived with Dorothy in Goslar, and began work on the autobiographical piece that was later titled *The Prelude*. He wrote a number of other famous poems in Goslar, including *The Lucy poems*.

One year later, in the autumn of 1799, Wordsworth and his sister returned to England. When Coleridge arrived back in England he travelled to the North with their publisher Joseph Cottle to meet Wordsworth and undertake a proposed tour of the Lake District. This was the immediate cause of the brother and sister's settling at Dove Cottage in Grasmere in the Lake District, this time with another poet, Robert Southey, nearby. Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey came to be known as the "Lake Poets".

On 4 October 1802, Wordsworth married his childhood friend Mary Hutchinson. Dorothy continued to live with the couple and grew close to Mary. The following year Mary gave birth to the first of five children, three of whom predeceased her and William.

Wordsworth's most famous poem *I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud*, widely known as *The Daffodils*, was inspired by a visit to nearby Ullswater in 1802 where he and his sister, Dorothy, had stopped to admire some wild daffodils on the lake shore. The first verse reads as follows:



***I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.***

The Prelude, a semi-autobiographical poem of his early years, is generally considered Wordsworth's *magnum opus* that he revised and expanded a number of times. It was posthumously titled and published by his wife in the year of his death, before which it was generally known as "the poem to Coleridge". Wordsworth was Britain's Poet Laureate* from 1843 until his

death from pleurisy on 23 April 1850.

(* a poet officially appointed by a government or conferring institution, typically expected to compose poems for special events and occasions)

(Source: wikipedia)

This and that from the 'island'

Year of Coasts and Waters

In 2020, Scotland is celebrating the Year of Coasts and Waters with a year-long programme of events and activities that will shine a light on the remarkable elements of the beautiful Scottish landscape. From natural coasts, rivers and lochs to the industrial heritage such as canals and mills, Scotland's coasts and waters have shaped its rich history through stories, culture, and a fascinating way of life.

Led by VisitScotland, the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 (YCW2020) aims to build on the momentum of previous themed years to celebrate and promote opportunities to enjoy Scotland's fantastic coasts and waters, encouraging responsible engagement and participation.

Scotland's coasts and waters will be showcased with a themed year designed to inspire both visitors and locals to explore and experience the unrivalled shores, rivers, lochs and waterways. The focus lies on unique, authentic experiences and sustainable tourism. This includes natural and historic environment, wildlife, the cultural heritage and food and drink.



British sprouts

Morrisons has been mocked for renaming Brussels sprouts after the areas of the UK in which they were grown – with critics claiming the move is symptomatic of Brexit Britain.

The supermarket chain's rechristening of the much-maligned vegetable will see families tucking into "Yorkshire sprouts", "Lincolnshire sprouts", and "Scottish sprouts" during their Sunday dinners.

Although native to Mediterranean Europe, Brussels sprouts are popular in Belgium and are thought to have derived their name from the country, where they have been grown before the 16th century.

Social media users questioned whether there was a political motive behind the decision to strip the sprout of its usual association with the Belgian capital, which is home to the European Union's institutions.

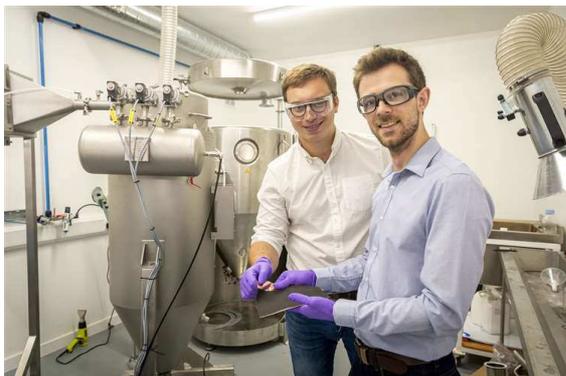
Writer Huw Lemmy compared the supermarket's renaming of the vegetable to American restaurants calling French fries "freedom fries" in response to France's hostility to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.

A spokesman for Morrisons said the decision to rename the vegetable had nothing to do with Brexit. He added: "Many of our customers are interested in knowing where their food comes from. Our Lincolnshire sprouts are called Lincolnshire sprouts because they are from Lincolnshire. Our Yorkshire sprouts are called Yorkshire sprouts because they are from Yorkshire. Many of our customers like to know that."



Six minutes

Echion Technologies, the Sawston-based battery specialist spun out of Cambridge University, is preparing to commercialise technology which has been trialed to allow charging times for both mobile phones and electric cars to drop to six minutes. The development could revolutionise the electric transport era, allowing electric car owners to recharge at any garage over a cup of coffee rather than having to stay close enough to recharge overnight at home.



Jean de la Verpilliere (right)

allows you to recharge in six minutes, so your electric car is almost as easy to charge as it is to refuel conventionally. (...) The problem with the usual powders is that when you fast-charge them they can cause an explosion. With the new material – which I can't tell you any more about – it will accept fast-charging with no safety hazard, unlike graphite."

Today, the company can produce 1kg of powders a day, enough for a single car battery- but that's about to change.

"We're working on methods to make powders which are scaleable and where 1,000 tonnes could be made quite easily in factories," says Jean. "We have a prototype now, and are moving towards commercialisation early this year. The tests have to be validated beforehand."

Echion is the brainchild of Dr Jean de la Verpilliere. Four years ago, while studying for a PhD in nanoscience at the University of Cambridge, he created a material that could be used in lithium batteries. In 2017 - the final year of his PhD - he founded Echion Technologies, with a focus and expertise on high performance materials innovations for lithium, or Li-ion, batteries. Echion "engages with chemicals and battery cell manufacturers to integrate its materials solutions into next-generation products". One of the materials is graphite, which Echion has replaced with its own material.

"The powders are the central component of a lithium battery," Jean says. "This is a new kind of powder which

Innovative school

An Exeter primary school has given a further insight into how its class sizes are managed after it was highlighted in the national media as having a 'super-size' classroom.

Broadclyst Community Primary School, which has an average class size of 42, is known locally for its innovative and forward thinking approach to education, and actively embracing technology. Its Year 6 class currently has 63 children, and they are taught in a modern lecture-theatre style room where each child has their own digital device as a learning aid.

Headteacher Jonathan Bishop reassured the school is investing 'heavily' in pupils' education and that they are delivering outstanding results. He said: "The Year 6 children are taught by two full-time teachers and there are also two teaching assistants working in the room. Often the children will sub-divide into smaller groups to focus on work assigned to them and they will work outside that classroom where specialist teachers will work with them, reducing the ratio of teacher to child often to 1:15 or lower."



Each child in the room has their own digital device. This means that the teachers' board notes are synchronised real time, via the cloud, to the child's device.

"Although we have large groups brought together into the lecture theatre, and one teacher can introduce a new concept to all children, we have team teaching and targeted group work to ensure high standards of achievement. I believe class size is not the main factor in good education but high quality teaching with good resources that make the difference."

Last year the school had a combined score of nearly 90 per cent of children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, and 98 per cent of children achieved the standard in reading. This is well above the national averages.

Ready, steady, slow!

More than 200 contestants battle it out every year in summer in special championships held at Congham, in Norfolk. The contestants are - snails.

Congham is an ideal racing and breeding ground for snails and has been host to the World Snail Racing Championships for more than 25 years. Hilary Scase, organiser, said: "Snails like damp conditions and as Congham is surrounded by ponds and is very low lying it is just right for snails. Congham is to snail racing what Newmarket is to horse racing."



cricket field at Congham.

Farmer Neil Riseborough is Snail Trainer to the World Championships. He keeps order, tests for drugs, watches out for cheating and starts the races. Neil shouts: "Ready, steady, SLOW!", and off dash the snails. He keeps the course well-watered to encourage good speeds. Races are held on top of a table with a damp cloth spread out. Heats are held throughout the afternoon with a grand final at the end. The winner gets a silver tankard stuffed with lettuce leaves.

In 1995, the Guinness World Record was set when a snail called Archie completed the 13-inch (33cm) course in two minutes and 20 seconds.

The World Snail Racing Championships are part of Congham Fete, which is intended to raise money for the 13th century St Andrew's Church.

The next championships are being held in July 2020, on the

(Sources: www.visitscotland.org, www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk, www.devonlive.com/news, www.deepdalebackpackers.co.uk/events)

Our language section

Der folgende Text stammt aus dem Buch "Xenophobe's guide to the English" von Antony Miall und David Millsted und wirft einen amüsanten Blick auf die englische Sprache und die Haltung der Engländer zu ihr:

>>The English are inordinately proud of their language, even though most of them use only a tiny bit of it (often badly). The *Complete Oxford Dictionary* runs to 23 volumes and contains over 500,000 words. German, on the other hand, has a vocabulary of about 185,000 and French fewer than 100,000. Shakespeare had a working vocabulary of 30,000 words (some of which he made up), twice that of a modern, educated English person. Most of the English manage on around 8,000 - the same as the King James Bible.

English began as a basic means for various tribes to communicate with each other without all the fuss of gender and inflections, and the secret of its success is that, like the English themselves, it has gone on assimilating from every other culture it has come in contact with, from Arabic ('algebra') to Yiddish ('nosh'). No other language has so many ways of saying almost the same thing.

The English approve of this tradition of change, while at the same time disapproving of change itself, which they blame (often wrongly) on the Americans - until they get used to it and regard it as Standard English. They like to dispute its usage ('compare with' or 'compare to'), its pronunciation ('harass', 'controversy'), and its spelling ('miniscule', 'extravert'). It's a game they take very seriously.

Meanwhile, English is to communication what Microsoft is to computing: the world cannot do without it. The French may insist that its use in aviation is 'pending the development and adoption of a more suitable form of expression', but it marches on regardless. One billion people use it; 80% of the Internet and 75% of the world's mail is written in it, and 200 million - odd Chinese at any given moment are learning it. India has more native English speakers than England has. The Voyager 1 spacecraft in deep space beyond the solar system carries a message from the United Nations on behalf of 147 countries - in English.

It will soon be possible for English people to travel anywhere in the world and speak their own language without having to repeat themselves or raise their voices. It's a prospect which makes them feel - in a word which has no exact equivalent in any of the world's other 2,700 languages or cultures - **comfy**.<<

Migrating birds

In dem folgenden Buchstabensalat sind 12 Zugvögel versteckt, die sicherlich in den letzten Wochen aus ihren Winterquartieren zurückgekehrt sind. Können Sie sie entdecken? Beachten Sie bitte, dass einige Vogelnamen aus zwei Worten bestehen.

TEASTORKBONVCRANEDERSWALLOWINDOSKYLARKPOINIGHTINGALEDESWIFTAXMARSHWARBLERTULAPWING
EDSSONGTRUSHALLBREDSTARTANTMUCUCKOONQCURLEWHYS

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 87 "The Nativity"

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. birth | 2. stable |
| 3. manger | 4. angel |
| 5. shepherds | 6. sheep |
| 7. Wise | 8. frankincense |

Latest News

LONDON (1 April 2020) Foreign languages lessons such as French and Spanish are set to be replaced in the curriculum with teaching students how to shout more loudly in English.

All second-language requirements will be dropped from British schools in favour of classes that will teach students how to shout more loudly in English, as well as how to point to the gammon, eggs and chips on the menu. The switch is seen as being considerably more useful for the average Brit.

"Do we really need our students spending five years learning Spanish or French that most of them will forget or only ever use occasionally on holiday? Why not just teach them the proper British way to do things? You go



government minister.

(Source: www.dailysquat.com/)

Questions

Did you know that intentionally losing a game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors" is just as hard as trying to win it?

Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?

If poison is past its expiry date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

Which letter is silent in the word "scent", the 's' or the 'c'?

Are you aware that every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty?

into someone else's country, tell them what you want and then start shouting louder and louder when they don't understand you. If they don't speak English, that's their problem," said education secretary Gavin Williamson.

Mathematics could also be on the chopping block as the last thing Britain needs is egg-headed number-crunchers going over the economy and bringing up how poorly Brexit is affecting it.

"In fact, we might just cancel education altogether. This country has too many experts as it is," warned one