

*Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,*

in unserer letzten Ausgabe hatten wir uns ja sehr optimistisch über die Entwicklung der Corona-Lage geäußert. Zwar sind die Zahlen zum Zeitpunkt der Erstellung dieser Ausgabe wieder etwas höher als noch vor einigen Wochen, momentan gibt es jedoch noch keine offiziell verordnete Einschränkungen. Allerdings kann niemand dafür garantieren, dass es im weiteren Verlauf des Jahres so bleiben wird. Wir haben trotzdem unser Veranstaltungsprogramm, das Sie auf Seite .. finden, bis zum Ende des Jahres geplant und hoffen natürlich, dass es auch wie vorgesehen durchgeführt werden kann.

Ebenfalls für die zweite Hälfte des Jahres haben wir unsere diesjährige **Tagesfahrt** geplant, die diesmal relativ spät stattfinden wird. Am **Sonntag, dem 13.11.**, wollen wir nach Annaberg-Buchholz fahren und dort im **Museum "Manufaktur der Träume"** eine Ausstellung besichtigen. Bei einer Führung werden wir die bunte Welt des traditionellen Handwerks des Erzgebirges kennenlernen. Vorgesehen ist, mit privaten PKW zu fahren und gegebenenfalls Fahrgemeinschaften zu bilden. Bei allen offiziellen Veranstaltungen der Gesellschaft der nächsten Monate liegt eine Liste aus, in die sich Interessenten eintragen können. Auch während der üblichen Bürozeiten kann man sich für die Fahrt anmelden. Die genaueren Details werden zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt bekannt gegeben.

In der Ausgabe Nr. 93 konnten Sie einen Artikel über ein Winterfestival in einem Ort in Großbritannien lesen, in dem ein Strohbär eine Rolle spielt. Dieser Beitrag hat bei unserem Mitglied Engeltraud Zarbuch Erinnerungen an ihre Kindheit wachgerufen, über die sie in einer Zuschrift berichtet, die Sie auf Seite .. lesen können.

Mit diesen Hinweisen und Informationen wünschen wir Ihnen einen angenehmen Rest des Sommers und einen schönen Herbst.

Die Redaktion

## Memories of my childhood

In our Newsletter Nr. 93 we could read an article about a Straw Bear Festival in Whittlesea, Cambridgeshire. When I read it the story brought back memories of my early childhood in my birthplace in Pomerania (now Poland), which lies south of Stettin (Szczecin). Its name was Schönow (now Jesinowo) and it was a rich farming village with about 1,000 inhabitants. Schönow is like our life: it's "schön" (beautiful) and it's "o-w(eh)".

At that time (1937/38) I was 5 or 6 years old. Once a year all the residents celebrated a festival with a Strawbear. In the shoemaker's workshop of my father, some young men got together and selected a strong fellow for the Strawbear. They wrapped him in straw, as described in the article about Whittlesea. But the name of the fellow remained top secret. For the villagers his name was a mystery. It was supposed to be a surprise for them.

A second young man was the Strawbear's companion. Both were connected with a ribbon. This friend was in the lead. A third guy played the accordion. Behind them, like a parade, marched a whole group of men: farmers, craftsmen, workers, who followed and sang.

All the young women living in Schönow were spectators. They also enjoyed this village festival. I was only a little girl who didn't ask for the meaning of all this. Today I suppose it had developed from pagan times and the clumsy gestures of the bear were meant to represent cadgers (Schnorrer). Now and then such ramblers came into our village. I remember them. They woodworked behind our house and then my mother gave them a vegetable soup with a sausage.

We children also took part in the festival. We were always dressed like cadgers in old clothes, with a basket in our arms and a rod or a stick in our hands. My stick was from our butter churn. I liked very much going from shop to shop - to the baker's, the butcher's, the grocery. It was a nice game. I had learned by heart a poem beforehand. I can't remember the exact wording anymore but it went something like this: "I am a beggar's hungry child, I wish from you a gift so mild, out of your kitchen a slice of fried pigeon" or "... from your bees some honey, or at least some money" or maybe "... give what you want to give and I wish you health to live" - but in German, of course.

Engeltraud Zarbuch

## Review of the last months

28 April 2022

### "God Shave the Queen"

Unsere erste Veranstaltung nach der langen Corona-bedingten Pause war eine Lesung von **Harald Linke**, die im Rahmen der 8. Literaturtage "Leselust" der Stadtbibliothek im neu geschaffenen Stefan-Heym-Forum in der 3. Etage im DASTietz stattfand. Herr Linke, der Mitglied im 1. Chemnitzer Autorenverein ist, hatte in der Vergangenheit schon mehrere Vorträge zu verschiedenen Themen für unsere Gesellschaft in Englisch gehalten. Diesmal las er in deutscher Sprache Ausschnitte aus seinem Buch "Feuer und Wasser", in dem er einen weiten Bogen von den letzten Jahren des zweiten Weltkriegs bis in die Zeit nach der Wende schlägt. Er erzählt darin seine eigene Lebensgeschichte in der Gestalt seines Alter-Ego Willi Funke. Eine weitere Person des Romans, deren Werdegang er teilweise fiktiv nachzeichnet, ist sein Kommilitone aus den Zeiten des Anglistik-Studiums, Matthias Kleinert, der Ende der 50er Jahre, noch während des Studiums, die DDR verlässt.

Wir erfahren gleich am Anfang, dass sich der ungewöhnliche Titel der Lesung auf eine der gemeinsamen Studentenfeiern der Seminargruppe bezieht, während der Matthias Johannisbeerschnaps kredenzt und die britische Nationalhymne anstimmt, diese jedoch mit "God **shave** our gracious Queen..." etwas verballhornt.

Da die Lesung von unserer Gesellschaft organisiert worden war, hatte Herr Linke vorrangig Ausschnitte ausgewählt, in denen England und Schottland eine Rolle spielen. Er schilderte jedoch auch die weiteren unterschiedlichen Lebenswege der ehemaligen Studenten Willi und Matthias. Während Willi in der DDR als Englischlehrer versucht, seinen Schülern gutes Englisch beizubringen, obwohl diese vielleicht niemals die Möglichkeit haben würden, ihre Sprachkenntnisse in einem englischsprachigen Land anwenden zu können, nutzt Matthias seine Chancen im Westen und gibt schließlich als Gastdozent Vorlesungen an einer amerikanischen Universität. Doch auch Willi entwickelt sich im Laufe der Zeit weiter, wird Direktor einer erweiterten Oberschule und arbeitet später bis zum Ende der DDR als Schulrat.

Den Abschluss der Lesung bildete die Schilderung des Wiedersehens der Mitglieder der Seminargruppe nach langer Zeit. Wieder gab es Johannisbeerschnaps und wieder sang Matthias voller Inbrunst "God shave our gracious Queen...".

Siegfried Rosch

19 May 2022

### "A Tour of Scotland"

On 19th May 2022 Siegfried Rosch invited us to watch his video film "A Tour of Scotland". Despite of the nice weather a lot of interested people gathered in the room on the ground floor of DASTietz. After the long break due to "Corona" the people were keen on such a cultural event.

The film started after a short technical delay and a warm welcome by the chairwoman of our society. Mr Rosch took us on a tour of Scotland he had experienced in 2018. Apart from well-known towns like Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness, everyone admired the small villages and landmarks in the picturesque countryside. In my short review I would like to provide you with an insight into some of them.

Let us start with **Glasgow** because it is the largest town in Scotland.

Being there you should not miss a visit to Glasgow Cathedral, which was built in the Middle Ages and is known as the biggest cathedral in Scotland. We were shown various old tomb stones next to the cathedral. Moreover, Mr Rosch mentioned Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum which amongst other things houses a permanent exhibition dedicated to Charles Rennie Mackintosh, one of the most remarkable Scottish architects and designers.

**Edinburgh**, the capital of Scotland, is particularly famous for the National Gallery of Scotland, the Monument to Sir Walter Scott, Princes Street with its numerous facilities for shopping, Princess Street Gardens and last but not least Edinburgh Castle.

The historical Charlotte Square is a private garden square. Bute House is the official seat of the First Minister of Scotland.

Calton Hill is the location of several monuments, e.g. the Nelson Monument. At the foot of the hill is the headquarters of the Scottish Government.

Holyroodhouse is the official residence of the British Queen during her stay in Scotland.

Arthur's Seat, the highest point of Holyrood Park, offers a fantastic view.

**Inverness** is regarded as the capital of the Highlands. Everyone was surprised that it is the happiest place according to a survey.

Inverness Castle is an important landmark. Tourists possibly regret that its main building is not open to the public because it is the seat of the Sheriff Court of Inverness.

A boat tour on **Loch Ness** might reveal the secret of "Nessie".

Being in Scotland it is worth visiting the small villages because they often look back at an unexpectedly interesting history. **Luss** is a small village **near Loch Lomond** whose church has been popular for weddings for over 100 years.

**Pitlochry in the Highlands** reminds me of wonderful holidays several years ago. Tourist attractions are the Hydro Water Power Station built between 1947 and 1950 and the fish ladder.

Everyone smiled when Mr Rosch said that the best part of the tour to the Blair Athol Whisky Distillery of Pitlochry had been tasting the whisky. The distillery looks back at 200 years of legal production.

Not only the mainland is interesting. The tourist group of Mr Rosch went by ferry to **the Isle of Skye** where they discovered museums in several cottages reflecting life on the island in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Furthermore they visited the biggest town of the Isle of Skye – Portree. It has a population of about 2,000 people and is the banking centre of Skye. We were impressed by the colourful houses in the harbour and that everywhere pipers welcomed the tourists.

I could report about other places of interest mentioned in the film. But perhaps you could go on such a tour yourself one day or watch another film about Scotland, a region I myself like very much.

It was a fascinating talk and all listeners applauded to thank Mr Rosch sincerely.

Marion Rotstein

30 June 2022

### "English Kings and Queens, Part 1"

In the first part of her talk, **Silvia Langhoff** took the audience to a very early period in British history. At the beginning she pointed out that the title of the talk was a little misleading because she would go back to a period when even the name "England" didn't exist yet and that English kings appeared only much later. At that time Celtic tribes settled in the area who had come from the European mainland. We saw pictures of artefacts from that early period and of Stonehenge as a unique landmark.

She also touched on the times when the Romans conquered parts of the island, which happened twice and had a huge influence on the language and the culture of the country.

Only with the retreat of the Romans did the settlement of the country continue and the Angles, Saxons and Vikings came into the country. Here she mentioned Alfred the Great who was the first ruler that could be called King. He was a strong leader with a trained army and introduced his own legal system. Mrs Langhoff explained the judicial practice of "trial by ordeal" that was used to determine guilt or innocence of an accused person.

More kings followed and Mrs Langhoff showed their portraits and gave some insight into their family feuds and relationships. She also described the circumstances that caused the invasion of England by William of Normandy after the death of King Edward the Confessor in 1066, which led to a long period of Norman rule. With them quite a number of French words came into the English language and many of the existing castles were built during that time.

Mrs Langhoff finished her talk with King Henry II, who was the Duke of Normandy. He also was a strong ruler and introduced amongst others a new system of courts. Very interesting was the story about Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Initially a friend and supporter of Henry, he became a strict opponent of the king after a dispute over the rights and privileges of the church and was later assassinated in the cathedral by four knights. Well, Mrs Langhoff had warned us at the beginning that the British history was sometimes rather bloody.

We will certainly learn more about the two sons of Henry II, Richard (the Lionheart) and John (Lackland), in the second part in September that will hopefully have a larger audience than part one.

16 July 2022

### "English Breakfast"

An event, to which its organisers, the association "Freundeskreis 2025" had asked our society to make a contribution, took place in the middle of our summer break.

In the run-up to the European Capital of Culture, "Freundeskreis 2025" plans to organise a series of events in the form of thematic breakfasts in cooperation with Friendship Associations of Chemnitz. It was decided that the first of these events should be an English breakfast and so the chairman of this association, Egmont Elschner, contacted our chairwoman, Silvia Langhoff, and asked if we could help.

Mrs Langhoff and I decided to prepare two PowerPoint presentations: she intended to speak about English food and I wanted to give a short humorous talk on stereotypes, clichés and prejudices about the English.

When we arrived at the former Schmidt-Bank on the Hartmannstraße, where the event took place, we were greeted with the shocking news that, probably due to a misunderstanding, there was no projector available, which would actually have been necessary to show the photos, pictures and the text of the quotations of our presentations. Now what should we do? We didn't want to say, "Sorry, we have to cancel our contributions", since the organisers had invited a lot of people who were interested in the event.

Mrs Langhoff eventually came up with the suggestion to give our talks and during this go around with our tablet computers showing the respective pictures on the small screens. Of course, this procedure didn't have the effect that a projection in a larger format to the wall would have had. Nevertheless, the audience enjoyed it and thanked us with hearty applause at the end.

As for the breakfast that was offered, coffee, tea, juice and different cupcakes, this was certainly only meant symbolically. The audience could see what belongs to a real English breakfast on some of the photos of Mrs Langhoff's presentation.

Siegfried Rosch

## Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 25.8.2022, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DAStietz: "Out of Belfast and into the Mystic - Life and Songs of Van Morrison", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Einde O'Callaghan

Do., 29.9.2022, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DAStietz: "English Kings and Queens, Part 2", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Silvia Langhoff

Do., 27.10.2022, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DAStietz: "Scotland Yard - Die Geschichte der Londoner Polizeibehörde", Vortrag in deutscher Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

Do., 24.11.2022, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DAStietz: "Stefan Heym's Debut Novel *Hostages* in the Context of an Anglo-American Literary Tradition", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten, TU Chemnitz

Fr. 2.12.2022, 18 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum in der 1. Etage im Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125: Kurzversammlung und Weihnachtsfeier der DBG

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

## Blue Plaques

A blue plaque is a permanent sign installed in a public place in the United Kingdom and elsewhere to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person, event, or former building on the site, serving as a historical marker. The term is used in the United Kingdom in two different senses. It may be used narrowly and specifically to refer to the official scheme administered by English Heritage, and currently restricted to sites within Greater London; or it may be used less formally to encompass a number of similar schemes administered by organisations throughout the UK.

The official scheme traces its origins to that launched in 1866 in London, on the initiative of the politician William Ewart MP, to mark the homes and workplaces of famous people. It has been administered successively by the Society of Arts (1866–1901), the London County Council (1901–1965), the Greater London Council (1965–1986) and English Heritage (1986 to date). It remains focused on London (now defined as Greater London), although between 1998 and 2005, under a trial programme since discontinued, 34 plaques were erected elsewhere in England. The first such scheme in the world, it has directly or indirectly provided the inspiration and model for many others.

The first plaque was unveiled in 1867 to commemorate Lord Byron at his birthplace, 24 Holles Street, Cavendish Square. This house was demolished in 1889. The earliest blue plaque to survive, also put up in 1867, commemorates Napoleon III in King Street, St James's.



Many other plaque schemes have since been initiated in the United Kingdom. Some are restricted to a specific geographical area, others to a particular theme of historical commemoration. They are administered by a range of bodies including local authorities, civic societies, residents' associations and other organisations such as the Transport Trust, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Music Hall Guild of Great Britain and America and the British Comic Society. Although the very first plaques were blue, plaque-makers experimented with brown, terracotta, green, bronze, lead and stone plaques in the early years. Different shapes, including squares and rectangles, have also been used. However, the term "blue plaque" is often used informally to encompass all such schemes.

Since 1984 English Heritage have commissioned Frank Ashworth to make the plaques which have then been inscribed by his wife, Sue, at their home in Cornwall.

English Heritage plans to erect an average of twelve new blue plaques each year in London. Almost all the proposals for plaques are made by members of the public who write or email the organisation before submitting a formal proposal.

English Heritage's in-house historian researches the proposal, and the Blue Plaques Panel advises on which suggestions should be successful. The panel is composed of 9 people from various disciplines from across the country. It is chaired by Professor Ronald Hutton, an English historian who specialises in Early Modern Britain, British folklore, pre-Christian religion and contemporary Paganism.

To be eligible for an English Heritage blue plaque in London, the famous person concerned must:

- have been dead for 20 years or have passed the centenary of their birth. Fictional characters are not eligible;
- be considered eminent by a majority of members of their own profession; have made an outstanding contribution to human welfare or happiness;
- have lived or worked in that building in London (excluding the City of London and Whitehall) for a significant period, in time or importance, within their life and work;
- be recognisable to the well-informed passer-by, or deserve national recognition.

In cases of foreigners and overseas visitors, candidates should be of international reputation or significant standing in their own country.

As mentioned earlier, not all plaques in the official English Heritage scheme are blue. The famous blue roundel that we recognise today only became the standard design after the Second World War. You can tell that a plaque is an "official" one if it bears the name of one of the four successive bodies that have run the scheme – the Society of Arts, the London County Council, the Greater London Council or English Heritage.



(Sources: Wikipedia, [www.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/))

## This and that from the 'island'

### Tapestry recreated

It's taken her more than five years, thousands of metres of wool, and millions of stitches with just one needle. Yet with nearly 35 metres of the Bayeux Tapestry painstakingly recreated, Mia Hansson, of Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, cannot rest on her laurels - because she's only just reached half way. The ambition of her astonishing project is to faithfully recreate the tapestry - all 68.38 metres of it.

Depicting the events that led up to the conquest of England by William of Normandy after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, the Bayeux Tapestry is known globally, and described by Unesco as a "memory of the world" due to its historical importance. It shows coronations, battles and the way of life for some in the 11th Century.



Ms Hansson said her endeavour would take over a decade to complete, as she averages around four hours of stitching every day.



"If I aim for 11 years [to complete the tapestry] I will be on target," she said. "I am a little bit crazy... well, people tell me that I am. And they're not wrong, because who would do this? Here I get to do everything, horses, ships, there's even camels somewhere."

It is believed to be the first time anyone has recreated the artwork to its full extent and she has even released a series of colouring books for thousands of people who now follow her stitching journey around the world.

The real tapestry is currently on display in the French town of Bayeux, just outside of Caen in Normandy, but Mia hopes that one day hers will be seen by many people as well.

### Salty Sheep

North Ronaldsay is the northernmost island in the Orkney archipelago of Scotland. With an area of 690 hectares, it is the fourteenth-largest. It is mentioned in the *Orkneyinga saga*; in modern times it is known for its historic lighthouse, migratory bird life - and an unusual breed of sheep.

North Ronaldsay sheep have a highly unusual diet consisting almost solely of seaweed. It is the only land animal known to have such a diet. This has evolved due to their unique location, confined to the shoreline by a 1.8 m tall dry stone wall, leaving only seaweed for food. The purpose of this wall, which completely encircles the island, is to keep the seaweed-eating sheep off the arable land.

The grazing habits of the sheep have also adapted to their unusual diet: instead of grazing during the day and ruminating (digesting) at night as other sheep generally do, the North Ronaldsays graze as the low tide uncovers the shore (twice in 24 hours), ruminating at high water.

The sheep's source of fresh water is limited to the few freshwater lochs and ponds along the seashore. This has led them to become very salt tolerant, as their diet is salt-rich, and access to fresh water is limited. Compared with other breeds of sheep, they can far better handle elements present in the sea salt.



The North Ronaldsay Sheep Fellowship is the primary organisation concerned with the survival of the breed. They maintain the flock book, established in 1974, which is the breed registry containing all purebred animals. This book reports that there are fewer than 600 breeding females and roughly 3700 sheep in total. The Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) lists the North Ronaldsay as "vulnerable".

### Wreck discovered

The wreck of a Royal Navy warship, which sank in 1682 while carrying the future king James Stuart, has been identified off the coast of Norfolk.

The shipwreck of HMS Gloucester was actually found in 2007 by two brothers, Julian and Lincoln Barnwell, alongside their late father and two friends, following a four-year search which covered an area of more than 5,000 nautical miles. The ship had run aground 28 miles off Great Yarmouth but due to the time taken to confirm its identity and the need to protect an "at risk" site, which lies in international waters, it was only now that its discovery could be made public.

When discovered, the ship appeared to be split from its keel, with the remains of its hull having been submerged under the sea bed. Many artefacts, including clothes and shoes, have been recovered from the wreck including, in 2012, the ship's bell which proved to be a key clue in confirming the wreckage to be the HMS Gloucester.

The HMS Gloucester was originally built in 1652 for the English navy, and participated in battles during the Anglo-Spanish war of 1654 to 1660 and the second and third Anglo-Dutch war.

In 1682, the ship was wrecked after it collided with a sandbank, with up to 250 people dying as a result. At the time, the ship was carrying the Duke of York, James Stuart, who survived the wreckage and went on to become King James II of England and Ireland and King James VII of Scotland.

The discovery of the wreck, due to the circumstances of its sinking, could be the “single most significant historic maritime discovery since the raising of the Mary Rose in 1982”, according to Prof Claire Jowitt, who specialises in maritime history at the University of East Anglia. HMS Mary Rose was a warship which served the English Tudor navy under King Henry VIII, until it sank during a battle in 1545. After its discovery, it was restored and is now on display in Portsmouth.

Jowitt said the discovery of the HMS Gloucester wreckage would “fundamentally change understanding of 17th-century social, maritime and political history”. She added: “It is an outstanding example of underwater cultural heritage of national and international importance.”

An exhibition is planned for spring 2023 at Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery to display finds from the wreck and share ongoing historical, scientific and archaeological research.

(Sources: [www.itv.com/news/](http://www.itv.com/news/), Wikipedia, [www.theguardian.com/](http://www.theguardian.com/))



The Wreck of HMS 'Gloucester' off Yarmouth  
Painting by Monamy Swaine

## Our language section

### Saying nothing

Während in der englischen Umgangssprache die Worte "nothing" und "nought" häufig als gleichbedeutend betrachtet werden, ist das in Bezug auf die Mathematik nicht der Fall. So wird die Gleichung " $x = 0$ " als "x equals nought" ausgesprochen.

In der englischen Sprache gibt es weitere sehr unterschiedliche Ausdrücke für die Null:

#### Beispiele:

Im Tennis wird der Spielstand "... zu 0" als "love" bezeichnet.

In der Sportart Cricket wird dieser Spielstand "duck" (von "duck's egg") genannt.

In anderen Ballsportarten, wie z.B. Fußball, wird der Ausdruck "nil" verwendet, wenn eine Mannschaft kein Tor erzielen konnte. Das Wort "nil" kann man jedoch auch in anderen Zusammenhängen verwenden: "The vitamin content of the dish was practically nil." (Der Vitamingehalt des Gerichts lag praktisch bei null.)

Für die Temperaturangabe 0°C wird "zero" benutzt.

Die "0" in Telefonnummern und Zimmernummern in Hotels wird normalerweise als "oh" gesprochen, wenn die Zahlen einzeln angesagt werden.

In der britischen Umgangssprache hört man manchmal auch "zilch" für die 0.

Ab und zu fällt im Englischen sogar das Wort "null" (ausgesprochen: "nall"), wie z.B. in dem Satz "If the contract is not signed by both parties, it is null and void." (Wenn der Vertrag nicht von beiden Parteien unterschrieben wird, ist er null und nichtig.)

### Pack your suitcase

Packen Sie Ihren Koffer für den nächsten Urlaub. Entscheiden Sie, welche zwei Gegenstände aus der Liste Sie für den jeweiligen Urlaub mitnehmen.

**binoculars - city map - comfortable shoes - helmet - skiing equipment - sun cream - swimming costume - walking boots**

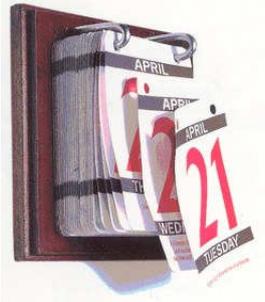
1. hiking holiday: ,
2. beach holiday: ,
3. city break: ,
4. skiing holiday: ,

## Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 94 "The little ones"

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. swan - cygnet | 2. cat - kitten     |
| 3. lion - cub    | 4. hen - chick      |
| 5. deer - fawn   | 6. horse - foal     |
| 7. whale - calf  | 8. dog - puppy      |
| 9. boar - piglet | 10. kangaroo - joey |

## THE CHRONICLE

### What happened ....



... 125 years ago: 10 August 1897 - Automobile Club of Great Britain (later Royal Automobile Club) formed

..... 25 years ago: 6 September 1997 - Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales

..... 60 years ago: 18 October 1962 - Harold Macmillan resigns as Prime Minister after Profumo affair