



# Österreichisch-Britische Gesellschaft Austro-British Society

**Open every Thursday 7 pm onwards at  
Karfreitstr. 6/1 (occasionally elsewhere)**

## May 2014, Newsletter

Dear Members



Spring has been a delight and we enjoyed a number of 'fab' events, including four Club Night's Out. Our trip to Riegersburg in Styria was a highlight. The comradie on the bus was magic, the chocolate factory at Zotter was unique, our tour of the castle (in English) was excellent, the bird show magnificent and our meal at Wippel's Hofbergstubb'n yummy and gemütlich.

As we move into summer we have an array of great events for you to share and enjoy. Check out the details on page 2. Happy reading.

Australian Susan

## Man of the Month



**John Gayler**

We were all a little concerned but John insisted. There was no question in his mind. Of course he could do it, why not? So what that he is over 80 and the climb would be difficult for even the youngest and fit. And, he did it! John climbed to the top of Riegersburg Castle.

**No Granny Lift for John!**



**A GREAT  
LOSS  
TO THE  
CLUB**

### **Robert Boulton**

We sadly report that Bob has died, after a stay in hospital, on April 30th. Everyone respected Bob: he had the driest of wit and the bravery to tell it how it is! But we were not fooled; Bob was a kind and sensitive man. He was a great listener and made time for the people he cared about. Bob was a true individual and his opinion could always be trusted to clarify and enlighten. Our deepest sympathy is with Bob's wife Karin and family.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thu 5 Jun



## Open Quiz On the Terrace

Brain Teasers will be presented by Australian Susan. There will be no teams for this quiz. Enjoy the fun atmosphere and give your brain a work out. Bring your clever hat! Start 8.15pm.

Thu 26 June

## Club Night Out

**Where:** Villa Toskana, Sonnwendgasse 27 - St. Ruprecht direction

**Time:** 7pm onwards. Need a lift - ask at the club.

Fri 27 Jun



## Les Lee Lane and the Hillbillies - "The Sixties"

Not an official club event but one of our members, Leslie Lane, is playing at Burg Stein in Lavantal. In addition to the music Leslie will also tell the audience about life in the `swinging sixties`. It's a long drive. Private cars could be organised for maybe an afternoon/evening trip.

Contact Helen 0650 5668278 or info@austrobritish.com

Sat 26 Jul



## Annual Summer Party

**Where:** Gasthaus Alte Stadtgrenze on the road of the same name connecting Völkermarkterstrasse (where Vögele and OBI are) and Pischeldorferstrasse.

**When:** 5pm onwards. Food to be served at 6pm.

**Cost:** Members - free, Guests - €20, pay for your own drinks.

Thu 7th Aug

## Club Night Out

**Where:** Linder / Seepark Hotel on the lake. Meet on the terrace at the Gig bar.

**Time:** 7pm onwards. Need a lift - ask at the club.



Thu 11 Sep

## Club Night Out

**Where:** Felsenkeller, Schleppe Kurve

**Time:** 7pm onwards. Need a lift - ask at club.

Sun 14 Sep



## Tscheppaschlucht / Bodental trip (weather permitting)

For the `fit and those not afraid of heights` - clamber through the spectacular gorge and up to Bodental. For the `not so fit` but needing exercise - walk up to the Märchenwiese. For those just interested in food and drink - we will all meet up at

**Gasthaus Sereinig, Bodental.** Further details provided closer to the time.

Check out the latest club photos on our website at [www.austrobritish.com](http://www.austrobritish.com)



## **Prince Philip Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Gluckberg**

*We all know of Prince Philip, husband to the Queen, but what about his early life?*

Prince Philip Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Gluckberg is the name with which he was born, on a dinner table, reputedly, on the island of Corfu.

‘When he needed a father’ said the man who was Prince Philip's first private secretary, ‘there just wasn't anybody there’. He had a lonely childhood. The young Prince of Greece was passed among relatives and sent from school to school. He came to Princess Elizabeth strong on duty but short on affection.

His mother, Alice of Battenberg, Lord Louis Mountbatten's sister, married Prince Andrew of Greece in 1903. She was English, though her father had once been German.

By the mid-1920s the Greek Royal family was facing a fundamental threat to its future existence. When a revolutionary court sentenced Prince Andrew to death, he, his wife and their five children (Philip and 4 sisters) fled their home.

Having escaped from Greece, the family settled at St Cloud, a villa on the outskirts of Paris which belonged to Marie Bonaparte, Prince Philip's aunt. This drastic and traumatic change in circumstance opened a rift between Prince Andrew and Princess Alice from which they never recovered. Plus, Alice's life-long isolation due to deafness, after a bout of measles at an early age, deepened later in life and when her marriage broke down in 1930, she withdrew into her religious order for the rest of her life. His father turned to the gambling tables.

The British Royal Family took it upon itself to assist its relations. Princess Alice's father, Prince Louis of Battenberg, had become a naturalised British citizen in 1868 (the name Mountbatten originates from Battenberg).

A string of relatives stepped in to ensure Philip was fed, clothed and formally educated. But he was neglected emotionally and starved of the loving attention children need. He left France to attend school (Cheam) in England. However, at secondary level education it was decided that the Prince should experience academic life in another country.

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With this in mind, Philip was sent, at the age of 12, to continue his studies at Salem, a school in Southern Germany.

Once again, however, politics conspired to alter the Prince's life dramatically and it was not long before he found himself on the move again. Not long after the National Socialist party came to power in Germany in January 1933 Philip's mentor, Kurt Hahn, realised that he would not be able to continue his educational work under so repressive and dangerous a regime. In 1934, he (Kurt) moved his base to Scotland where he founded Gordonstoun, the innovative public school which impressed Prince Philip to such an extent that he went on to send all three of his sons there - in Prince Charles's case, not entirely happily.

The young Prince, who had already suffered crises and pressures far beyond the imaginings of most teenage boys, quickly transformed himself into the Gordonstoun ideal - a strong, self-reliant individual ever-ready to tackle whatever new challenges life cared to throw at him. Prince Philip left Gordonstoun in 1939, but the pioneer spirit it had fostered in him soon found another home: the Royal Navy.

The engagement to Elizabeth was announced in July 1947 and Philip renounced his Greek and Danish titles, converted from Greek Orthodoxy to Anglicanism and became a British subject with the surname Mountbatten.

Marriage to Elizabeth gave Philip a home, a country, a passport, a new religion and the first real stability he'd ever enjoyed. Elizabeth accepted the exile for what he was and offered him a sense of belonging. When he formally proposed to Princess Elizabeth, in 1947, he knew he was sentencing himself to spending his old age walking one step behind the monarch, but he could reasonably expect 20 or 30 years as the King's son-in-law, pursuing his career in the Navy. Instead, he was suddenly plunged into his public role when the King died at the age of only 56. He broke the news to his wife while they were in Kenya. His private secretary, Colonel Michael Parker, said that he looked as if half the world had dropped on him.

Now unable to pursue any normal career, he dedicated himself to supporting his wife and sponsoring charities.

## NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014

President	Helen Taupe	0650 5668278
Secretary	Elisabeth Riedl	0664 4506196
Treasurer	Walter Taupe	0664 73145545
Publications Editor	Susan Griffiths	0688 8112832
Bar Steward	John Gayler	0650 2093125
Advisor	Walter Ludescher	0650 6485441
Auditor	Gert Thomasser	xxxxxxx

## **Welcome to New Club Members:**

**Endgang Grünkranz  
Elamr Kehl  
Samantha Neumann  
Gertrude Müller  
Gebhard Baurecht**