



Österreichisch-Britische Gesellschaft Austro-British Society

Open every Thursday 7 pm onwards at Karfreitstr. - 6/1.
Club Tel: 0650 5668278 & 0664 4506196.
www.austrobritish.com

Feb 2015, Newsletter



Dear Members

As always we have had some great events since the last newsletter. What makes these events so special is you. On the 15th of November we had an enormous turn out for our 'behind the scenes' tour of the Stadttheater. It was truly fascinating and has certainly enriched our appreciation of what it takes to bring a performance to the stage.

The Christmas party: again a great turn out. We had fun and the food was plentiful and scrumptious. And, just the other week another great turn out for our Quiz Night but this time, themed with a difference.

We had a number of successful Club Nights Out, so we have three more planned for you at the Schlosswirt Ebental, Molly Malones and Augustin. We also have a club excursion to Terra Mystica, an adventure not to be missed. We are very pleased to announce that Anthony Hall has agreed to conduct another Town Walk Quiz in spring.

Please mark the 12th March in your diary now. This is the date of our Annual General Meeting. It is your opportunity to vote for the committee and put your voice forward. See you there!

Australian Susan



Sadly we announce the loss of Josi Wilkinson on the 10th January: a long standing member of the society.



Stadttheater Tour 2014



Calendar of Events

12 Feb Fasching Evening

This year the club will celebrate Fasching on the last Thursday of the season. Go to page 4 for a 'Brief History of Fasching. Doughnuts will be in abundance!

12 Mar Annual General Meeting, 8.15 punctually



You are hereby officially invited to the club's Annual General Meeting. Voice your opinion, vote in the new committee. Nominations for committee members should be made at least 2 weeks beforehand to our Secretary, Elisabeth Riedl.

19 Mar Club Night Out, Schlosswirt Ebental, 7pm onwards

Apr 9

Presentation by Dr. Neugebauer, 8.15pm

"The English Major with the Carinthian resistance fighters"

This presentation will discuss Dr. Neugebauer's research into the circumstances of the death of a British Major in WW2. Full of intrigue, this true story involves Ian Fleming (the James Bond author), partisans and much more.

18 Apr Club Excursion to Terra Mystica (Tour in English!)



A journey into the mines of old begins with the 68m long miner's slide (staircase and lift for the unwilling). Transport will be by car sharing. Entry is about €15.00. For a history of the Terra Montana mines at Bad Bleiberg go to page 3. Further details to be provided, nearer the time, via email.

23 Apr Club Night Out, Molly Malones, 7pm onwards

25 Apr Anglican Easter Church Service (time to be advised)

Please note this date is a Saturday.

21 May Town Quiz Walk, 7.00pm



Organized by Anthony Hall this event is a winner. Start time is 7pm, Last departure 7.30. The quiz sheets will be at the club waiting for you. There will be a minimum of three in a group. The early start is to ensure that if you get lost, it will still be daylight and we will still have time to find you!

Start answers 21.00.

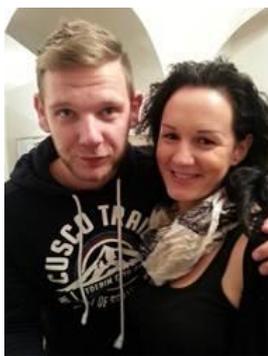
In the event of bad weather this event will be deferred to the 28 May.

11 Jun Club Night Out, Augustin, 7pm onwards

New Club Website

Our Webmaster Colin Finch has made further changes and innovations. Check it out for yourselves!

www.austrobritish.com



Love is in the Air

Congratulations to our two lovebirds Dave and Natalie. We wish you every happiness on your engagement.

Terra Montana

(Terra Mystica)



There is no better place to experience how important the mining industry once was for Carinthia's economy, than a visit to the show mine Terra Montana at Bad Bleiberg. A visit to Terra Montana is an ideal activity when the weather is bad, or a refreshing place to escape very hot days, as the temperature in the mining galleries remains a constant 9 degrees Celsius.

Bleiberg was the centre for the mining of lead and zinc from the 14th century onwards. Ownership originally belonged to the diocese of Bamberg (in Bavaria) then passed to the House of Austria in 1753. In 1863 the Habsburgs, with the Bleiberg Bergwerks Union (BBU), set up a new management for the site. Although the BBU was one of the most modern underground mines in Europe, producing almost 500,000 tons of crude ore in 1979, the mine was operating in the red. Consequently it was closed for good in 1993.

The show mine Terra Montana conserves this 700-year-old tradition. A 68m long slide takes you down to a mine railway, upon which you ride for 2km along the mine's gallery system. There, a 700m long circuit awaits you. At 14 stations information is provided about the working environment of the miners, the history of mining in the area and production methods. There is even a demonstration of blasting.

Bookings open soon for this fabulous Club Excursion on the 18th April.

A Brief History of Fasching

Fasching is more or less a Roman Catholic and Christian Orthodox celebration. It is a time of festivity and merry making, a time to break the rules and poke fun at those who make them.

The fasching tradition can be traced to medieval times when life and laws were harsh. At this time kings, princes and other leaders maintained their own courts and in so doing, flaunted their pomp and splendour at the expense of their 'subjects'.

During fasching the common people took a chance at 'living it up" and "talking back to their rulers". People in authority (including sovereigns) were the target of ridicule and featured in humorous and satirical speeches. In effect the rules and order of daily life were subverted.

To avoid persecution and punishment, the people wore masks and costumes. Parades, dancing in the streets, masquerade balls, satirical skits and generally excessive behaviour filled the days: all of which are still common elements of contemporary fasching celebrations.

Eventually things got out of hand and the custom was forbidden, for a while anyway. Even Empress Maria Theresia (1717-1780) decreed, at one point, that masks would no longer be allowed in the streets; whereupon the revelry was moved indoors. This was the beginning of the splendid balls for which Vienna has become so famous. However, fasching is not limited to the big cities. Even the smallest villages compete with each other in arranging parades and balls.



Club Christmas Party 2014

Membership Fees 2015

Thank you to those who have already paid. For those who have not, please pay at the bar or to our bank:

Österreichisch-Britische Gesellschaft
Kärntner Sparkasse
IBAN AT50 20706 00000 109876

Individuals €30

Family/Partner €40 (Parents and children to 14 yrs.)

Important