



# 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](http://www.austrobritish.com)**

## June 2015, Newsletter



Dear Members

I think 'interesting' best describes the events we have shared since our last newsletter. Our Club Night Out at Molly Malones was, well, 'interesting'. We had a big turn out as usual but with a difference: we were entertained by two singers who were sometimes in tune and sometimes not, but we had great fun with them anyway. Then there was the Town Walk organized and conducted by Anthony Hall (thank you Anthony): they just keep getting more and more interesting. We had four teams participating, with the 'Helene, Maria and her daughter Verena team' being the winners.

The presentation by Dr. Christoph Neugebauer was extremely interesting but also a very complex subject - we were all glad we didn't have to take a test at the end of the evening! Speaking of presentations, mark the 25th of June in your diary. Hannes Krakolinig will be giving us a talk about his extremely different life and what he is doing.

Later we have my favourite event of the year - our Summer Party on the 25th July. Plus, we have Club Night Out at the Landhaushof. See you there.

Australian Susan



**Town Walk 2015  
Winning Team**

**Edith Harrison**, one of our longest standing members, sadly passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. We are extremely grateful to Edith's family for asking that, instead of flowers or wreaths, donations be made to the Austro British Society. We are planning a special commemorative Club Trip, to celebrate Edith's life. This will most likely be in autumn, or if not, in spring.

## Edith Harrison



# Calendar of Events

## 25 Jun Talk by Hannes Krakolinig

Hannes Krakolinig is an ex-student of Walter Ludescher. He could be described as “A jack of all trades, unable to settle down, but having now found a place in Ecuador, where he tries successfully to help the local population.”

**Please note this talk will be in GERMAN. Start: 8.15 pm**

## 25 Jul Summer Party, Schlosswirt in Ebenthal

**Saturday** 5 pm onwards, food to be served at 5.45pm.



Perhaps a little more ‘upmarket’ this year, but the venue is beautiful and the food wonderful. Hence we do need to ask each member for a € 5.00 contribution. The starters and desserts will be a ‘buffet’ but the main meal not. We will ask you to specify your menu choice closer to the time and will also supply you with a map.

## End Jul/ Open-Air Cinema in the Burghof

**early Aug** Helen will advise members, by email, should any good films in English be showing at the open-air cinema.

## 6 Aug The club will be closed due to the Altstadtzauber.

## 20 Aug Club night out at the Landhaushof, 7pm onwards



A simply superb venue, surrounded by history, with the stars twinkling above. Atmosphere and gut gemütlich is guaranteed!

## Mid Sep Possible Hiking Trip

*This will depend on the weather and the level of interest, nearer the time.*

**Peter Matthews** recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup>. A small number of us went to visit him in the Seniorenheim in Kühnsdorf. Peter had a fall a few months back, but we are happy to report that he is back in splendid shape. Peter has lost a lot of weight but he is as ‘full on’ as ever and his humour is as sharp as we have always known it to be. Peter said that he has received enough presents of alcoholic drinks that he “could open a pub”. We hope to see you at our Summer Party Peter!

## Peter Matthews





***Are you aware that we have an amazingly talented artist among our membership?***

***She is also our first and only Russian member!***

# ***Nadia Kisseleva***

The photo above was taken at Nadia's recent vernissage, held in Klagenfurt, which some of you visited. The photo shows Nadia's work in the background - the man in the foreground is Nadia's husband, Dietmar. Nadia describes the message of this exhibition in her own words:

***"The political climate and mechanism created by Stalin exterminated more than 20 million people in Soviet Russia: people of different classes, nationalities and ages. Some of the victims I have chosen to portray were caught at the different stages of their condition: hope, despair, depression, physical and mental suffering. However, they are 'united' by one important detail - they were all promptly executed with no chance to defend themselves."***

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Nadia began her professional training at the age of fourteen at Ryazan College of Art, in her native Russia, before going on to study at the Academy of Arts in Leningrad. In 1980 she moved to Kenya, East Africa, where her work quickly gained recognition and popularity. During the following years she built up a reputation as an innovative artist. Nadia was involved in numerous exhibitions and was the founding member of 'Artforce' group which sponsored and supported the development of hapless young artists. Nadia was a popular art pedagogue at the Nairobi School of Fine Art, which she also founded.

After sixteen years living in Kenya, Nadia moved with her family to the United Kingdom. Here she studied at Birmingham City University and the University of Arts, London. In 2002 she became a member of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists.

Nadia currently lives and works in Birmingham (UK) and Maria Saal (Austria). For further information about the artist and her work, visit

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



2015 - the 800th anniversary of the

# Magna Carta, 2015

STOP  
PRESS

## What is the Magna Carta?

The Magna Carta is one of the most famous documents in the world. Originally issued by King John of England, the Magna Carta established (for the first time) the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law.

Most of the 63 clauses granted by King John dealt with specific grievances relating to his rule. However, buried within them were a number of fundamental values that both challenged the autocracy of the king and proved highly adaptable in future centuries. Most famously, the 39th clause gave all 'free men' the right to justice and a fair trial. Some of Magna Carta's core principles are echoed in the United States Bill of Rights (1791) and in many other constitutional documents around the world, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1950).

## Background: who was King John?

John became king in 1199 when his brother, Richard the Lionheart, died without any children. John had to deal with a lot of issues while he was king, including the Pope excommunicated him. John was constantly at war with France and to finance this war he placed heavy taxes on the Barons of England.

## Signing the Magna Carta



By 1215, the barons of northern England had had enough of John's high taxes. They decided to rebel. Led by Baron Robert Fitzwalter, they marched on London calling themselves the "army of God". After taking London, John agreed to negotiate with them.

King John met the barons on June 15, 1215 at Runnymede, a neutral site just west of London. Here the barons demanded that King John sign a document called the Magna Carta guaranteeing them certain rights. By signing the document, King John agreed to do his duty as King of England, upholding the law and running a fair government. In return, the barons agreed to stand down and surrender London.

Some of the rights these clauses promised included: protection of church rights, access to swift justice, no new taxes without the Barons' agreement, limitations on feudal payments, protection from illegal imprisonment and the establishment of a council of 25 Barons who would insure that King John followed the laws. This council of 25 barons eventually became the Parliament of England.