

Österreichisch-Britische Gesellschaft Austro-British Society

Open most Thursdays, 7 pm onwards at Karfreitstr. 6/1.

Club Tel: 0650 5668278 & 0664 4506196.

www.austrobritish.com

October 2020, Newsletter

Dear members and friends of the Society

Despite Covid 19 and the premise remaining closed for several months, as of July we got our act together and started socialising again. The big event of the year, as usual, was the summer party, attended by well over 40 people. It was held at the Had'n Wirt, where in general people seemed happy with the Gastgarten and food.

We thank Neil for suggesting that in August, when we actually had nothing planned, we should specify meet-up places for those who wished to get together, be it from 2 people through to 20. He proposed a schedule and that is what we stuck to. These meet-ups were a big success, especially that at the Lend Hafen, where about 20 people came along.

The final activity of the summer was when nine of us, an adventurous little group, undertook a trip to the Millstätter See, despite a horrendous weather forecast. As it turned out the weather was perfect for the trip, which included a boat trip, a walk around the town and a good meal up in the hills nearby. Thanks to Peter Ross for organising us.

We are now coming into troubled times again with Covid so although we are putting out an event schedule in this newsletter it may well need to be corrected as we see how this pandemic continues. Stay flexible !!!

Warm regards, Helen and Australian Susan



Early evening, Lend Hafen

To view a wonderful
video of tour 2020
Summer Party go to our
website:

<https://www.austrobritish.com/index.php/photos/2-uncategorised/62-summer-party-2>



Trip to Millstätter See

Calendar of Events

Below is a provisional list of forthcoming events. These events are dependent on what the corona virus is going to do. In the case of uncertainty: phone Helen on 0650 5668278.

11 Oct



(Sunday) The Car Rally: organised by Peter and Chrissi deRidder

Head off into the unknown!! This will be an afternoon event, ending up at a Gasthaus. Details nearer the time, such as place of departure and time. You can drive alone or team up with other people in other cars, or take people in your car. Great fun - until you get lost!!

15 Oct

CLUB NIGHT OUT: Siciliana (an Italian restaurant) Kardinalplatz

Nice place and fab food. We have been there before. 6.30 onwards.

22 Oct

Quiz Night - usually one of the most popular events of the year!

Richard Gould will be our quiz master. Start 8 pm.



11 Nov



(Wednesday) Remembrance Service for those who died in the wars.

The service starts punctually at 10.50 am so please arrive from 10.30am onwards. Many dignitaries from Vienna attend this important service. Address: Commonwealth War Cemetery, Lilienthal Strasse, just off Villacherstrasse.

19 Nov

CLUB NIGHT OUT: Ricardo (a Portuguese restaurant)

Tabakgasse 3. Meet at the Tapas Bar, 6.30 onwards

26 Nov

Winston Churchill: a presentation by Uwe, at the club rooms

10 Dec



Christmas Carol Service at 6pm and party to follow

Altkatholische Kirche, Kaufmannngasse, Klagenfurt.

To be followed by the Christmas Party, as at 7pm. Buffet is free for members. Non-members €10.00.

24 December to 1st January the club will be closed.

7 Jan

Club reopens

4 Feb

CLUB NIGHT OUT: Magdas, Stauderplatz

6.30pm onwards.

4 Mar

Annual General Meeting, Rokohof - start 8pm sharp

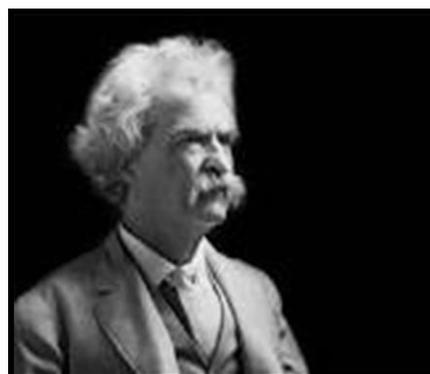
Please mark this date in your diary. A new committee will be voted in and comments and suggestions will be taken from the membership. This is really such an important event for all members to attend.

AGM

"The Awful German Language"

Mark Twain

This essay was published in 1880 as Appendix D in 'A Tramp Abroad'. The essay is a humorous exploration of the frustrations a native speaker of English has with learning German as a second language.



A person who has not studied German at all can have no idea what a difficult language it is.

A usual sentence in a German newspaper, for example, is a quarter of a column long, and the verb always comes in the last line. Then you find out for the first time what the writer is really talking about. Often they put the verb away over on the next page and sometimes, when they are in a hurry, they go to press without getting to the verb at all. Then, of course, the reader has no idea what it is all about.

After the verb and before the end of the sentence there are quite a number of 'haben sind gewesen gehabt haben geworden sein'. I don't know what they mean - actually - I don't think they really mean anything: they are a bit like a special signature - not really necessary but pretty.

Every noun has a gender, and there is no system. In German a young lady has no sex, but a potato has. Horses are sexless, dogs are male, cats are female. A person's mouth, fingers and feet are male, his nose, lips and hands are female and his hair, ears, eyes and heart have no sex at all.

Lots of German words are very long and really difficult for a foreign student to understand. 'Unabhängigkeitserklärung' or 'Stadtverordnetenversammlungen' are not words, they are alphabetical processions, you can see the banners and hear the music.

Personal pronouns are specially difficult in this language. For example, the word 'sie' means 'you', 'she', 'her', 'it', 'they' and 'them': so this poor language has got only one little word of three letters for six different words in English.

When a German finds an adjective, he declines it. In our language we speak of our 'good friend' or 'good friends', but a German says 'mein guter Freund' for my good friend (which can also be 'meinen guten Freund'). 'meines guten Freundes' for 'of my good friend', 'meinem guten Freund' for 'to my good friend' - and the plural is even more difficult. It is better to have no friends at all in Germany than to have all this trouble with them.



Anthony Hall

*One of those who help
to guide the society along its way.*

What first brought me to Austria? My original application to attend a university listed Durham, Hull and Holloway College London but then, because I achieved very good grades on my A levels, it was decided I should stay on at school for a term to sit the Cambridge entrance exam, specifically for Queens' College. I did so and got a place in January but this meant would have a long wait ahead of me till the university year started, so I filled the gap by applying to the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges for a position as a Student Helper in Germany. Why Germany? Mainly because I wanted to study German to become a language teacher and I had worked with Germans on a summer job in a Scarborough hotel as a "Social Secretary" and had become good friends with several Swabians.

The Central Bureau found a vacancy for me in the Albert Schweitzer Schule, a private boarding school in Bad Schwalbach, near Wiesbaden. So off I trotted in April for a two-month stint there, up on a pretty lonely plateau: a two-kilometre walk from the nearest railway station and a bit of an ageing, not to say decrepit, teaching staff. Luckily there was Herr Dunkmann, who took me off for several trips after school to show me the Rhine, Mainz, a German monument, and got me at least close to the Mosel. The food was good, apart from the potatoes and Quark 3 times a week.

The children were all well-behaved, friendly and in the main, interested. They came from wealthy families and one even invited me to his home in Bamberg for Easter. I jumped at the chance, since I had decided to follow the Romantische Strasse at the Easter holiday and try to get to Innsbruck, hitch-hiking. I had not realised how much I had been missing normal conversation, so the car trips were bright and cheery and I got there. And then, the unimagined surprise ...

Austrians are more welcoming than Germans and when I sat down for a meal in an Innsbruck pub, it seemed to me that the whole pub noticed and a chorus of Grüß Gott, Mahlzeit, Guten Appetit, laß es gut schmecken etc. overwhelmed me. This is what, naturally, first took me to Austria. It was only for a weekend, but it was long enough. I kept my friends in Swabia and returned to Austria two years later, courtesy again of the Central Bureau, who was so helpful they even found a language assistant position in Klagenfurt, to get me close to Italy to further my Italian. I had to ask my brother to help me find Klagenfurt on the map. At school we had only learnt about the geography of Australia!

I met Wauki (my wife) in the second Bundesgymnasium/Funderstrasse where she, having studied in Graz, was completing her induction into school life by sitting in on the top teacher's classes. We walked up the stairs together to the 8A matura class, where I was on display at the front in my brother's suit and British school tie, answering two or three questions per class, and otherwise trying not to give away that I had never seen a class with adult girls in it, not to mention an over-age boy sporting a beard. [To be continued in the next newsletter ...](#)