



DEG

No. 1
January 2018

Deutsch- Englische Gesellschaft
Anglo- German Association
Braunschweig e. V.

Newsletter

Published by the editing team of the DEG

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Our yearly membership fee is

20 € for single and 30 € for couple or family

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Dear Members and Friends,

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful New Year 2018.

Thank you all for making the past year so successful especially those who made the visit of BODS from Bath an overwhelming event they really impressed the Stadt Braunschweig and they intend inviting them back next year to the Kulturnacht in BS, but especially the Braunschweig Baugenossenschaft BBS for letting the singers have their flats free of charge as well as the FSV for the use of their club's mini bus, also free of charge, of course not to mention the efforts put in by all members who contributed to a summer party in a completely different venue, which we shall all think of for a very long time, especially the Mayor of Bath who proved to be quite a good player of Viking chess.

The pétanque group also looks back of a very eventful year after having got the taste of playing pétanque in our partner town of Bath. Virtually every week they meet at the TURA sports club where they are often given tips on playing. Soon we shall be getting a licence to participate in competitions with other clubs. Thank you Sabine for all the work you have put into it.

While on names, I would like to take the opportunity also to thank all committee members for their patience and very hard work they have put in to make everything just work, you could not have done a better job, congratulations. All I have to hope for is that you will continue this so "precious" work.

But I still would like to just give little comment on the never ending discussion of diesel and the alternatives. Why are we not buying more electric cars: some people even believe that because nothing comes out of an exhaust pipe they are going to save the world. What matters from an environmental perspective is the impact on the environment from "cradle to grave" -- the complete cycle from manufacturing, through use of the car, to disposal of the car at the end of its "life". Manufacturing electric motors, which use rare-earth metals, is not friendly to the environment. Manufacturing batteries is NOT friendly to the environment. When the electric utilities are powered by fossil fuels and coal, producing the electricity to charge an electric car is not friendly to the environment. At the end of the car's life, disposal of batteries is hardly friendly to the environment. I am not suggesting that we should not make or buy electric cars, nor that they may ultimately be better for the world overall. What I object to is the continued perpetuation of the idea that electric cars are great for the environment. The vast majority of people I speak to, those who own or are considering owning an electric car do not think about any of these issues – alas they only think they'll have a car that "doesn't pollute". If people want electric cars, that is great, but we should be properly informed of the good as well as the bad aspects.

Paul Kavanagh

Conversation Group Programme – January - June 2018

Thursday, 11th January: Bingo Evening
Paul Kavanagh will be our host for this fun evening. Come along and try your luck and maybe you might also win a prize.

Thursday, 25th January: Where is the most beautiful beach in China? - China has a lot of beautiful beaches for holidays. Due to the continuously improving infrastructure, facilities and services, more and more beaches are not only attractive for domestic tourists, but also for international travelers. In this talk, Bianying Song will introduce us to some featured beaches.

Thursday, 8th February: The Churchill Women
Eva Grimpen will profile the Churchill women and their special relationship to Winston Churchill as son, husband and father.

Thursday, 22nd February: The Annual General Meeting. See the separate invitation attached.

Thursday, 8th March: Ottmer Bauer will read from his book "The Leaping Lizard". Poems in iPhone format alongside postmodern ballads and veritable mock epics rhymed of unrhymed. The themes: breakfast scenes, backyard idylls, winter moments, deceptively intermingled with confrontations of art, religion, war, old age, death and inevitable love. A narrative approach - lacking pathos, lacking enigma and certainly lacking any claim to scientific reliability or truth.

Saturday, 7th April: Excursion to the Deutsches Auswandererhaus Museum in Bremerhaven. We will travel with Niedersachsen tickets. Please register carmela53@aol.com
For more info: <http://dah-bremerhaven.de/museum/>

Thursday, 19th April: New Zealand
Dagmar and Michael Theeß will tell us interesting facts about their stopover in Singapore on their way to New Zealand. They will also tell us about places they visited partly alone and partly with their NZ friends. They will show pictures from Maungatautari, a natural reservation on the North Island, following some pictures of Wellington. Further they will show pictures from their tour around parts of the South Island. Finally they will speak about the contract of Waitangi and the North Cape, the holy place of the Maori.

Thursday, 3rd May: Me and the Royal Family
With the upcoming Royal wedding of Prince Harry later this month, Kate Grigat will talk to us about the Royal Family and her special connection to Her Majesty, the Queen.

Thursday, 17th May: Biography of my life in Wales
Sigrid Edwards married a Welsh man and lived in Wales for 7 years. She will recount her life and how she adjusted to her new environment.

Saturday, 16th June: 5.00 pm (17.00) - Garden Party
This year our party will be held in the garden of the Kulturpunkt West. A contribution to the buffet is appreciated.

Meetings take place at, **Kulturpunkt West, Ludwig-Winter-Straße 4, 38120 Braunschweig**, unless otherwise stated. Doors open at 7.30 pm (19.30) with the main topic at 8.00 pm (20.00). Topic may be changed due to unforeseen circumstances.



The DEG Committee works very hard to come up with interesting topics for you, however we would also like to hear from you and would welcome your suggestions and preferences and if anyone would like to give a presentation please inform Paul Kavanagh or any of our committee members.

To support the DEG and its activities, please consider joining us by becoming a member, if you have not already done so. You can ask any of our Committee members for a Membership Form or download it [here](#), print it out, fill it in and then hand it in. We appreciate your support. If you would like to receive our Newsletter please let us have your email address and you will be added to our mailing list.

Pay Day Reminder: The membership fee for 2018 is due in March. Please also make sure that you paid your membership fee for 2017. If not, please do so as soon as possible. Nord LB IBAN DE33250500000000328039

Additional events:

After two musicals in a row, this year the Bizet Opera, Carmen premieres in the Burgplatz Arena on 18.08.2018. If you would like to attend as a group and take advantage of early booking savings please contact carmela53@aol.de

The new Churchill film "The Darkest Hour", a 2017 British biographical war drama, starring Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill, Ben Mendelsohn and Kristin Scott Thomas, opens 18.01.2018 in the C1 Cinema. More details later when it will be shown in the original version.

Braunschweig International will take place on the Kohlmarkt on Saturday, 02.06.2018.



Today the Bath Christmas Market ended after a busy and successful 3 weeks. This year there were over 200 chalets and there were visitors from all over the region.

We look forward to the visit to the Bath City College in January of 5 engineering students from the Heinrich-Büssing-Schule accompanied by Paul Kavanagh and Jens Müller. The students will stay 4 weeks and there will be placements in local firms.

Every fourth Sunday a Lutheran service is held in German in St Thomas' Church in Widcombe. In October a joint Anglican Lutheran service was held in both English and German to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Ich wünsche Ihnen alles gesegnete Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr!

Martin Guest
Bath Braunschweig Twinning Association
www.bath-braunschweigtwinningassociation.co.uk

The strong Anglo-American special relationship has gotten even stronger with the Engagement of Prince Harry to the American actress Meghan Markle. The wedding will take place in Windsor Castle on the 19th May, 2018. With her warmth and charm, Meghan has the potential to become the new "people's princess". Like Harry, she will be loved by the people of Britain and all the Commonwealth countries.

Letter to Zimbabwe:

Dear Zimbabwe,

I knew you quite well when you were still called Rhodesia, your bustling cities Salisbury (now Harare) and Bulawayo. The grand Victoria Falls Hotel, the original colonial hotel built by the Brits in 1904, a reminder of the elegant by-gone era, with its private path to your spectacular Victoria Falls, - Niagara Falls pales in comparison! One could almost imagine to meet Dr. David Livingstone himself along the way. Your leader was Ian Smith then, and your economy was vibrant and strong! You were known as the "bread basket of Africa".

Britain did not want you anymore and you became independent, your name changed to Zimbabwe (meaning "House of Stones" in the Shona language) and Robert Mugabe became your leader in 1980. There was a mass exodus of your citizens, mainly south to South Africa, back to the UK or elsewhere in the world. Mugabe encouraged the takeovers of white-owned farms, many farmers even lost their lives, leading to economic collapse triggering years of hyperinflation and food shortages for your citizens. He enriched himself owning expensive real estate in South Africa and other parts of the world, a Rolls-Royce probably worth more than your entire GDP, while you crumbled and your people suffered. He rigged elections and kept himself in power for 37 years, ridiculed the UK and blamed London for all your problems. Mugabe's spats with Tony Blair are legendary.

The 93-year old Robert Mugabe has finally been ousted and you now have a new leader, the 74-year old Emmerson "Crocodile" Mnangagwa.

Quo Vadis Zimbabwe? Will your citizens scattered all over the world rush back home? Probably not! Will your new President be able to revive your economy? Will white farmers be encouraged to return to farm your rich fertile soil again? Will you once more become the "bread basket of Africa"? You and your wonderful people deserve a better future. Or will it be more of the same? – Only time will tell.

Best wishes,
Carmela Folgosa