



DEG

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

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Our yearly membership fee is

25 € for single and 40 € for couple or family

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Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends,

Braunschweig and Bath - Two beautiful towns twinned in Germany and England

Brexit did not and will not impair our relationship with the UK at all. It has encouraged us even more to work closer together with our twin town Bath, having more events, more personal exchanges, more visits with cultural programmes of all kinds, just think of the cultural events last summer with two music groups from Bath and not to speak of fostering exchanges of young people from the Heinrich Bussing Schule. Twinning is about friendship and expanding relationships. Getting to know people and to see how they live, what their values are, their culture and history. Finally, it's having fun together and enjoying the international community.

Most of us did not want the Brexit, but now we have to accept it. This means we have to enforce our activities. Twinning means to meet people preferably in the family. Through such meetings the prejudices don't come up and very often close friendships develop.

The coming years will not be easy, it is our responsibility to prevent new prejudices being developed. If we gain more and more friends this just cannot happen. We should be so happy that we have had peace in Europe for more than 75 years. Since we had the privilege to live in such a peaceful time it is our responsibility to preserve this for our children and grandchildren. Therefore twinning is so important.

Put in a nutshell, twinning is as important as ever – Brexit or no Brexit. We will continue to work toward consolidating and extending our links with our twin towns, even with Braunschweig's other twinned cities abroad – working, if necessary, that little bit harder.

Paul Kavanagh

### Braunschweig Twin Cities links

Bath / Braunschweig: [www.bath-braunschweigtwinningassociation.co.uk](http://www.bath-braunschweigtwinningassociation.co.uk)

Sousse / Deutsch Tunesische Gesellschaft: [www.deutsch-tunesische-gesellschaft.de](http://www.deutsch-tunesische-gesellschaft.de)

Nimes / Deutsch-Französische Gesellschaft e. V. Braunschweig: [www.dfg-bs.de](http://www.dfg-bs.de)

Zhuhai / Deutsch-Chinesische Gesellschaft Braunschweig e. V.: [www.dcgbs.de](http://www.dcgbs.de)

Bandung / Deutsch-Indonesische Gesellschaft: [www.dig-niedersachsen.de](http://www.dig-niedersachsen.de)

Kiryat Tivon / Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft e.V.: <https://braunschweig.deutsch-israelische-gesellschaft.de>

**Pay Day Reminder:** Please note as stated in the letterhead above, we increased our membership fee to 25 € for single and 40 € for couple/family in 2019. The membership fee for 2020 is due in March and if you have not yet paid your membership fee for 2019, please do so as soon as possible. Nord LB IBAN DE33250500000000328039

## Conversation Group Programme – January - July 2020

N.B.: As we are not very happy with the location at the Kulturpunkt West, mainly because of the bad acoustics, we have been searching for an alternative location. We have found a possibly suitable location, "Wohnen mit Zukunft" Ambet, Ilmenaustraße 2, 38120 Braunschweig. How to get there: <https://goo.gl/maps/iwW8y7Gc3ZZ3HovS9>

Paul and some committee members have viewed the premises and would recommend moving, however we would like to give our DEG members the opportunity to get to know the premises before we make a final decision. We therefore, propose to have our 23.01.2020 meeting (Narrowboating) there to try out the location and we would appreciate it if you are able to attend so that you can give us your opinion whether to move or not.

### **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January: Introduction to our Blog**

Maria Stenzel from Stadt Marketing, will introduce us to the Blog she has created which involves our Association and the Bath Twinning Association. This is not only for IT specialists and technical freaks!

### **Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January: Narrowboating – (meeting takes place at Ilmenaustraße 2, 38120 Braunschweig)**

Four inexperienced women ages 61 to 68 spent a week on a narrowboat in Cheshire last year. They cruised 41 miles on the Llangollen and the Cheshire Union Canal - opening and closing 30 locks on their way. The canals in England date partially back to Roman times but the canal system was mainly a product of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and is nowadays almost exclusively used for tourism.

Gudrun Schweimler-Löffler will show us how they learned to steer the boat, what to consider when the locks are opened and closed, how they lived on the boat and what else they saw and did on their route from Wrenbury Mill to Chester and back.

### **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February: Barbara's Cruise**

Barbara Heck will tell us about her Aida trip from Hamburg to Southampton and back along the coast.

### **Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February: AGM**

Annual General Meeting- see separate invitation. Hoping that all members will attend as final decision is to be made whether we move to the new location, Ilmenaustraße 2.

### **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March: Childhood in Wales**

Coinciding with Saint David's day celebration on 01.03., our member, Gwyneth Jones will talk about Wales' Patron Saint and her childhood in rural Wales during the 1940s and 1950s.

### **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March: Short story**

Astrid Wagner will read a short story from a 1993 collection of short stories "The facts behind the Helsinki Roccamatios" by the Canadian author Yann Martel, best known for his 2001 Book Prize Winning novel "Life of Pi".

The short story title from this book is "The Vita Aeterna Mirror Company, Mirrors to Last till Kingdom Come".

A young man is visiting his elderly grandmother. She tries to tell him stories from the history of his family, but he refuses to listen; her dialogue is rendered as blah, blah, blah.

Searching her house for a pair of moccasins, the narrator comes across a machine that makes mirrors and asks his grandmother how it works.

She explains that it requires four ingredients oil, sand, silver, and memories. In fact the machine turns memories into mirrors bringing her grandson to an appreciation of his grandmother's life.

### **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April: Outing to the Braunschweig Library – Time: 17.00 hrs.**

Barbara Howe has arranged for Ms Gärtner from the Library to give us a special tour highlighting English books. Meeting place: Schloßplatz

### **Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May: California**

Dagmar Theeß recently visited California. She will talk about her interesting journey through the State including San Francisco, the good and the more difficult life in Silicon valley as well as Stanford and Berkeley Universities.

### **Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May: Beatrix Potter Reading**

Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) was an English writer, illustrator, natural scientist, and conservationist.

Growing up isolated from other children, she developed a love of landscape, flora, and fauna, all of which she closely observed. However, she is best known for her children's books and her illustrations featuring animals.

Gudrun Schweimler-Löffler will read Potter's Taylor of Gloucester and will talk about her life and her legacy as she left almost all her property to the National Trust and is credited with preserving much of the land that now constitutes the Lake District National Park.

### **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June: Bingo**

A fun evening of bingo with Paul.

### **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July: Summer Party**

Once again this year our summer party at the Kulturpunkt West will be organised by the Stadt Braunschweig and will include all the twin cities. Due to lack of capacity, this event is reserved for members only.

More details and full programme later.

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.

### **Additional events:**

25.04.2020 – a group of members and friends will attend the musical "Chicago" at the Staatstheater

06.06.2020 – participation at Braunschweig International on the Kohlmarkt. More details later.

27.06.2020 – "Madama Butterfly" premiers in the Arena on the Burgplatz.