



independent
supra-regional

THE FRANCONIAN

Publication of The Franconian Society e.V.

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July 2018

STAMMTISCH EVENINGS

1st Friday of every month

The Society's meeting place is always
Turnerbund Sports Club,
Spardorfer Str. 79, Erlangen, unless
otherwise indicated

Stammtisch begins at: 6:30 p.m.

Programme begins at: 8:15 p.m.

STAMMTISCH PROGRAMMES

Fr 3rd Aug. Stammtisch + "Under the Oak Tree"

Fr 7th Sept. Stammtisch + "St. Rochus and St. Johannes - the fascinating story of two European cemeteries" with Frank Gillard

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Franconians,

By the time you read this, the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, will have passed. How we yearn in February and March for the days to get longer and warmer, so we can sit outside in balmy June and July and barbecue amid the mosquitoes, and yet all the while aware that autumn is waiting in the wings. *"And summer's lease hath all too short a date"*, said the bard (of Avon), while good old Enid Blyton* wrote in one of her Famous Five books: *"I do love the beginning of the summer hols," said Julian. They always seem to stretch out ahead for ages and ages. 'They go so nice and slowly at first,' said Anne, his little sister. 'Then they start to gallop."*

How right she was. Summer suddenly appears and you have to grab it before it fades, before it gallops off into autumn. Under the Oak Tree (in July and August) is as good a place as any to do this, a good place to share your summer anecdotes on a warm

evening in front of an overladen plate of Turnerbund cooking. A good place to discuss the events and talks with which we have tried to interest you.

The visit to the Zeidelmuseum in Feucht on 16th June was the most recent and certainly one of the most interesting. Fascinating might be a more appropriate adjective considering all we heard about bees and their unimaginable resourcefulness. We learnt about queen bees, workers and drones, about honey, beeswax, royal jelly and propolis. And, of course, about the Zeidler, the wild-honey gatherers in the Imperial Forest and the beekeepers who keep their hives in their back gardens. After a hesitant start, eighteen Franconians signed up, who after the museum sat in the garden of a Thai restaurant for a good meal and a good chat.

On 17th May about the same number travelled to the Planetarium in Nuremberg for a presentation in English on the possibility of extra-terrestrial life, and

afterwards we were treated to a short talk on the history of the planetarium and its technology. It is only a few hundred yards from the Plärrer and hence very easy to get to from Erlangen. I'm sure more would have come if they had realized how accessible it is.

In May we had a number of other events, starting with the so-called Rädli on May Day, when families cycle around the city getting some fresh air and learning about the city's many societies and clubs, of which we are but one! Hardly any of our members turned up. It was a pretty chilly day, but we did have the opportunity to talk to a number of potential new members. Many thanks have to go to Bridget and Teresa and others for setting everything up, bringing games for the children to play and providing the Rädli's guessing game. If that has left you guessing, then come to next year's event!

May is also the month when Teresa reserves tables for us at the Bergkirchweih. This is usually a popular event in our calendar, but this year quite a few of our regulars were out of town and our numbers were slightly lower than in the recent past. Teresa's choice of venue (Fleischmann's Garten) is perfect in that food is close at hand, queues negligible and the noise levels tolerable. Well done to Teresa.

Our May Stammtisch at the beginning of the month was a very informative talk on the work of the Erlangen "Lebenshilfe". Despite our affluent society – and Erlangen definitely belongs to the more affluent cities and towns in Germany – there are so many people of all ages and backgrounds that are desperate for extra support that we have to be immensely grateful for organizations like Lebenshilfe and their dedicated workers. If you weren't at the talk and want to know more, perhaps about

how you could help as a volunteer, why not take a peep at their journal "Treffpunkt". I'm sure you can find it in their own shop (Nürnbergerstr. 47), which, incidentally, is full of wonderful gift ideas, especially for children.

This reminds me, of course, that on 26th April, just before the completion of the last Newsletter, we had visited another organization helping people deal with serious life issues. This is Wabe, established in 1987 to provide support for people with psychological issues. Its main goals are to provide help with accommodation, to offer employment in a supervised workshop, and to assist people reintegrate into society. It also runs a meeting centre (wabene) in Erlangen's Henkestrasse. If you come to the coffee afternoon at wabene on 26th July, organized by Teresa, you can see for yourself what a pleasant building it is.

Our Stammtisch on 8th June was our traditional pub-quiz organized yet again by Yvonne, our consummate quiz mistress. Some of us walk away from these evenings feeling totally distraught over memory loss and sheer stupidity, but everyone who took part was given some chocolate, a known remedy for depression. Yvonne no doubt will find some more tricky questions for next year. Bring on the chocolate.

While it's summer still, let me point you in the direction of our country walks! We had a gorgeous day on 13th May for our circular Walberle hike starting in Kirchehrenbach, which Christoph organized for everyone, even managing to avoid a thunderstorm or two, so we all returned to our cars dry and in good spirits. Mairi has organized the next walk scheduled for 24th June. It begins in Streitberg and will take us to Muggendorf and along the romantic Wiesent. It augurs well and I do hope a good few will be able to

make it. The next Newsletter will contain the report!

Before I close, let me mention the funeral of our first President, Paul von Tucher. The church where he had often preached himself, the Erlangen Altstädter Kirche, saw a very large congregation gathering to pay their last respects to the man who was born in India, had worked as a minister in the USA and who had spent his final decades in Erlangen. It was here, over thirty years ago, that he founded our society, for which we are all truly grateful. A publication commemorating his life is being planned by Ingeborg. After the service Paul was laid to rest in the beautiful graveyard outside the Tucher chapel in Simmelsdorf. Our thoughts are with Becky and his children and grandchildren.



Well that is all from me, just before I leave for my holidays in France, and then England. Unfortunately, I will miss Valerie's excursion to Kulmbach on 21st July, but I hope I am an exception! Do go along and give her your support.

Dear members of the Franconian Society, I hope your summer break was or will be unforgettable and that you didn't feel that your vacation "galloped" away overly quickly. We'll see each other again, I'm sure, before the autumn!

Frank Gillard

**Enid Mary Blyton (1897–1968) was an English children's writer whose books have been among the world's best-sellers since the*

1930s, selling more than 600 million copies. Blyton's books are still enormously popular, and have been translated into 90 languages.

ASSISTANCE FROM MEMBERS NEEDED

MEMORIES OF PAUL

As a good friend of Becky and Paul von Tucher, since their arrival in Erlangen, I would like to put together a booklet in honour of Paul, encompassing his many-faceted life to be presented to his family at Christmas.

I would like to include a chapter of your memories and experiences – both happy and sad – of and with Paul, similar to the book that Paul put together for Brinda Swatek. In order to reach my deadline, I ask all those who wish to contribute to please do so by 31st August 2018. Please send your contributions to me by email: i_loetterle@web.de or by post: **Komotauer Str. 9, 91052 Erlangen. Ingeborg Lötterle**

NEWS OF AND FOR OUR SOCIETY'S MEMBERS

500 JAHRE ENGELSGRUSS

Although we cannot offer a talk in English about "The Annunciation" by Veit Stoss, as explained from a letter from our President (sent by email) you might like to visit the Lorenzkirche in Nuremberg and take the rare and wonderful opportunity to get a close look at this 500-year-old masterpiece which has been lowered for cleaning (26th June – 17th July 2018).

There are a number of programmes relating to this, for example:

Sonntag, 8. Juli, 11.30 Uhr St. Lorenz
SALVE REGINA – Der Engelsgruss in Musik und Kontext
Katharina Bäuml (Capella de la Torre) – Schalmey, Pommer

4
Martina Fiedler (Capella de la Torre) –
Truhenorgel
Dr. Daniel Hess (Germanisches National-
museum) – Erläuterungen
Eintritt: € 12 (ermäßigt € 6)

Further programmes and information can
be found at:

lorenzkirche.de/veranstaltungen-highlights/
500-jahre-engelsgruss/ **Ed.**

**REMINDER – Jackie (Wittig) Lincoln to visit
at our 3rd August Stammtisch**

Be sure to attend our August Stammtisch
“Under the (Turnerbund) Oak Tree” on
3rd August. Not only will you be able to enjoy
speaking English with friends and
acquaintances, but you will have the
opportunity to enjoy the company of one
of our very special Franconians, Jackie
Lincoln, who is coming all the way from
South Africa to join us on that evening. As
she will be in Germany for only a very short
time and won't be able to see all of her
friends individually, she hopes that as many
of you as possible will be there. We're
looking forward to seeing you, too! **Ed.**

**GARAGE BOOK SALE
Saturday, 8th September
Komotauer Str. 9, Erlangen**

We are planning to hold a garage book
sale at Ingeborg Lötterle's on September 8.
This is a wonderful opportunity for you to
browse – and hopefully buy – books, both
English and German. We have a great variety
of reading matter available at extremely low
prices, and, as you know, the money which
we earn from selling the books will all be
donated to charity, so you will be doing a
good deed while you read. See you then. **Ed.**

**SAVE THE DATE: 18th May 2019
35th Anniversary Dinner**

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



HANDICRAFTS GROUP

The new handicrafts
group meets at the
home of Hanne
Schmidt to make items
to be sold for charity.

They meet the third
Thursday of every month. The next
meetings will take place on **19th July,
16th August and 20th September 2018.**

If you are interested in joining the group,
please ring **Hanne** at **56203** or **email** her at:
jokaschmi@t-online.de. **Ed.**

DINNER CLUB EVENINGS

The plans for
Dinner Club for
the next few
months are as
follows. Please
note the varying
starting times:



For a change, we meet for a coffee & cake
afternoon on **Thursday, 26th July at 3 p.m.**
at **Wabene, Henkestr. 53, 91054 Erlangen.**

We will once again visit the **Steinbach
Brewery, Vierzigmannstr. 4** on **Saturday,
18th August at 7 p.m.** If this lovely weather
continues, we will sit outside.

On **Saturday, 15th September at 7 p.m.**
we will try out the **Kitzmann BräuSchänke,**
Südliche Stadtmauerstr. 25, Erlangen,
which has seasonal offerings as well as
Franconian specialties.

Reserve by contacting:
Teresa Carolin-Mills by telephone **440795,**
mobile 0177 / 4647191 or by **email:**
tcarolinmills@franconian-society.de

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
continue on page 7.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR PIN BOARD

THE FRANCONIAN SOCIETY e.V.

Founded on 18th May 1984

by Dr. Paul von Tucher

MEMBERSHIP: July 2018

Annual dues (2018/2019):

Student: € 12

Single: € 20

Family: € 25

Registration fee: € 10

Our fiscal year: 1st April – 31st March

Bank Account:

The Franconian Society e. V.

(IBAN): DE08 7635 0000 0030 0009 84

(BIC): BY LA DE M1 ERH

Stadt- & Kreissparkasse Erlangen

'THE FRANCONIAN'

Next Franconian **deadline dates** for your articles, announcements, events, requests, contributions, jokes, etc. are:

20th August and 20th October 2018.

Editor: Becky von Tucher

Assistant Editor: Teresa Carolin-Mills

See the next column for contact details.

CHANGES TO OUR 2016 DIRECTORY

Please note that **Ingeborg Lötterle** has a new **mobile phone number:**

0171 976 9748

The luxury of all summer's sweet sensation is to be found when one lies at length in the warm, fragrant grass, soaked with sunshine, aware of regions of blossoming clover and of a high heaven filled with the hum of innumerable bees.

~Harriet E. Prescott,

The Atlantic Monthly, August 1865

**BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR NEXT
FRANCONIAN ON
7th SEPTEMBER 2018
AT OUR STAMMTISCH NIGHT.**

BOARD AND COMMITTEE

Frank Gillard (President) Glaserstr. 14,
90427 Nürnberg Tel. 0911/306263

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Dr. Ingeborg Lötterle (2nd Vice President)
Komotauer Str. 9, 91052 Erlangen
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**2vicepresident@franconian-society.de
& i_loetterle@web.de**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Valerie Hellmann (Secretary) &

secretary@franconian-society.de

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Changes and additions to our Directory, as well as new member applications, should be sent to the Hellmanns.

CALENDAR FOR 2018



For more information on the listed events, go to the corresponding page number or visit our website www.franconian-society.de

JULY 2018			AUGUST 2018			SEPTEMBER 2018		
1	Su		1	We		1	Sa	
2	Mo		2	Th		2	Su	
3	Tu		3	Fr	Stammtisch "Under the Oak Tree"	3	Mo	
4	We		4	Sa		4	Tu	
5	Th		5	Su		5	We	
6	Fr	Stammtisch "Under the Oak Tree"	6	Mo		6	Th	
7	Sa		7	Tu		7	Fr	Stammtisch "Two Cemeteries"
8	Su		8	We		8	Sa	Book Sale p. 4
9	Mo		9	Th		9	Su	
10	Tu		10	Fr		10	Mo	
11	We		11	Sa		11	Tu	
12	Th		12	Su		12	We	
13	Fr		13	Mo		13	Th	
14	Sa		14	Tu		14	Fr	
15	Su	Happy Hiking Boots p 7	15	We		15	Sa	Dinner Club p. 4
16	Mo		16	Th	Handicrafts p. 4	16	Su	
17	Tu		17	Fr		17	Mo	
18	We		18	Sa	Dinner Club p. 4	18	Tu	
19	Th	Handicrafts p. 4	19	Su		19	We	
20	Fr		20	Mo		20	Th	Handicrafts p. 4
21	Sa	Day trip Kulmbach p. 7	21	Tu		21	Fr	
22	Su		22	We		22	Sa	
23	Mo		23	Th		23	Su	
24	Tu		24	Fr		24	Mo	
25	We		25	Sa		25	Tu	
26	Th	Coffee Afternoon p. 4	26	Su		26	We	
27	Fr		27	Mo		27	Th	
28	Sa		28	Tu		28	Fr	
29	Su		29	We		29	Sa	
30	Mo		30	Th		30	Su	
31	Tu		31	Fr				

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

(continued from page 4)

HAPPY HIKING BOOTS

On **Sunday, 15th July** we will again meet at the Turnerbund at **9:30 a.m.** Then we'll drive to the Wanderparkplatz Veilbronn, where we will begin our walk via the Schulumühle and Wernquelle to Heiligenstadt, Traidorf, and Volkmannsreuth to Veilbronn, where we will have lunch at Landgasthaus Lahner (09198- 928990), after which we'll hike back to the parking area. The total distance will be about 7 km. If you are interested, please contact christophhellwig@bdn.de or mobile 0163 7193904.

Please see our website for further Happy Hiking Boots excursions.

Christoph Hellwig



UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

DAY TRIP TO KULMBACH

Saturday, 21st July 2018

9:00 a.m. Departure by bus from Turnerbund, Spardorfer Straße 79

10:15 a.m. Arrival in Kulmbach (7-minute walk to bus-stop: Klostersgasse 1, Kulmbach)

10:40 a.m. Drive with shuttle bus to Plassenburg, Festungsberg 26, Kulmbach

11:00 a.m. One-hour guided tour (in German only) through the main rooms of the Plassenburg (meeting point: Museumsshop Plassenburg)

12:20 p.m. Return by shuttle bus (departure from Kasernenhof Plassenburg) to town centre

1:00 p.m. Lunch in Die Stadtschänke, Holzmarkt 3, Kulmbach (one minute on foot from bus-stop)

2:30 p.m. One-hour guided tour (in German only) of Kulmbach on foot

4:00 p.m. Guided tours (one in English, one in German) of the Bavarian Beer Museum (Bayerisches Brauereimuseum), Hofer Straße 20, Kulmbach, with beer-tasting

5:30 p.m. Departure from museum to Neudrossenfeld for an evening meal at Landhotel Schnupp, Altdrossenfeld 8, 95512 Neudrossenfeld

8:00 p.m. Departure for Erlangen, arriving at Turnerbund at approx. **9:00 p.m.**

Cost (including all fares, admission prices and tips): €38 p.p.

To reserve contact me by **telephone 09135/2405** or by sending a mail to: **secretary@franconian-society.de**

Valerie Hellmann

EXCURSION TO BAYREUTH

An excursion to Bayreuth in October is being planned and further information will be provided in the September newsletter. Please keep an eye on our website as well.

Asst. Ed.

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

BENEFIT CONCERT

Saturday, 21st July 2018 at 4 p.m.

Roncallistift

Hammerbacherstr. 11, Erlangen

A concert to benefit the *Sonderfonds KINDERARMUT* of the *Bürgerstiftung Erlangen* will take place on Saturday, 21st July at 4 p.m., under the direction of Margarete Poetsch. The programme is as follows:

100 Years – High Points in Palm Court Music

Works from Operetta and Films featuring the "Ensemble des Studios für Stimmbildung Erlangen"

Entrance is free, donations welcome.

Margarete Poetsch

ASPECTS OF FRANCONIA

St. John's and St. Roch's

2018 marks the 500th anniversary of the two Nuremberg cemeteries known in German as St. Johannes and St. Rochus. If you have been living in this area for a while, you will most certainly have visited them and admired the bronze epitaphs, the gravestones beset with flowers, the sense of history that they convey. Of course, if you have never visited them, then it's high time you went. A visit in October is a good idea when the summer geraniums have given way to an abundance of heather.

It was the Emperor Maximilian I who decreed in 1518 that burials could henceforth only take place outside the Nuremberg city walls, a blow to Christians who wished to be laid to rest as close as possible to their churches. The decree was motivated, however, by a concern for public health and safety.

One of the results of the crusades of the early middle Ages was that the number of people suffering from leprosy had risen steeply around 1200. These poor souls were looked after in so-called "Siechenhäuser" (siechen = sick), in other words in hospitals outside the city walls for the terminally ill. Nuremberg had several such hospices located on the main roads leading out of the city. St. John's was set up in 1234 and was extended in the 14th century with the addition of a burial area for those who had died of the plague. The Black Death is estimated to have killed somewhere between one third and two thirds of Europe's population and towns everywhere struggled to bury the dead in an adequate way.

And so it came about that the cemeteries of St. John's, serving the parish of St. Sebald, and St. Roch, burying the deceased from the

parish of St. Lawrence, became the resting places of many of the citizens of Nuremberg. Famous figures from the city's illustrious past can be found in St. John's. Albrecht Dürer and the humanist Willibald Pirckheimer serve as examples, though I could also mention the Englishman William Wilson, the Northumberland engineer who came to Franconia to drive Germany's first locomotive, the Adler. He died in 1862 and was buried with a large section of the city's population in attendance.

St. Roch, a saint one turned to during "visitations of the plague", is the name of the other cemetery. Here the bronze caster Peter Vischer, the Elder, is buried and the composer Johann Pachelbel.

Both cemeteries are renowned for the bronze and brass epitaphs found on the sand-stone tombs and visitors can spend hours enjoying the craftsmanship as well as deciphering names and symbols. Here is an example. Which profession, do you think, is being alluded to?

Frank Gillard



See pictures of past events on our website: www.franconian-society.de

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~James Dent

Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it.

~Russel Baker