

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

January 2018

Dear Franconians,

*I promise to stick to these resolutions
for more than a week,*



I wonder how many of you have made a New Year's Resolution or two. Understandably they often begin with the word QUIT, like quit smoking, quit drinking, quit being a complainer or a procrastinator, and quit being a couch potato. Or with the equally short word START, like start helping others less fortunate than you, start being more understanding to your better half, start coming to the Franconian Society more often. Now if you think about it, that last resolution is rather clever, because in one fell swoop it takes care of a plethora of other resolutions. People who go on our walks are hardly couch potatoes, people who come to our talks don't have time to smoke, people who are active members are certainly helping the less fortunate in society, and, believe it or not, the best way to have a better relationship with your lesser or better half is to go on a pleasant excursion with the same.

Perfect. Problem solved. Be a Franconian!

Looking back now over the last couple of months I have to admit that we have had one or two poorly attended events but also a number of activities that have obviously been quite attractive to our members. The most recent one, to my mind, was the potluck supper that was very successful in several ways. The food was phenomenally good, the atmosphere delightful, the games and the singing well thought out by our team of activists. Yvonne's Xmas quiz should be mentioned – Who was born on Christmas Day? Etc. – Valerie's "Pass the Parcel", Becky tickling the ivories while George, Eileen and Sheila led us in song, and our queen of the classroom, Judy, who gave us a rendition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in southern American. It was a great evening and special thanks have to go to Teresa, our organizer-in-chief, but also to many others who decorated tables and helped clear up afterwards.

The two Stammtisch evenings in November and December focused on "Southern England" (Peter Hill) and the Franconian dialect (Helmut Haberkamm) respectively, both well-presented talks which were much appreciated. It's always good to have our own members giving talks on their hobbies, adventures and travels, as Peter in fact has done several times now. If you would like to do the same, just let a committee member know.

We also visited the fascinating Horseradish Museum in Baiersdorf and enjoyed the re-vamped Transport Museum in Nuremberg, on both occasions with excellent guides. There are so many small, and not so small, museums in our region which are worth a visit. Do you have any recommendations? What about the Aischgründer Karpfenmuseum in Höchststadt, the Kunstvilla in Nuremberg, the Museum |22|20|18| in Kühnertsgasse, Nuremberg, or in the same city the Museum Industriekultur, the Zeidelmuseum in Feucht, the Geigenbaumuseum in Bubenreuth, to name but a few? Any feedback would be appreciated.

Our Dinner Club continues to explore different culinary venues such as the inviting Maalula restaurant in Erlangen with its Arabic cuisine. Teresa is busy planning her "Dinner with a Difference" scheduled for Saturday 20th January. More on that elsewhere in the Newsletter.

On the subject of the Newsletter, and for those who are unaware of this, may I point out that our two ladies who do the editing are Becky von Tucher and Teresa Mills. I personally think they do a fantastic job and over the last few months have made huge improvements to the layout and design, making the Newsletter a really attractive read. They invest a huge amount of time and thought into what they are doing, and we should all be very grateful. They are, of course, committee members, and with the Annual General Meeting approaching in the early spring, it is worth pointing out to all our members that we are always looking for new blood to invigorate our committee and society activities. Why not step forward if you think you want to play a bigger role in the Franconian Society?

I'll refrain from saying too much about our future events, for one because our next Committee Meeting is coming up at the beginning of January when we will be finalizing our programme for much of 2018. You will be receiving this, of course, at the Card Game Stammtisch, on January 12th, and on February 2nd we have the pleasure of having Professor Heiner Bielefeldt talk to us on various aspects of his work. If you want to find out a little more about him, please look again at our last Newsletter.

It only remains to say that we, from the committee, wish all our members a great start to the year. May 2018 be a healthy and memorable one. And we hope to see you, at the very latest, at our AGM on 13th April,

Frank Gillard