

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

September 2018

Dear Franconians,

The September Newsletter is never easy to write simply because its author is typically too busy enjoying the summer in faraway places. Nothing unusual about that, however, as most of you will have transgressed in a similar way. We could easily have stayed at home, I suppose. The weather in Uttenreuth or Tennenlohe was just as good as in Morocco or Florida and why and who needs the anguish of motorway travel in July and August? But each year a lot of us simply can't resist the call of the wild!

I noticed that the Stammtisch evenings were very well attended, a fine opportunity, I suppose, to exchange thoughts on climate change or baggage allowances with various airlines. I made it to the last Oak Tree affair attended by a visitor from South Africa, namely Jackie (Wittig) Lincoln. Despite the passing of time she remains in fine fettle and many were really pleased to see her once again in our midst.

Our day trip to Kulmbach, organized by Valerie, was by all accounts a great success. If you want to find out more about our next excursion, then look for her article on page 7 in this issue of the Franconian. And please note that this next excursion will take us to the city of Bayreuth, which explains why the September "Aspects of Franconia" is all about Wilhelmine of Prussia, Margravine of Brandenburg-Bayreuth (1709-1758). She was instrumental in the establishment of Erlangen University and the interior design of the Markgrafentheater. She is one of those figures from the past who illustrate how close the ties once were between Britain and this area of Germany. She came very close to becoming Queen of England!

Our walks this year have been rather patchy, largely thanks to the weather, but there is still time to improve attendance figures. Mairi will be conducting the next one and it will take us again to the Fränkische Schweiz. I wonder how many non-Germans living in this part of the world know why this area just north of us came by this odd name? The answer is, it's not "odd" at all. There are several areas in Germany (Sächsische Schweiz, Holsteinische Schweiz) which, thanks to their landscapes (slightly mountainous, idyllic valleys, rocky outcrops etc.) reminded people of Switzerland. This would make a good article for the next "Aspects..."! Would anyone like to write it?

Franconian Switzerland

I understand from our Handicrafts group industrious, which Christmas time we well-stocked table well-made, attractive Remember that all our charity fund. We asked whether we Syrian refugee girl, rocket attack on offered specialist renowned Shriners USA, that often children with severe development which I length in the next want to point out that shown at charity sales always much so much good.



various sources that has been quite means that towards can look forward to a with all manner of and creative items. the proceeds go to have recently been could help a young sadly disfigured in a Aleppo. She has been treatment at the Hospital in Boston, performs wonders on burns. This is a new will report on at Franconian. I merely your generosity and book sales is appreciated and does

You'll be hearing a great deal more in the near future about our policy on data protection. Legislation has been introduced binding on all clubs and societies, no matter how large or small, and we are committed to offer you the transparency and protection you are entitled to. One or two of our members have been very active in this area, drawing up guidelines and formulating our principles, and I would like to express my thanks to all involved. Two of our Committee Members should be mentioned in particular – Teresa and Uschi. I hope they can hear your round of applause.

Well that's about it from me; excuse any mistakes or omissions – put it down to my growing older by the minute. Soon it will be autumn, or fall, and may it bring us more moderate temperatures, befitting the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness we always hear about, happy days spent raking leaves and picking apples, and bottling fruit and making jam.

Frank Gillard