

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

May 2020

Dear Franconians,

The surreal days of the lockdown are coming to an end. Being socially isolated, we were obliged to entertain ourselves, not necessarily a bad thing. I certainly read a few books that I might not otherwise have done. And we all enjoyed the birdsong and the quieter roads. Of course, many turned to their gardens – some of us. Have they ever looked so manicured? With hairdressing salons shut, did **we** ever look so unkempt – some of us. But all that is behind us now. We can go to garden centres, DIY stores, shops of every kind. We have to wear face masks though and keep our distance to others. And, as I write this, we can't yet go to our favourite restaurant. But that, too, will come, starting, no doubt, with spacious beer gardens.

What I am trying to say is that, sooner than later, the Franconian Society will be up and running again. Our committee will meet as soon as it is safe to do so to decide on the date for the **Annual General Meeting**. Then we will have to plan the remaining **Stammtisch** evenings of the year and the other activities which have been put on hold.

And the **Special Editions**, as we called them, will also come to an end. A small group of us – Bridget, Valerie, Teresa, Becky and myself - felt it necessary to show members that the society hadn't gone into total lockdown, that we were still there for them. We felt it important to offer support, especially to those living rather isolated existences cut off from their families and friends. As you have seen, we have had serious and amusing articles on all sorts of corona news, we have had quizzes and puzzles, jokes and recipes, poetry and much besides. And several of our members joined in with great contributions.

We hope you enjoyed them. If you felt that the Special Editions were useful, please let us know by sending Valerie, our secretary, a short email. If you felt that they were a waste of effort, unnecessary, we won't be hurt if you share that view either. It could well be that you rather enjoyed the last few weeks. Living as I do so close to Nuremberg airport, I have appreciated the peacefulness of the skies above! Modern technology has also kept us in contact with family and friends. Nonetheless, the Special Editions might have been a welcome source of enjoyment, relief, distraction, entertainment, even inspiration. We hope so. Let us know.

So, there it is, after a long break we now have a proper Newsletter again and Becky and Teresa our two editors are rightly pleased. Take care, all of you. The corona danger hasn't passed completely, so be on your guard, keep washing your hands and keep wearing your protective face masks.

Till we meet again, to quote Vera Lynn and the Queen, look after yourselves.

Frank Gillard