

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

In my garden daffodils are in bloom, and my bed of crocuses is humming with bees. It's called spring and it's very welcome.



Lent has begun and the liturgical year continues its annual journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. And guess what, the shops are already full of Easter rabbits – melted down Father Christmases magically metamorphosed into eggs and bunnies! In all events, the year moves on. Our AGM is on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, when a new President will be democratically elected to head our very worthy society into a new decade of activities. Please mark the date in your diaries and please think about who you would like to see on your board and committee. You can all stand for election, so it could also be you. The important thing is to show your support and to make sure that the things you hold dear are properly discussed.

Let's reflect on our recent activities for a moment or two. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> I gave a power point presentation about a trip to Rajasthan which I went on with my wife in February of last year. It did me good to look at all my pictures again, surprised at how much I had forgotten in the space of twelve months. Do you find the same thing? Forgetting names and places, but, once reminded, being filled with excitement when things start coming back.

The evening was marred, unfortunately, by the fact that the Turnerbund put another group into the room we had reserved for ourselves, and we had to make do with a much smaller area and a less than optimal projector and screen. No doubt they suspected that our turnout would be quite small – as in all fairness it has been from time to time. However, on this occasion the thought of a talk on northern India lured an amazing 47 members and soon we were all sitting together like the proverbial sardines.

I feel I should also mention a possible reason for the room change. The person who manages the restaurant at the sports club, Herr Braun, had been rushed to hospital where he was given four stents and placed into an artificial coma for several days. I understand he has made good progress since then. Of course, I sent him good wishes in the name of the board and committee and in your names as well. Let's hope that he can be back in his kitchen, which he loves, in the foreseeable future.

Our next Stammtisch was to be held by Bridget Ineichen on Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre (Part 2) but Bridget after her successful knee operation has suffered a temporary setback in that she has developed a very painful case of knee bursitis. She thought that it might be wise if her talk was postponed until later in the year and Yvonne has very kindly

agreed to manage the March Stammtisch. It will take the form of a quiz, one of the activities our members really enjoy.

The Indian Republic Day to which we were invited by the Deutsch-Indische Gesellschaft in Nuremberg went off smoothly, though sadly very few of our members managed to come along - perfectly understandable as we all lead such busy lives.

The last outing several of us went on was to Forchheim in December of last year. We travelled there by train which was inexpensive and straightforward, and I believe that Valerie has something similar in mind for the spring, namely a visit to the Geigenbauer Museum in Bubenreuth. I suspect that very few people have been there, despite its closeness to Erlangen, so it might prove a good idea. Valerie will give us details by email in due course.

The dinner club met at the Erlanger Teehaus in January for a well-attended brunch, and in February some of us met for something similar at Wabene in the Henkestr. We were delighted to see some new faces at our gatherings, and saddened to hear that Brexit-related issues are still proving problematical for people wishing to settle here on a permanent basis.

I have heard that Teresa is planning, for March, an evening at Turandot in Erlangen, an Asian restaurant offering Korean and Chinese dishes. I believe Turandot uses robots to carry the prepared meals to the tables in question. Do the robots ever drop anything on the floor, I wonder.

And for April a visit to Royal India in Büchenbach is planned. Please see Teresa's own article for detailed information.

Finally, I turn to "Happy Hiking Boots", which in the winter usually goes into hibernation. I shall organize a walk for April, date not yet decided. Incidentally, if you know of a nice walk near where you live and have a suggestion or two on where to have lunch, or coffee and cake afterwards, please let me know and I can put something together. More involvement on your part would be most welcome.

And now to conclude. Perhaps this time with thoughts about the spring:

**Springtime** by James W. Whilt

*When sun begins to melt the snow*

*And the birds commence to sing,*

*And the days are getting longer,*

*Then we know 'tis surely spring.*

Take care,

Frank Gillard