

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

January 2026

Dear Franconian Society members,

A very happy New Year to you all! I hope 2026 has started well for you and will be a year in which you experience happiness, good health, contentment and many moments of love and kindness shared with family and friends. A close friend sent me a card last Christmas, which contained the following message: "May the peace of Christmas find a place in the heads and hearts of our world's leaders during the year to come." This is something I'm certain all of us wish for, so that people all over the world can finally live together in peace, harmony and friendship.

Our Franconian Society year, 2025, ended with three very pleasant events. At the November Stammtisch, Valerie and I gave a well-attended talk on "The Cultural Reaction in Great Britain to the Industrial Revolution". This was followed later in the month by an excellent Dinner Club evening at Cucina di Napoli, one of our favourite Erlangen restaurants for Dinner Club events. And, as always, the year ended with one of our Franconian Society highlights: the Christmas Potluck Supper. 40 people attended this event and it was an evening of fun, delicious food, reflection and companionship. As it was not possible at the end of the evening to thank everyone involved in making this event such a pleasant one, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Uschi and Peter Stamminger for cleaning the room and setting up the tables in the morning, to Mairi for doing the table decorations, to Yvonne for her quiz and to Valerie for preparing a game, to Becky for accompanying our singing of Christmas songs and carols on the piano, to all of you for contributing to the buffet with such delectable dishes and, last but not least, to Teresa for being Master of Ceremonies that evening.

As the long-range weather forecast for early January did not look very good, we decided to cancel the Stammtisch on 9th January, and the Dinner Club meal later in the month, and combine these two events on Saturday, 24th January, at Turnerbund, when we will have the opportunity after lunch to exchange our personal memories of Ingeborg and, in this way, pay tribute to her life and to all she did for the Franconian Society. Information about this event is given in a separate article in this Newsletter. In February, our member, Walter Kunzi, will be talking to us about "Sahara Trekking" and showing us some of the spectacular photographs he took on this journey. In March, Dr Elisabeth Preuß will be giving us a talk on a social project in Erlangen, "Refugium" and the April Stammtisch will be given over to our Annual General Meeting. As this year is election year, you might like to play a more active role in the Franconian Society and stand for election as a committee member. We always welcome fresh wind and new ideas on the Committee, so please do consider carefully whether becoming a Committee member might be something which appeals to you.

Just one final word about Stammtisch evenings. At the last Committee Meeting, it was decided to start the evenings at 5.30 p.m. instead of 6.30 p.m. – in the winter months, at least – so that our members can go home before it is too dark and cold and the roads are too icy. You will be receiving a round mail about this during the course of next week. For a similar reason, we have decided to have the Dinner Club events in the winter months in the form of a brunch and not as a supper. Teresa will be giving you more information about this in a separate article in this Newsletter. Otherwise, you can look forward to walks and outings throughout the year, which our team responsible for these events will be organizing.

And so all that remains for me now to do is to say thank you: thank you for supporting the Franconian Society through another year – in so many different ways. We are more than grateful for this and look forward to your continued support in this New Year and to seeing you at our various events in 2026. In the meantime, enjoy the spectacular snowy landscapes this winter offers us, but take care when going out: the pavements can be very slippery if Bubenreuth is anything to go by!



With every good wish,

Bridget Ineichen