



Deutscher Kreis Chelmsford

Chelmsford German Circle

2018/19 Programme

Whether you are a native speaker, fluent in German, learned the language a long time ago or are studying it now, you are very welcome to join us. Our monthly meetings are in German and have a German focus, which ranges from serious topics such as politics or Brexit to more light hearted evenings introducing German places, music, customs and quite often traditional food and drink.

Monthly meetings take place at Moulsham Mill, Parkway, Chelmsford, CM2 7PX on Thursday evenings. The entrance fee is £5 per evening, or £25 for the season of eight meetings.

We also organise a number of more informal afternoon (Kaffeekränzchen) and evening (Stammtisch) meetings on an ad hoc basis - please check our website or Facebook page for details.

For more information please contact:

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Or visit chelmsfordgermancircle.org.uk

18th October 2018 - *Brandenburg*



Our first meeting is taking us on a visit to Brandenburg, the German federal state or Bundesland which encircles Berlin. Its capital, Potsdam, was the former centre of Prussia and is best known for the lavish Sanssouci Palace, the summer home of Frederick the Great. Sanssouci, like the other castles and gardens in the area, is part of UNESCO's world cultural heritage, and steeped in history: Schloss Cecilienhof, for example, was the setting for the Potsdam Conference after WWII. But Brandenburg is not short of amazing scenery either, with more than 3,000

lakes and 30,000 km of watercourse making it Europe's most extensive landscape of rivers and lakes.

Our speaker Sabine Nussey will be your guide on a whirlwind tour through the breath-taking architecture and scenery of Brandenburg – and will have at least one of the regional culinary delights for you to sample.

15th November 2018 - *Winterfest*

„Der Winter bringt zweierlei auf einmal: weiße Tage und schwarze Nächte.“

You are cordially invited to join the German Circle for our first ever Winterfest. Looking forward to the festive season, we will have some wintry stories, poems and music. If you have a favourite winter memory, please bring it to share with the others. There will be seasonal food to try, and to warm up, we will prepare the first Glühwein of the season.



17th January 2019 - *Auf Deutsch, bitte*



An evening with lots of opportunities to speak German. In small groups you will be able to discuss topics as diverse as the weather, your favourite German food, politics, the last film you watched, where you learnt German – more suggestions gratefully received! Each discussion round will last no longer than 5 – 10 minutes and then the groups will be moved around. By the end of the night you should have got to know everybody in the room – and spoken a lot of Deutsch in the process.



21st February - *Sehr zu empfehlen*

Read a good book recently? Or watched a great film or TV programme? Maybe you've just discovered a holiday spot abroad or in Britain, which you would recommend to others. Your personal favourites are what we want to hear about from you tonight. Contributions don't need to be very long – *aber bitte: auf deutsch*

21st March *Römerstadt Trier*

Our guest speaker Herbert Eiden from the University of Essex takes us on a journey to his home town of Trier. Trier is in the South West of Germany in the Moselle wine region, near the Luxembourg border. Founded by the Romans, it contains several well-preserved Roman structures like the Porta Nigra gate, the ruins of Roman baths, an amphitheatre just outside the centre and a stone bridge over the Moselle River. We will also meet one of the most famous sons of the city, the philosopher and revolutionary socialist Karl Marx, author of *The Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital* and one of the founding fathers of Communism.



18th April - *Ostern*

Ostereier und Osterhasen, Osterfeuer, Osterlämmer und Ostergärtchen – all over Germany there are a lot of different traditions and customs for Easter time. We'll learn a little bit about some of them, colour our own Easter eggs and look at some beautifully decorated eggs that have been blown out and are delicate works of art. There will be Osterzopf to try and Grüne Sosse, a regional speciality from the Frankfurt region, which is traditionally eaten on Gründonnerstag (Maundy Thursday).

16th May - *Die Post Brexit Ära*

If everything goes according to the British government's plans, Brexit will have happened just over six weeks ago. What does the post Brexit reality look like, how has it affected the life of the ordinary citizen of our two countries? How have the political and economic conditions changed? What can we expect in the future? Even if Brexit does, by some miracle, not go ahead, the past three years will have changed the relations between Great Britain and Germany significantly and for ever. The journalist Werner Sabiers, UK resident for over 40 years, has a first assessment of the post Brexit era.



20th June - *Sommerfest*

As every year the German Circle season finishes with our traditional Sommerfest. After a look at and discussion of the past season, we play a few games and quizzes, have some German food and a little bit of the famous Erdbeerbowle – strawberry punch. There will be opportunities to talk to the committee members about our meetings, maybe make some suggestions about topics to cover in the future, and to chat amongst yourselves.