



# Österreichisch-Britische Gesellschaft Austro-British Society

**Open most Thursdays, 7 pm onwards at Karfreitstr. 6/1.**

**Club Tel: 0650 568278 & 0664 4506196.**

**[www.austrobritish.com](http://www.austrobritish.com)**

## February 2022, Newsletter

Dear members and friends of the Society

Reflecting on what events we have had over the autumn season two come to mind. The quiz evening held at the Rokohof Hotel with quiz master Richard Gould was well attended and much enjoyed and now we look forward to the next one - Richard?

Another success was the trip to Taggenbrunn, also well attended and, with perfect weather and fantastic views, we were able to sit outside on the terrace, late into the October afternoon, in the middle of the vineyard. The exhibition from Andre Heller is still open and well worth visiting. Magical is probably the best word to describe it.

Unfortunately, Covid has prevented a lot of our events happening, including the Christmas party. We hope to catch up on some of these when restrictions are lifted.

Please note that participation in any upcoming event is dependent on government regulations and not on the opinion of your society's committee.

Please note that our AGM is looming nearer. If you wish to propose something or comment on something, just send us an email or come along.

Keep well  
Helen and Susan



**The winning team**



**Quiz Master Richard**



**Taggenbrunn**

# Calendar of Events

All of the following events are obviously dependent on government regulations regarding Covid. If you need confirmation of an event please phone Helen 0650 5668278.

**STOP PRESS:** At our last meeting the committee decided that because so few people have been turning up at the club rooms (we hope only Covid is to blame) we will now meet only twice a month: once at our club rooms and once at a restaurant. Regard this decision as temporary and our events as flexible.

**Feb 3** Club rooms open as of 7pm

**Feb 17**



**Annual General Meeting, meeting starts punctually at 7pm**

Where: Rokohof Hotel, Villacherstr. 135 with plenty of parking off the Villacherstr, direct at hotel.

Most people will arrive from 6 pm, for the preliminary gossip and socialising. This is the most important event of the year where you can have your say. Free sandwiches will be available.

**March 3** Club rooms open as of 7pm

**March 17** **Meet at Ricardo Bistro, Tabakgasse, Klagenfurt. 6pm onwards**

**April 7** Club rooms open as of 7pm

**April 21** **Meet at Siciliano, Kardinal Platz, 6pm onwards**

**May 5** Club rooms open as of 7pm

**May 19** **Meet at Hafenstadt - Villacherstr 16, 6pm onwards**

At the beginning of the Villacherstr, opposite the Old Lemon Tree restaurant. Very much the 'in-place' at the moment.

**June 2** Club rooms open as of 7pm

**June 23** **Meet at McMullens - the Irish pub next to the prison, 6pm onwards**

We have been there a couple of years back, when the food was not so good, but now it is *really* good!



**Please meet our new  
British Ambassador  
in Vienna ...**

***Lindsay Skoll***

**Lindsay Skoll** is Her Majesty's Ambassador to Austria and UK Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna.

Lindsay joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1996, on return from working for the Japanese Ministry of Education and with a background in international public and cultural relations and foreign languages. Lindsay has held a series of posts including Minister and Deputy Head of Mission in the British Embassy Moscow (2018 to 2020), British High Commissioner to the Republic of Seychelles (2012 to 2015) and Deputy Head of Mission in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2004 to 2006).

Her numerous policy roles within the Foreign Office have included North East Asia, the Gulf, Africa, Maritime Security, Climate Change and Russia. Lindsay has a first-class honours degree in history with Russian and is married with 3 children. Her interests include Scottish hill-walking, equestrianism, singing, scuba diving and music.

***Ambassador to Austria and UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Vienna***

*The Ambassador represents Her Majesty the Queen and the UK government in the country to which they are appointed. They are responsible for the direction and work of the Embassy and its Consulates, including political work, trade and investment, press and cultural relations and visa and consular services. Ambassadors to multilateral missions are often referred to as 'Permanent Representatives'.*

## Membership is due again

Single €35    Family/Partner €55

Fees are valid for a calendar year.

Pay at the bar, at the AGM or via the bank:

**Österreichisch-Britische Gesellschaft**

**Kärntner Sparkasse**

**IBAN AT50 2070 6000 0010 9876**

If you pay at the bar you will receive a receipt. Want an Erlagschein? You can get this at the bar or you can phone Helen (0650 5668278) or Elisabeth (0664 4506196), or you send us an email requesting one and we will send it to you by post.

**Thanks to all those who have paid.**

## Mr. Piggy Bank

2 to 3 years ago Dave, our barman at the time, was collecting money in our piggy bank at the bar, to use to take disadvantaged children to an ice-hockey match.

Circumstances have since changed and the €105 collected has now been donated to the Kärntner Kinder-Krebs Hilfe. The committee hopes that this meets with your approval.

## A very brief history of the Commonwealth

To some, the Commonwealth is an out-dated remnant of the British Empire but to its members, the Commonwealth is a voluntary association which is in the business of promoting democracy, good government, human rights and economic development.

The modern Commonwealth has its roots in the 19th century, when the British Empire began to disintegrate. As some of its constituent parts gained varying degrees of independence from the motherland, a new constitutional definition of their relationship with each other had to be found.

### The end of the Empire

At the Imperial Conference of 1926, the United Kingdom and its dominions agreed that they were "equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations." Then in 1947, following India and Pakistan's independence, it dropped the word *British* from its name, the allegiance to the crown from its statute and became a receptacle for decolonised nations. The Monarch of the United Kingdom, however, remained the official 'Head of the Commonwealth'.

### The modern Commonwealth

Today, the Commonwealth has 53 members. Around one quarter of the world's population live in its member countries. In spite of this impressive statistic, the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat which was established in 1964, had no formal structure and its members have no contractual obligations as exist in the United Nations, the European Union or the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Instead, the Commonwealth draws its strength from its moral authority. Committed to racial equality and national sovereignty, it was, in fact, a focus of the campaign against apartheid in South Africa.

### The ethics of international politics

In 1971 a formal 'code of ethics' was adopted when Commonwealth countries pledged to improve human rights and to seek racial and economic justice. After the end of the Cold War the organisation expanded its mission statement but the organisation had no mechanism or means of enforcing it, so in 1995, at a summit in New Zealand, the Commonwealth agreed on practical steps to deal with governments who persistently violate the Commonwealth's principles. A Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group was thus formed to support its new mission.