



# Österreichisch-Britische Gesellschaft Austro-British Society

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

**Club Tel: 0650 5668278 & 0664 4506196.**

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

## March 2021, Newsletter



Dear members and friends of the Society

Thanks to Corona we have had a dire shortage of events over the last months. In between lockdowns we managed to hold the summer party, several meet-ups at various locations around town for drinks and eats and a trip to the Millstätter See. That was it. All reported in the last newsletter.

The committee met recently to discuss an uncertain future with regard to events. No planning can be done. It was agreed that we would have to ask for full membership this year, as the only way to change it, as stated in the statutes, is by approval at an AGM and we cannot have an AGM because of Corona.

The committee has put their heads together about future events: we are not sleeping on the job, so to speak. When restrictions are lifted we are hoping to do some or all of the following:

- hold the AGM
- have an ice cream and/or Prosecco Party down at the lake, either near the Lido or the boat house.
- have a stroll through the Europapark (as if we haven't done enough walking during corona times!)
- organize a guided tour in English around Taggenbrunn
- visit the observatory on the Kreuzbergl
- hold a quiz evening
- schedule a talk on Churchill and
- have our summer party

Helen and Australian Susan



**The committee hard at work.**

## Membership for 2021

We so appreciate your support of our club over the years. This year we are going to ask for your continued support. Some years your membership fees cover our costs and some years they do not. The committee has to balance the books and rely on the goodwill of the members to honour what they come and enjoy at the club, by paying their dues and appreciating the people working to keep the club going.

This means that if you all pay your full membership, it will put the club in a much stronger position for this coming year, when we hope restrictions will ease and we will be back in full swing. So again, we ask if you can give our club your full support and pay the membership for this year.

**Single membership:** € 35 for the calendar year  
**Family membership:** € 55 for the calendar year

### Bank details:

Österreich-Britische Gesellschaft

IBAN: AT50 2070 6000 0010 9876

If you would like to pay by Erlagschein please just send us an email and we will put one in the post. Alternatively - full of optimism - when the club reopens, you can pay or pick up an Erlagschein at the bar.

# British Foods

*Missing your sausages, pies, snacks? Check out the following websites, though I'm sure we have missed some. Please advise us of other such websites which we could put on our website.*



**Bobbysfoodstore** in Vienna - You need to phone them with your order.

**englishshop.at** - This is the one in Salzburg.

**www.britishstoreonline.com** - This store has **waitrose** products.

**greatbritishfood.de** - Swift delivery with meat products packed in a cool bag.

<https://www.gurkerl.at/> - A grocery delivery service in Vienna **(only)**. They sell **Marks & Spencer** goodies also!. Plus, you can also get some excellent dry goods and frozen items such as smoked haddock, fish and chips English style, kippers, assorted biscuits and teas amongst other things.

**Amazon.de**

# Anthony Hall

Continued from our previous  
newsletter, Sept 2020.

*For your convenience we have reprinted the first page of this profile on page 4 of this newsletter.*

I realised I couldn't stay with this teacher for a whole year, so I asked if there were other teachers in younger age groups and I then built up a busy timetable and made a lot of friends. Walter Ludescher was among them. We had great sessions singing songs and enjoying working with vocabulary and I was astonished at how well the pupils could speak in English. Then the school year ended, and it was back to Queens' College, Cambridge.

I was Captain of Football for the College and also played croquet, reaching the semi-finals with a very solid, non-croquet-playing fellow languages student, to his and my great credit. We also had a Queens' Linguists Boat (an "Eight") in the Annual River Races, known as the Bumps, in which over four days boats raced on the narrow course of the River Cam to overtake and "bump" each other through a series of divisions and so become the Head of the River. We trained for an hour a day, getting up at six-thirty to be on the river for seven and back for lectures starting at nine. At Oxford and Cambridge the three terms are each only 8 weeks long, so I suppose one of the skills we learnt was how to stuff a whirlwind social life, exam preparation and sports activity into an impossibly short space of time.

However, I was always socially out of my depth at Cambridge, hence I always knew I wanted to do my PGCE (Teacher Training) elsewhere and by this time I knew I was a covert Viking, so I applied to Newcastle University and was accepted. My tutor was not impressed by Cambridge and asked me in my interview why I didn't want to stay there. I delighted him by replying that I didn't learn much there. Wauki applied for a teaching position in Newcastle, so in 1975 we shared a flat there. I established myself as the first-choice for the University First Eleven and we played against semi-professional local "miners" teams and finally I got a decent level of fitness. After that year we returned to Austria and I started work at the Universität für Bildungswissenschaften for three years.

In 1978 we married, and in 1979 I got a teaching position in Balwearie High School, Fife, Scotland, through the good connection of my tutor in Newcastle (also a Viking) to the headmaster of the school. Sadly, our first child was stillborn, but with excellent medical support we had two more children. Wauki was able to leave her teaching position and came across with Mark to Scotland and four years later Martina came on the scene. At that point we decided Austria gave both of us the most fulfilling opportunities to work and play (KAC) and young children's education was very good, so we settled in Klagenfurt.

My first contact with the British Club / Anglo-Austrian Society was in 1974, somewhere along the Lidmanskyygasse (?). I did not become a member. My next contact was in the Wurmgarage, I still did not become a member. Finally Jeremy Homeshaw (2003) invited me to become a member, so I did.

I joined the committee by becoming an auditor in 2018, but so far have done no auditing. I retired in 2017 on my 65th Birthday.



# Anthony Hall

What first brought me to Austria? My original application to attend a university listed Durham, Hull and Holloway College London but then, because I achieved very good grades on my A levels, it was decided I should stay on at school for a term to sit the Cambridge entrance exam, specifically for Queens' College. I did so and got a place in January but this meant would have a long wait ahead of me till the university year started, so I filled the gap by applying to the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges for a position as a Student Helper in Germany. Why Germany? Mainly because I wanted to study German to become a language teacher and I had worked with Germans on a summer job in a Scarborough hotel as a "Social Secretary" and had become good friends with several Swabians.

The Central Bureau found a vacancy for me in the Albert Schweitzer Schule, a private boarding school in Bad Schwalbach, near Wiesbaden. So off I trotted in April for a two-month stint there, up on a pretty lonely plateau: a two-kilometre walk from the nearest railway station and a bit of an ageing, not to say decrepit, teaching staff. Luckily there was Herr Dunkmann, who took me off for several trips after school to show me the Rhine, Mainz, a German monument, and got me at least close to the Mosel. The food was good, apart from the potatoes and Quark 3 times a week.

The children were all well-behaved, friendly and in the main, interested. They came from wealthy families and one even invited me to his home in Bamberg for Easter. I jumped at the chance, since I had decided to follow the Romantische Strasse at the Easter holiday and try to get to Innsbruck, hitch-hiking. I had not realised how much I had been missing normal conversation, so the car trips were bright and cheery and I got there. And then, the unimagined surprise ...

Austrians are more welcoming than Germans and when I sat down for a meal in an Innsbruck pub, it seemed to me that the whole pub noticed and a chorus of Grüß Gott, Mahlzeit, Guten Appetit, laß es gut schmecken etc. overwhelmed me. This is what, naturally, first took me to Austria. It was only for a weekend, but it was long enough. I kept my friends in Swabia and returned to Austria two years later, courtesy again of the Central Bureau, who was so helpful they even found a language assistant position in Klagenfurt, to get me close to Italy to further my Italian. I had to ask my brother to help me find Klagenfurt on the map. At school we had only learnt about the geography of Australia!

I met Wauki (my wife) in the second Bundesgymnasium/Funderstrasse where she, having studied in Graz, was completing her induction into school life by sitting in on the top teacher's classes. We walked up the stairs together to the 8A matura class, where I was on display at the front in my brother's suit and British school tie, answering two or three questions per class, and otherwise trying not to give away that I had never seen a class with adult girls in it, not to mention an over-age boy sporting a beard. **Continuation is on page 3.**