



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

May 2017, Newsletter

Dear Members



Well we had a good attendance at the AGM. Such support is important because the committee is there to carry out the wishes of the membership and we need to hear your voice. We thank all who attended.

Our March highlight was definitely the Games Evening led by Anthony Hall. Thank you Anthony. Club Night out continues to be popular and is a great way to discover new places in Klagenfurt and surrounds, places that perhaps we didn't know existed. Please understand that you don't have to eat on our nights out if you don't wish to and the venues are already advised that not all people will. We have two more Club Nights Out scheduled along with our annual Summer Party, this year to be held in a different venue by request.

We also have an exciting Bus Trip to Italy on Saturday 9th September, so mark this date in your diary. Peter Ross will be our own private Tour Guide. There will be more details closer to the time.

Regards

Australian Susan and Helen



Some photos from Club Nights Out

Calendar of Events

- 8 Jun**
Thu **Club Night Out, Castello in Viktring**
This is a charming Italian local, where the wine is good and the food excellent. They serve small main meals and Jause. We will meet as of 6.30pm in the courtyard (Hof), so please be dressed according to weather. The Hof is mostly under cover. When driving from Viktring to Keutschach: just as you leave Viktring turn left towards the Gymnasium and it is right there on the corner on the right - opposite Koschat - the pizzeria place.
- 13 Jul**
Thu **We are open but this will be the last night at the club before closing for the summer. Between the closing of the club and reopening we will organise 2 or 3 rendezvous at short notice. These will be notified via email. Contact Helen if you have a suggestion as to where to go or need an update on 0650 5668278.**
- 15 Jul**
Sat **Summer Party, BBQ at Hotel Hudelist in Krumpendorf**
Wieningerallee 12, 9201 Krumpendorf
We will be a private party taking over the whole of the 'Hof' at the hotel. Eat as much as you want - within walking distance of the boat pier. Members: food, free drinks, pay your own. More details nearer the time.
- 7 Sep**
Thu **Club opens again** 
- 9 Sep**
Sat **Bus Trip to Italy**
We will visit the monastery at Castelmonte and La Grotte San Giovanni d'Antro. Peter Ross has volunteered to organise this event and be our own private tour guide. Details nearer the time. 
- 28 Sep**
Thu **Club Night Out, TriVida on the Rosentaler Strasse**
This venue is opposite the Messengelände and as it is a vegan restaurant be prepared for something a little different.
Meet as of 6.30pm.

Should you have any interesting stories, articles, poems or announcements, please submit them to:

info@autrobritish.com

Did you know? A discount is available at the Volkshino. You just have to mention you are a member of the Austro British Society.

Eton, the making of a modern day elite

The world's most famous school aspires to become an agent of change but it is also an increasingly effective way for the global elite to give its offspring an expensive leg up in life.



Eton, which lies just across the river Thames from Windsor, most famous for its castle, was founded in 1440 by King Henry VI as "Kynge's College of Our Ladye of Eton besyde Windesore" to provide free education to 70 poor boys who would then go on to King's College, Cambridge, which he founded in 1441. If you leave Windsor Castle behind and walk over the Thames, past the boat-house and down the narrow high street towards the heart of the world's most famous school, all seems much as it always has been. Boys in tail coats and starched wing-collars still walk the streets with books under their arms. And the 500-year-old buildings are as solid as ever.

Throughout its history Eton has been one of the leading independent schools in the UK and it continues to provide a stimulating all-round education, coupled with academic excellence. Eton is a boys' boarding school with around 1,300 pupils. As the absence of girls demonstrates, Eton considers itself exempt from the modern belief in the integration of the sexes that so many independent schools now espouse. Pupils join at the age of 13 (with a few joining in the sixth form) and continue right through until they are 18. The basic fee is only £26, 490 pounds per term, with 3 terms per year.

All schools are defined by their intake, but none more so than Eton, which for hundreds of years received the pipsqueak sons of the ruling class and disgorged them to become statesmen and administrators. (Nineteen Old Etonians – **OES** – including David Cameron, have served as prime minister.) This has now changed, and a new admissions policy has brought in poor clever boys, foreign boys and "new money" that the school would not have welcomed in the past. A recent parent described his surprise at finding out that the commonest name at the school was Patel. The percentage of pupils at the school with an old Etonian father went down from 60% in 1960 to 33% in 1994 to 20% now.

At the same time, many elements of the timeless, traditional Eton have been preserved. They're among the reasons new parents send their sons here, along with the belief that the school will coax and push and cajole the best out of the boy – which Eton is, as the headmaster puts it, "unashamed in its pursuit of excellence". The school aims to educate the elite, as it always has, but it has reshaped itself in order to accommodate a new elite defined by money, brains and ambition, not pedigree, titles and acres. There was a feeling among masters and governors that the school needed to raise standards in order to maintain market share in the new, more meritocratic (based on merit) Britain – to keep feeding boys to Oxford and Cambridge; to keep producing prime ministers – and a more competitive admissions system was the key.

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Given the intense competition to get a place, it's no wonder that the waiting room before the test is like the Russian roulette scene in "The Deer Hunter". Children sit ashen-faced while their parents confer in whispers. No one speaks to anyone else; the tension is palpable. Some boys burst into tears when they get into the interview room.

More than schools with higher Oxbridge (short form of Oxford / Cambridge) acceptance rates, Eton stresses activities outside the classroom. Drama, one of its particular strengths, is an opportunity for collective endeavour that also contributes to the legendary Etonian self-assurance. The production budget at the 400-seat Farrer Theatre is higher than that at one of Britain's top drama schools. No wonder scouts and agents are often to be spotted there, looking for the next Eddie Redmayne – one of Eton's many recent showbiz alumni.

David Cameron and his rival for the soul of the Conservative Party, Boris Johnson, the former mayor of London, both attended the school. So did Prince William and Prince Harry, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the actors Tom Hiddleston and Damian Lewis as well as Redmayne, the adventurers Bear Grylls and Ranulph Fiennes and the Nobel prize-winning biologist Sir John Gurdon. The law, business and banking fester with Old Etonians.

Britain no longer has a ruling class, and the boys who enter Eton are anyway too varied to constitute one. Yet by the time they leave they belong to something like an emerging global elite. They have in common brains, determination and, in many cases, an aspirational family that sets great store by worldly success. These qualities got them to Eton, and they are deployed again and again to ensure they get the most out of the experience.

(This article was mostly taken from 'Eton and the making of a modern elite' – from The Economist. The whole article is to be found on Google).

About Meetup

Meetup is an internet forum for linking up and meeting with people who have similar interests.

Meetup brings people together in their lives. It brings people together to do, explore, teach and learn. For example, people run marathons, thanks to running Meetups. They write, thanks to writing Meetups. They change their careers, thanks to career Meetups. Because at Meetups people with similar interests welcome each other. They talk, help, mentor and support each other - all in pursuit of moving their lives forward.

Find the group / groups that interest you and sign up: for example handicraft, outdoors and adventure, book clubs, sport and fitness, career and business, pets, music and much more.

Google - Meetup Villach and check it out or www.meetup.com/cities/at/villach which covers a 25km radius around Villach.