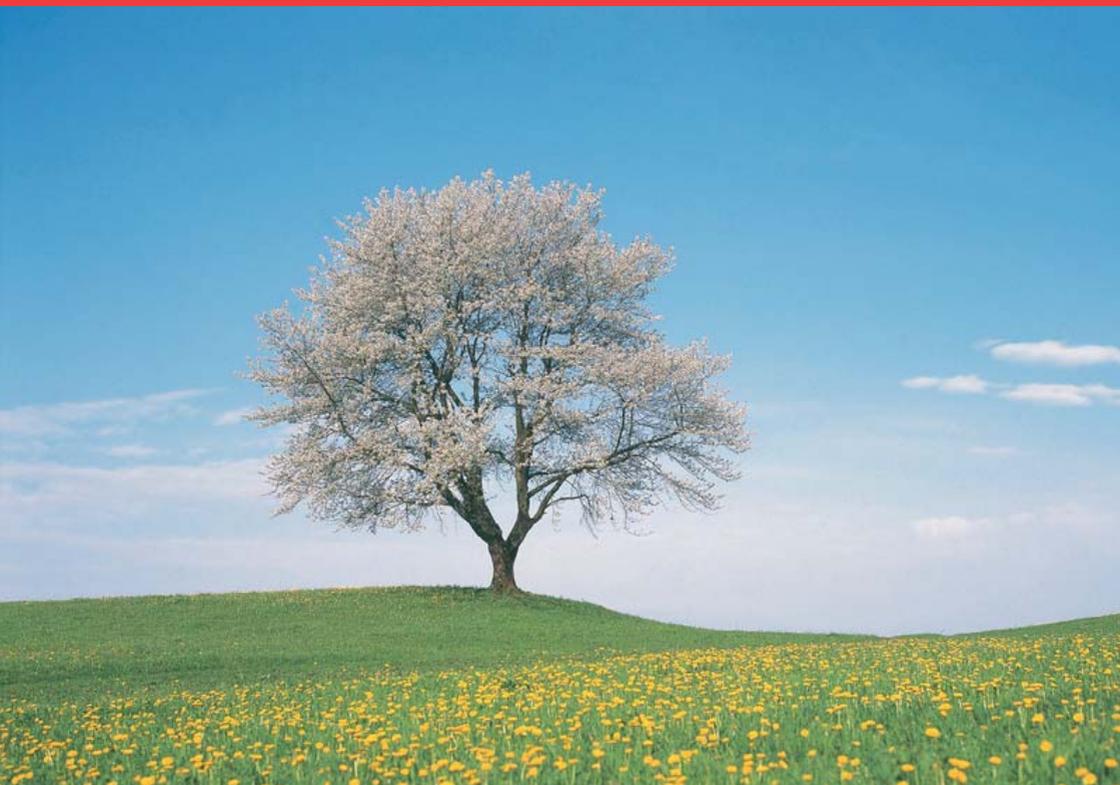


# Anglo - Austrian Society

75 Years 1944 - 2019



## Spring Edition 2019

[www.angloaustrian.org.uk](http://www.angloaustrian.org.uk)

## THE ANGLO AUSTRIAN SOCIETY AT 75

### A MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

The Anglo Austrian Society was created in 1944 by the many Austrians who have taken refuge in Britain after 1938, and wanted to maintain their Austrian identity and also looked forward to the re-establishment once again of an independent Austria. The Society also worked from its beginning to promote knowledge of Austria and friendship between Britain and Austria.

Today, Austria is happily one of the most successful countries in Europe. The other aims of the Society remain as they were, but equally its activities have evolved over the years. Our Newsletter and the local Stammtische continue to provide a way for Austrians to meet and keep in touch. But two new challenges have appeared in recent years: the decline in language studies and hence cultural understanding in British schools, and the departure of Britain from the EU. To help with the first of these, we are able through the generosity of past benefactors to offer not only study grants for visits to Austria by students, but also grant for exchanges for scientific collaboration at a senior level, and for young people taking part in musical visits to /Austria who might not otherwise be able to afford to go. To encourage Austrian related studies in British universities, we are able to offer a bursary to a postgraduate student embarking on research for a doctorate. As the close official ties between our two countries within the European Union come to an end, it will become the more important for unofficial bodies like the Society to maintain ties of friendship and knowledge about Austria.

My own affection for /Austria grew out of my happy years as British Ambassador to Austria in Vienna. I have been actively involved in the management of the Society for more than 25 years, and it has been a privilege to have been Chairman for the past five years. I am delighted that Dame Janet Ritterman has agreed to succeed me, and I wish the Society every success under her leadership.

As I step down I would like to pay tribute to the help and support the Society has enjoyed from the Austrian Embassy and the Cultural Forum over many years. We are most grateful. And the hard work and enthusiasm of all members of the Board of Directors and the encouragement the Board has received from our members have been invaluable to me. Thank you all.

Robin O'Neill CMG

## United Kingdom News

### Wiener Library Exhibition 27 February 2019 – 17 May 2019

Current exhibition: Crimes uncovered: The First Generation of Holocaust researchers and A Thousand Kisses: a new travelling exhibition, which tells the story of the Kindertransport through the experiences of eight children and the loved ones they left behind.

For more information please visit the website of the Wiener Library:  
[www.wienerlibrary.co.uk](http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk) / 29, Russell Square, London

### Bampton Classical Opera 2019

19th & 20th July, 26th August and 17th September

Bampton Classical Opera has a long history of rediscovering long forgotten operas from the later 18th Century, including several from Austria by Salieri, Haydn and Gluck. In the summer of 2019 we are presenting a work of Stephen Storace, the English Enlightenment composer (1762-1796), the delightful comedy “Gli sposi malcontenti”. The Emperor Joseph II commissioned the opera and it was first performed in the Burgtheater on 1 June 1785. For more information see: [www.bamptonopera.org](http://www.bamptonopera.org)



\*\*\*\*\*  
Can you help?

The Society’s Board of Directors, who manage its affairs, have from time to time to consider matters concerning the Society’s legal obligations, for example under Charity law and its relations with the Charity Commission. We would welcome the presence on the Board of a member with a legal background or legal qualifications, or experience as a Company Secretary, to offer guidance in considering such issues. If any member of the Society with such a background might be willing to help in this way, or knows of a friend or colleague with experience of this kind, I should be most grateful to hear from them. Please contact our Assistant Secretary, Allyson Tinnelly, at the Society’s Office, and she will pass on your message. Janet Ritterman.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Edited Extract of the Debriefing Notes of Mr Ryan Hugh Ross**

### **To the members of the Anglo Austrian Society:**

I would first like to thank you for selecting my proposal as a recipient for a Otto Harpner Grant. This grant was a most welcome help in facilitating a recent research trip to Vienna and I thank the Board and the Society for this gracious gift.

As you may recall, my recent research trip was undertaken in order to view the estate of exiled Viennese composer Julius Bürger which is now on permanent loan to the Exil Arte Zentrum Archiv an der Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Wien. This archive was established “ as a centre for the reception, preservation and research of Austrian composers, performers, musical academics and thinkers, who, during the years of the “Third Reich” were branded as “degenerate.” It represents a collection of 57 composers, artists, and musicians of this period and houses the estates of many of these composers, including Julius Bürger’s which was received in May 2016.

Over the course of several days, I was given access to view Mr Bürger’s estate for use in my research. The estate includes nearly all of the original compositions for orchestra, ensembles, and many lieder as well as personal documents, correspondence and photographs. I was particularly interested in the historical personal documents such as birth certificate, marriage certificate etc., as well as contracts with the Metropolitan Opera and Berlin Radio. These in particular will be invaluable in establishing the first comprehensive biography and will be included in my doctoral thesis.

While in Vienna, I also had the opportunity to meet with Julius Bürger’s ‘niece’, Frau Dr Trude Zörer, who is an established Psychologist in Vienna and, although she isn’t a blood relative, was a close family friend for over 50 years.

Dr Zörer is one of the best sources of information about Julius Bürger’s life as well as having a large collection of personal recordings from Mr Bürger’s career.

## Austrian News

### A Winter Wonderland ??

Heavy snowfalls in Austria resulted in thousands of inhabitants and tourists to be cut off in the mountains of Styria and Western Austria.

Some places received 600 mm (2 ft) of snow overnight, prompting schools to cancel classes, roads being blocked and helicopter flights being prohibited for safety reasons. In the mountains the snow was over 3 meters deep and Power was lost in hundreds of homes due to the snowstorms and many roads were closed to all traffic. Mountain rescue teams were in constant demand and had to respond to numerous call-outs risking their own lives in the line of duty.

In the province of Styria 2000 people were cut off and in the village of Präbichl (district Leoben), over a hundred people, including a Hungarian school group of 50 pupils, had to be rescued.



### Other News:

\* 100 Years - The Vote for Women. On the 19th February 1919 the women of Austria, over the age of 24 were given the vote

\* 9450 new Austrian Citizens. The number of naturalization increased by 1,9% in 2018. Austrian citizenship was granted to 3288 persons born in Austria (34,8%)

\* Wine production: increased by 11% to 2.75 million hectoliter in 2018

\* Skiing success: Marcel Hirscher of Annaberg in the Salzburgerland has won his eighth overall world cup title for Austria on Atomic Skis.

\*Airbnb –verboten:

The city of Salzburg has cancelled the rental agreement of one of their Council tenants, who, despite several warnings, has let one room in his Council flat to a great number of tourists.



## Some Spring Customs and Festivals in Austria

### Palmbuschen

This is an old custom in the Salzburg area and it represents the holy tree of life and fertility and to commemorate Jesus's entry into Jerusalem. The Palmbuschen are carried by the children during the Palm Sunday procession and consecrated in the church by the parish priest.

These "palm brooms or palm sticks" contain up to 10 different branches of bushes and trees. Boys and girls collect the material in the weeks before Palm Sunday. In the province of Salzburg the Palmbuschen consist of hazelnut, holly, yew, juniper, two types of cedar and beech, all bound together by willow. Many farmers put the palm stick in the fields, the kitchen garden, the hayloft and in the corner of the best room in the farmhouse behind the crucifix.

### Osterbock

A special beer brewed for the beer lover during the Easter holidays.

### Egg painting and Easter Sweet bread (Osterpinze)

On Easter Sunday the fasting comes to an official end what a wonderful excuse to bake the Osterpinze, a tasty sweet bread which is popular in Styria.

Coloring eggs is great fun for children and the "Eierpecken" tradition keeps them occupied over the Easter holidays.



### Narzissenfest Bad Ausse

The Narzissenfest in the Ausseerland is in its 60th year and will take place from 30th May to 2nd June this year. The flowers grow in the countryside and celebrate Spring in the Ausseerland. The white star shaped narcissi are in bloom between the middle of May to the middle of June, depending on the altitude and



weather. The Narzissenfest is Austria's largest flower festival, which takes place every year. A colourful programme of events allows guests to mingle with the locals and admire the sweet-smelling and very imaginative figures hand-made from narcissi.

## Stammtisch News

### Southern Stammtisch

The Southern Stammtisch, organised by Ann and Roger Blishen, is going from strength to strength. It has around 30 members and usually 20 of them come to the Stammtisch. Five new members have joined in the last few months ranging in age from 17 to a lady who is 107 in April!!

In March and April the Southern Stammtisch will be on the second Saturday instead instead of the 3rd. They meet at midday at the Jack Phillip Pub in Godalming

### Chiltern Stammtisch

The Chiltern Group Fasching Party was held at the Gate in Bryants Bottom, near High Wycombe – which will continue to be the location for the monthly meetings. It was very well attended and everyone either wore a funny hat or came in fancy dress. The Pub allowed us to decorate the room – which was just as colourful as the attendees. It also put on a special meal including goulash or fish pie, plus dessert and coffee for the event. Everyone said it was a great success and most enjoyable.



### Oxford Stammtisch

Christine Gadsby and other members of the Oxford Stammtisch visited Blenheim and enjoyed good weather and the attractions of this beautiful park and palace. Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Winston Churchill is a World Heritage Site and one of Britain's finest stately homes. It's surrounded by landscaped parkland, the handiwork of Capability Brown, and elegant formal gardens, which make it an ideal place to explore on a sunny day.



# Spring Edition 2019

## Spring Edition 2019

### How to contact the Anglo Austrian Society:

**Office hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 08.00 - 14.00h

**Phone:** 01494 711116   **e-mail:** enquiries@angloaustrian.org.uk

**Website:** www.angloaustrian.org.uk

---

### Local Stammtisch Meetings

**Chiltern Stammtisch:** Meets on the last Saturday of the month for lunch at the Gate in Bryants Bottom near High Wycombe

**Contact:** Brigitte Kreuger via the office

**Southern Stammtisch:** Meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday at midday, except in December, at the Jack Phillip Pub in Godalming.

**Contact:** Ann Blishen ann.blishen@btinternet.com, Tel: 01252 722499

**London Stammtisch:** Meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12.30 p.m, at the K&K Hotel George, Templeton Place, SW5 near Earls Court Tube station.

**Members visiting London are always welcome to join us.**

**Oxford Stammtisch:** Meets at The Plough, The Green, Upper Wolvercote, Oxford.

**Contact:** Christine Gadsby for dates and times. Tel: 01993812118 e-mail: christine.gadsby68@gmail.com

**Oxford Uni. Austrian Soc.:** oxford.austriansociety@gmail.com

**Wirral Stammtisch:** Meets monthly on the 2nd Saturday at 12.30 p.m at The Glegg Arms, Heswall.

**Contact:** Heidi Reynolds Tel: 01492 536340

**Manchester Stammtisch** is not meeting at the moment

---

### Useful websites:

News: www.news.ORF.at

Holidays: www.austria.info/uk

Culture: www.acflondon.org

Embassy: www.bmeia.gv.at/oeb-london/

Weltweit Freunde: www.austrians.org

### Published by:

The Anglo Austrian Society

60 Brimmers Hill

Widmer End

High Wycombe, Bucks,

HP15 6NP

T: 01494 711116