

Anglo - Austrian Society

75 Years 1944 - 2019



Summer Edition 2019

www.angloaustrian.org.uk

THE ANGLO AUSTRIAN SOCIETY AT 75

This year our Society is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. In the Autumn of 1944 a group of patriotic Austrians in exile and British Members of Parliament formed the Anglo Austrian Society. They strongly believed, during these dark days of the war, that Austria, though a small country, would eventually become independent again and democratic order would be restored.



Perhaps it is appropriate to remind our members of the words of the Austrian National Anthem (Bundeshymne). The original* Text by Paula Preradovic, adopted in 1947, was amended in 2012.

Land der Berge*Land am Strome*Land der Äcker*Land der Dome
* Land der Hämmer zukunftsreich! Heimat großer Töchter und Söhne*Volk
begnadet für das Schöne*vielgerühmtes Österreich*
Vielgerühmtes Österreich

Heiss umfehdet wild umstritten*liegt dem Erdteil du inmitten einem
starken Herzen gleich*Hast seit frühen Ahnentagen hoher Sendung Last
getragen*vielgeprüftes Österreich
Vielgeprütes Östreich

Mutig in die neuen Zeiten*frei und gläubig sieh uns schreiten*arbeitsfroh
und hoffnungsreich*Einig laß in Jubelchören*Vaterland die Treue
schwören*vielgeliebtes Östereich*
Vielgeliebtes Österreich

One of the founding members of the Society and General Secretary from 9th April 1946 was Otto Harpner (1900 – 1959). Born in Vienna on 23rd August 1900, he studied Law at Vienna University and came to Britain in 1937 as a refugee. At the outbreak of World War II he was interned on the Isle of Man for several months by the British Authorities as an enemy alien.

The Editor

*The Original pre 2012 lyrics had the line”Heimat bist du großer Söhne instead of “großer Töchter und Söhne”, as well as “Bruderchöre” instead of “Jubelchöre”

Summer Music Festivals in Austria

Wiener Festwochen, May – June

The festival is well established in the Cultural Calendar of Vienna, offering exciting theatre productions, as well as great number of orchestra concerts, recitals and chamber music performances. Further information: www.festwochen.at

Bregenzer Festspiele, July & August

Well known for its dramatic opera productions, held on the world's largest floating stage on top of Lake Constance. www.bregenzerfestspiele.com



Grafenegg Music Festival in Lower Austria, August – September

Only a forty minute drive from Vienna, internationally acclaimed classical artist perform at the summer concerts of held in the castle grounds and offering a superb historical backdrop. www.grafenegg.com

Carinthian Summer, July & August

An attractive combination of culture and nature is offered by the Carinthian Summer Music Festival in the area of Lake Ossiach and Villach. www.carinthischersommer.at

Salzburger Festspiele, July & August

It is one of the best known and most important music festivals in the world and successful combination of the tradition and modernity in one of the most beautiful cities in the world. www.salzburgerfestspiele.at

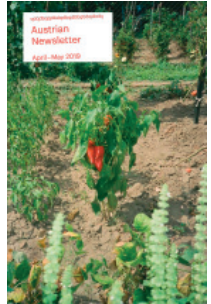
Leharfestival Bad Ischl, Upper Austria July – August

Held in the smartly refurbished Kurhaus, amidst a beautiful park in the centre of the old Imperial Town of Habsburg Fame. www.leharfestival.at

“This and That”

Austrian Cultural Forum

As a reminder to our members: The ACF Newsletter is published every two months and offers a preview of programmes, organized, initiated or supported by the Austrian Cultural Forum London. In addition it highlights relevant cultural events in the UK and Austria.



Viennese and Austrian Recipes



A tasty, culinary panorama with well known classics of Viennese and Austrian cuisine with precise cooking instructions – practical recipes to prepare and enjoy – from Fiaker goulash to Kaiserschmarren, from Tafelspitz to Apfelstrudel, from Wienerschnitzel to Sachertorte and much more ... www.ichkoche.at

Lesermeinung/Readers letters

Mrs. B. A long-standing member of the Society wrote to us recently:

Hallo Anglo Austrian Society,

Ich bin seit Jahren ein Mitglied und les gern Ihre Nachrichten und Kommentare, doch bedauere ich sehr, dass kein einziger Artikel in Deutsch erscheint – ziemlich sinnlos sich Anglo AUSTRIAN zu nennen und dann nichts in unsere Muttersprache geschrieben, ausser ‘Stammtisch’. Vor zwei Jahren zur Weihnachtszeit brachten Sie Peter Rossegger’s Erzählungen doch nur in Englisch, das find ich sehr bedauerlich. Ich machte Sie damals darauf aufmerksam doch bekam ich nie eine Antwort.

Anmerkung der Redaktion:

Liebe Mitglieder! Bitte schreiben Sie uns and geben Sie uns Ihre Meinung zu diesem Thema.

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. New members have joined in the last few months and the Society is proud to have such an active Stammtisch in the South.

Meetings are held at midday on the third Saturday of the month at the Jack Phillip Pub in Godalming

Chiltern Stammtisch

The Chiltern Group are planning a Summer Party on Saturday 31st August to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Anglo Austrian Society. There will be two live bands, an English and Austrian one, and the main course of the celebratory meal will be Wiener Schnitzel. More details will be announced nearer the time. Their regular monthly meeting are held at the Gate in Bryants Bottom, near High Wycombe.

Oxford Stammtisch

Christine Gadsby and other members of the Oxford Stammtisch are meeting regularly at The Plough on the Green in Upper Wolvercote.

London Stammtisch

Our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month are always well attended and many of our members bring guest to the Stammtisch at the K+K Hotel George. Below a photo of a recent gathering taken by our member Traudl Lawrence.



On the trails of Otto Schulmeister - Report by Nadine Tauchner

When Otto Schulmeister died in 2001, he was hailed as one of the most influential journalists of his time, shaping the discourse in Austria. The “Wiener Zeitung” called him the “figurehead of Austrian journalism”. He was described among other things as a “great patriot and the conscience of the nation”. His longtime colleague Anneliese Rohrer, while celebrating his achievements also pointed to the different sides of Otto Schulmeister. Schulmeister as “the Formidable”, “the Eloquent”, “the Conservative” and “the Contradictory”

A brief look at his biography demonstrates the “contradictory nature” Rohrer is eluding to. Otto Schulmeister was an active and devoted member of the Catholic youth movement Neuland, while also supporting the illegal Hitler movement in Austria before 1938 in opposition to the Austrofascist regime.

He wrote his dissertation in line with the National Socialist concept of Grossraumwirtschaft and started his journalistic career in the economic newspaper Südost Echo in Vienna. In 1941, he moved to Amsterdam to work for the German newspaper Europa Kabel. During the war, he was part of the propaganda unit and wrote for newspapers like Donauzeitung in Belgrad. After the war, he continued his career as a journalist for the newspaper Die Presse, where he became editor-in-chief and later co-publisher. He was the publisher of the Catholic magazine Wort und Wahrheit and author of several monographs on Austrian history and politics. As a media contact for the CIA he helped implement American agendas into the Austrian press discourse, while being an active supporter of European integration movements after the war.

It is precisely because of those apparent contradictions, that the life and work of Otto Schulmeister make for a very interesting historical case study and are the subject of my PhD project, I am currently writing at the Stanley Burton Centre at the University of Leicester.

An intellectual biography of Schulmeister provides research with the opportunity to shed light on how a journalist, armed with the craft of his profession, reacted to the changing course of Austrian and European history in the twentieth century and the extreme intellectual conditions associated with those upheavals and reflects the twisted paths intellectuals pursued between Nazism and liberal democracies.

The Otto Harpner award helped to finance an extensive research trip to Vienna that brought me from the microfilm archive of the National Library, to the state archive, and archive of diocese of Vienna, to the archive of the journalism union and the Research Centre for Austrian resistance.

During my time in Vienna I did get the chance to interview his children Stephan and Therese Schulmeister, his colleague Anneliese Rohrer and even the former president of Austria and longtime friend of Schulmeister Heinz Fischer.

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The material and interviews I collected in Vienna, helped me to uncover his institutional footprint and the impact he had on other people's lives, which will help me to contextualize my research of his private estate and explore different perspectives and interpretations.

Thanks to the Otto Harpner award I am one step closer to putting together the different fragments of the life and work of Otto Schulmeister, a biography that was shaped by and in turn influenced Austrian history itself.

Edited letter of the Daniel Mueller, addressed to the Anglo Austrian Society. A full version of his report can be obtained from the Society's office.

Dear Mr O'Neill,

First of all I want to thank you very much for the Otto Harpner Award and the great opportunity to come to London for 6 weeks.

I'd like to start my report with some general remarks on my living situation in London and how I actually spent my time in that great Metropolis. The sojourn in the Capital of the UK started out as a residency in the Austrian Cultural Forum. From there I moved to Brighton for two days, where I found a small room in an apartment with very nice Italians. My room there was quite funny, the floor was sloping to one side, but as soon as you were sitting or lying in bed, you were safe. I enjoyed it very much. After a short holiday in Brighton, I found a room in a lovely flat in Homerton, Hackney. It was quite expensive compared to Viennese rental fees. I lived with two other flat mates and found the perfect environment to compose and work, which I did with "strengem Eifer". I used the time to educate myself musically in going to all different kinds of concerts in different places all over town – a way for me to get to know the city.

Once a week I went to the City Academy to visit class. The course I took was called "Accent softening for Actors and Performers". We were six people practicing our tongues and speech, our performance skills as well as our sight reading abilities.

The course was, however, a bit different than I had expected it to be. I thought we would work a lot on the positions of tongues and lips and mouth with a lot of corrections from the trainer to really practice the small details of how to articulate, pronounce, and form the spoken elements of British English; that wasn't really the case, though. Nevertheless, I learned a lot, I could try things out and gained confidence for performing as a musician and interpreter of my own lyrics. I was taught a way to practice and the trainer provided us with the material to do so. I am very grateful for this precious opportunity.

I am back in Vienna now and want to continue my work as a musician and composer.

Daniel Mueller

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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

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