



President: Rosemary Ross

Chair: Susan Vinther [s.vinther@ntlworld.com](mailto:s.vinther@ntlworld.com)

20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Liebe Freunde,

### RECENT NEWS

#### WINE TASTING EVENING

We enjoyed a most memorable and successful evening at Park Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> May, when Victoria Collins MP joined us for the discovery of selected German and English wines. Penny Edwards of [Cellar Door Wines](#) enjoys providing wine-tasting events for a variety of community groups and is extremely good at it! She enabled us to compare and contrast two sparkling, then two white and finally two red wines from Germany and England, providing a wealth of fascinating information as we tasted the wines. Thank you to Penny, who also provided the wine which we presented to Victoria to thank her for her talk on AI and International Cooperation. Our MP is the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Science, Innovation and Technology, so has a wealth of knowledge about rapid developments in this huge area. She made the subject relatable to us all with references to Alzey and our Town Twinning with a smattering of German thrown in! She is in the l/h photo with Penny Edwards and Mayor Cllr Pip Liver (centre. Chair, Susan Vinther & Penny are in the r/h photo. (The opening of the '*Scheutime*' festival in Alzey was taking place as we were gathered in Park Hall!)



Thanks go to Harriet Gloess and Joanne Davies for their hard work in catering for 50 of us and in organising the raffle. (We always greatly appreciate your generosity in buying tickets).

### **BEER TASTING EVENING**

A 5 litre barrel of Paulaner Hefe-Weissbier was opened and the contents consumed at Susan Vinther's house in place of the conversation evening in April. The beer was kindly donated to the Friends of Alzey by a Harpenden resident, Diana, who won it in a raffle but had no use for it. She joined us for a taste and quite enjoyed it! The rest of us did too....

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **VISIT TO ALZEY 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The committee will be in touch with the participants in due course, and as the visit approaches, will form a WhatsApp group as in previous years so that everyone can be in contact with each other. This can be useful also for arranging transport to and from Heathrow, as this isn't provided by the Friends of Alzey.

#### **ANNUAL QUIZ WITH GINNY ST JOHN GLEW**

This popular event will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November; put it in your diary!

### **REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET AND CONVERSE**

#### **ENGLISH-SPEAKING SOCIAL EVENINGS**

These are 'drop in' evenings from 7.30 pm at Oddfellows Arms and everyone is most welcome – the more, the merrier. A few days ago, we were able to sit in the garden for the first time this year and enjoyed a very pleasant time together. The next few months' meetings will take place on **10<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

#### **GERMAN-SPEAKING STAMMTISCH**

Our Stammtisch continues to be very well-attended, and a lively start to the weekend. Drop in from 10am – approx. 11.30 am at the Oddfellows Arms (outside in summer with luck!) on one or all of the following 'last Saturdays of the month': **31<sup>st</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> August.**

If you are considering attending, but are not sure about how it runs, don't hesitate to contact Susan [s.vinther@ntlworld.com](mailto:s.vinther@ntlworld.com) or 07948 798994 (landline no longer in use).

#### **GERMAN CONVERSATION EVENINGS**

These enjoyable evenings run from 7.30 until approx. 9 pm in members' homes. We thank the hosts without whom they could not happen. Do encourage anyone you know to try them out if he/she is beyond complete beginner level in German, as only German is spoken. They and it is appreciated if you can contact the host a couple of days before the meeting with your intention to attend. (A charge of £2 will be made by the host for drinks and nibbles).

Steve Williams, our conversation evening co-ordinator, will provide further details nearer the time, but future dates for your diaries are **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**

### **LITERATURE GROUP**

Thank you to Cornelia for running this popular group so successfully and for offering the library of previous book choices to all members. Contact her with any questions or loan requests that you have at [cornelia.sander@posteo.co.uk](mailto:cornelia.sander@posteo.co.uk). The next literary work for discussion on June 3<sup>rd</sup> is "tschick" by Wolfgang Herrndorf. The titles in the library can be found in January's newsletter.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We thank you for your subscriptions, and are encouraged by the steady arrival of new members into our organisation. Please continue to speak to local people about your positive experiences at our events, as that is proving to be the most effective way to 'recruit'!

It is a pleasure to welcome Penny Edwards of Cellar Door Wines as our latest member.

### **CULTURE CORNER**

AI is everywhere in our lives. Some new apps have been launched for learning languages, which use AI to 'hear' and evaluate the learner as they hold a conversation with their virtual teacher in the app. Scores of YouTubers have put up videos about their experiences with these apps. Enjoy, and if you do find and use a very good app, do share that with us!

Alles Gute

Susan Vinther (Chair) on behalf of the committee