



GS Committee

Chair:

Stephanie Tarling

Tel: 0335-541404

Email:

setarling@t-online.de

Vice Chair:

Norman Ellis

Tel: 05421-904684

Email:

norman.ellis@t-online.de

Hon Secretary:

Angela Weckler

Tel: 04174 3732

Email:

angelaweckler@t-online.de

Hon Treasurer:

Jadwiga Bobrowska

Tel: 0211 482513

Email:

J.Bobrowska@gmx.net

GS Website:

www.ciol-gs.de

Webmaster:

Norman Ellis

Editor:

Sally Lamm

Email:

sally_lamm@t-online.de

GS News

March
2017

The Newsletter of the Chartered Institute of
Linguists German Society e.V.

Letter from the Chair

Dear Members,

Our first event of the year was the AGM in Mainz, and we were delighted to welcome Jane Galbraith, CioL Head of Membership. After the formal AGM, Jane gave us a very interesting and informative presentation about the current state of the Institute and its future plans. The Institute is keen to talk directly to its members and gain an insight into what people really want. The CioL and GS are now working towards a more informal structure for the German society. This will not mean any changes to our annual events, but it will be easier for volunteer committee members if we do not have to have a formal e.V. status.

I will continue as Chair until the next AGM but then I will stand down, as I am returning to the UK on a permanent basis. Since both my daughters now live and work in the UK, I have made the decision to move. This was not an easy choice, having lived in Germany for over 30 years, and I'm not enthusiastic about Brexit, but I wish to be closer to my family. I still plan to attend GS events – they have given me so much over the years and I would be sorry to miss out on them.

At the AGM we discussed our plans for 2017 and 2018. Further details of the Study Weekend in Lübeck (**15 - 17 September, deadline for priority booking 31 March**) and the Translators' Workshop in Berlin (**11 November**) can be found in this newsletter. Looking ahead to 2018, it is our turn to host the Anglophoner Tag, which will probably take place in June in Greifswald. The 2018 Study Weekend will be in Vienna in September. More details will follow at a later date. We're deeply indebted to Jadwiga for organising so many events so successfully.

All the best from me and the committee

Stephanie

Minutes of German Society of the Chartered Institute of Linguists AGM 2017

Saturday 4 March, Haus des Deutschen Weines, Mainz

The meeting began at 11 a.m. Chairperson Stephanie Tarling welcomed those present and introduced our guest from the CioL in London, Jane Galbraith, Head of Membership.

1. Apologies for absence
Guglielmo Fittante
Ilse Freiburg
Ute Reusch
Brenda Scruby
Rowan Shaw
Angela Weckler (who took part via Skype)
2. Approval of the agenda
Rodney Mantle proposed approval, Gloria Buttress seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. Approval of minutes of 2016 AGM
Mike Harrington proposed approval, Isabelle Thorman seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Chairman's report
Stephanie reviewed the events of 2016, thanking the webmaster and newsletter editor for their respective services. She reported that the committee held regular meetings via Skype.
5. Treasurer's Report
Rodney Mantle and Gloria Buttress had audited the books prior to the AGM, for which they were duly thanked. Treasurer Jadwiga Bobrowska presented a breakdown of the GS accounts and current financial situation.
6. Formal approval by membership of committee's actions
Frances Mechan-Schmidt proposed approval, Heidi English seconded.
The committee's actions were approved unanimously.
7. Formal approval by membership of treasurer's actions
Glynis Thompson proposed approval, Roy Virtue seconded. The treasurer's actions were approved unanimously, with thanks for her excellent work.
8. Election of committee members (treasurer and secretary)
Both Jadwiga Bobrowska and Angela Weckler were willing to stand again.
Gloria Buttress proposed Angela Weckler, Rodney Mantle seconded. Isabelle Thormann proposed Jadwiga Bobrowska, Frances Mechan-Schmidt seconded.
Both were re-elected unanimously.

Stephanie Tarling announced that she would be standing down as chairperson at the 2018 AGM, as she will be returning to the UK later this year. Vice-Chairman Norman Ellis may also stand down then. After that, the structure of the German Society will be on a more informal basis, in line with Institute plans for its various societies at home and abroad.

9. 2017 Study Weekend in Lübeck

Jadwiga Bobrowska reported on the current status and the number of registrations received so far, reminding those present that up to 31 March, GS members only were entitled to register, after which registration would be opened to interested parties who are associates of GS members.

10. Other future events

This year's Anglophoner Tag, to be hosted by the ITI German Network, is to be held in Chester. Details to follow as available.

The 2017 Translators' Workshop will again take place in Berlin, at the Sorat Ambassador Hotel. Further details will be provided in due course.

In 2018, it will again be the German Society's turn to organise the Anglophoner Tag. The proposed venue is Greifswald, with the topic 'Translating the Arts'. The proposed date is June.

The 2018 Study Weekend will take place in Vienna.

11. Any other business

The newsletter editor encouraged members to make contributions on appropriate subjects to the newsletter.

12. Date and place of next AGM

The provisional date is 3 March 2018, and the probable venue somewhere in the Rhineland or Rhein-Main area.

The meeting concluded at 12.10.

Jane Galbraith, Head of Membership at the Chartered Institute of Linguists, then addressed the meeting on the Institute's activities and plans relating to members. The aim is for someone to visit each of the societies and divisions at least once a year, with a strong focus on ascertaining members' wants and needs. The Institute is also working on attracting younger members at the pre-professional stage. To this end, three new grades of membership have been established, and partnerships established with universities to reach out to language students. The new approach is proving successful so far.

Jane also explained the simplified procedures introduced to allow already qualified linguists to obtain Chartered Linguist status and to raise the awareness of the importance of using qualified linguists.



With regard to the Divisions and Societies, there are plans in place to switch to a more informal structure, in recognition of the fact that these are all run by volunteers and that this is what members now prefer. The future basis will be guidelines rather than constitutions. The Institute is also trying to provide more support for the Divisions and Societies.

Jane's most interesting and valuable presentation concluded with a discussion of concession/retirement rates and how these might be graded and described, since, as one member put it, we don't stop being linguists once we retire.

We then adjourned for lunch, and those present had the opportunity to network and continue discussion of some of the issues raised. Those who had time subsequently made their way to the historic Citadel overlooking the town and visited an exhibition on Mainz and wine. The weather was kind to us, which made it all the more enjoyable.



Photos courtesy of Mike Harrington.

Anglophoner Tag 2017
Hosted by the ITI German Network in Chester
22 - 24 September 2017

Cherry Shelton-Mills writes:

I am pleased to announce that this year's Anglophoner Tag will be held in the city of Chester, one of Britain's great heritage cities. The city is home to the most complete city walls in Britain, dating from Roman times. Other sights worth visiting are the Roman amphitheatre and the 1000-year-old Chester Cathedral, to say nothing of the half-timbered buildings and the unique Rows, two-tiered medieval galleries lining the beautiful main street.



It also boasts the oldest racecourse still in use, and this is where our Saturday workshop will be held. It is within easy reach of the train station. The closest airports are Liverpool and Manchester; train connections from Birmingham are also good. The tourist office can be contacted here: <http://www.visitchester.com>

The theme for the workshop this year is **"Food for Thought"**.

If you would like to give a presentation (in English or in German) on anything relating to this admittedly broad subject (agriculture, food hygiene, EU directives, farming, translating menus, recipe books, diet etc.), please contact me at the email address below. Please state how long you want to speak for (30-60 mins).

We will also hold a translation slam (or duel) and I will need four volunteers, two German and two English native speakers. Last time we held a slam it was very successful and positive, not the nervewracking experience some might imagine! I will send the texts for the slam a few weeks before the event. Please let me know if you're interested in taking part.

Needless to say, there will be social events over the weekend (Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday sightseeing and lunch). The event should finish by about 2.30 on Sunday afternoon. You are welcome to attend the whole weekend or just certain events. Registration has already opened. If you have any questions please contact me at <mailto:itigermannetwork@gmail.com>

The editor's rag bag

We all regularly encounter poor translations from German into English and vice versa. They can be attributed to any number of causes – often, sadly, the person translating overestimating his or her abilities and knowledge of the language concerned, or the customer not appreciating the qualifications required for good translating and interpreting.

These errors are generally no more than amusing or irritating. At a recent theatre performance with German subtitles, for example, the word 'cruiser' was rendered as 'Kreuzfahrtschiff' – astonishing, since it was a highly moving documentary play about the Falklands War! However, a recent article published in *The Guardian* earlier this year highlighted how serious the fallout can be if something goes wrong along the way. It concerned a young man who had been detained as a potential suspect following the attack on a Berlin Christmas market last December (he was not the attacker).

The person detained (whom I shall refer to as X) was a Balochi-speaking asylum seeker from Pakistan. He was interviewed after his release by a *Guardian* journalist, aided by a Balochi-speaking academic with good English. This English account was published in the newspaper and subsequently appeared in translation in the German media, prompting an angry reaction from Berlin police. They felt that the latter reports had created 'a false impression that X had been subjected to undue force and detained too long'. The word 'slapped', for example, appeared in some German reports as 'geschlagen' (the police may slap away a suspect's hands if an attempt is made to cover the face when being photographed). The *Guardian* journalist responded by holding a long meeting with Berlin police, and the detainee was re-interviewed. It transpired that when first interviewed by the police, the interpreter was an Urdu speaker, but X merely understood *some* Urdu and didn't speak it! When X was re-interviewed by the police, the interpreter was a Persian speaker, and X was able to communicate in Persian.

The upshot is that the *Guardian* was completely exonerated of in any way misrepresenting the facts, and the criticisms of the police contained in some German media accounts were entirely unfounded. Yet how often do we read and believe things which may in fact be grossly inaccurate simply because of poor translation?

With sincere thanks to *The Guardian* for permission to quote from the article.

A brief PS to my last about different British birth certificate formats: Scottish birth certificates are different again, so now that's five variations!

Thanks to Glynis Thompson for this photo taken in Valencia:



Stony ground

For some time now, I've been helping the family (in England) of an English friend who died here in Germany. They speak no German and understandably need help with formalities. I have explained many times that British translators do not as a rule translate *into* the foreign language, only into their mother tongue, outlining the professional ethical considerations involved. Recently, I added that they would soon need the services of a qualified legal translator into German. I explained how to find one, with specific reference to the Institute's Find-a-Linguist service, and also made a couple of personal recommendations. Their response was to translate the next letter to the German court using their computer software, and then ask me if the translation was acceptable. Oh how tempted I was ... So henceforth your newsletter will be produced by a chimpanzee at a typewriter!

GS Diary

2017

19 – 21 May

ADÜ Nord conference in Hamburg. For details please see <http://www.adue-nord.de/5-adue-nord-tage/>

9 June - 8 July

Shakespeare festival Neuss. For details of this year's exciting programme, please see <https://www.shakespeare-festival.de>

15 - 17 September

GS Study weekend in Lübeck. The subject will be the Hanseatic League, and the venue is the Hansa Museum.

Speakers confirmed so far:

Dr Paul Richards, from King's Lynn on "England & The Hanseatic League Past & Present". Christoph Sholl on "Lübeck and the Hansa during the Cold War – A personal memoir".

As always, there is a limited number of places, and these will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference given to GS members. **If you are interested in the weekend, please notify Jadwiga by 31 March at J.Bobrowska@gmx.net** and she will subsequently let people know if there are places available for non-members, and send out further details.

22 - 24 September

Anglophoner Tag in Chester, organised this year by the ITI. For further details, please see p.4.

11 - 15 October

Frankfurt am Main book fair.
Special guest France.

11 November

Translators' workshop in Berlin. Once again, the venue will be the Sorat Ambassador Hotel. Further details in due course.