

Chronicle

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January Events

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Sun 02 nd | Film Afternoon
"WALLE" |
| FRI 07 th | Non-Smoking Evening |
| FRI 14 th | Live Music |
| WED 19 th | Non-Smoking Evening |
| FRI 21 st | Committee Meeting
Happy Hour
Quiz Evening |
| SAT 22 nd | Double Bill
"Nowhere Boy" &
"The Boat That Rocked" |

NATIONALITY MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

Kohlfahrt 2011

Saturday, February 05th, 15:30

One final reminder to get your name down as soon as possible if you want to take part.

The details are available in last month's issue, but here are the main points.

Meeting place	Bus stop " Stromerstrasse " (Bus no. 24)
Meeting time	14:30
Members	€ 25 (includes bus ride home)
Non-members	€ 28 (includes bus ride home)
Last date to cancel	January 21st
Chris' phone nos.	0421-581471 0152-09501794 (on the day)

Please speak to Chris if you have any questions.

Live Music Offerings

The Folk Music evening in the clubrooms recently was so popular, that we've decided we'd like to try making it a regular feature of Club life.

In January, one of our newest members - Frank - has offered to entertain us. The date has tentatively been set for **Friday, 14th**, but keep an eye on the notice board for any last minutes confirmation or changes.

We have at least two more such evenings planned for the near future and will be informing you when we have finalised any deals . . .

Come along and show your support for these artists!



Dear Members,

It's never easy to look back on a bad year. My 2010 was rather more difficult than expected, although with the love and support of family and friends, it was a lot less worse than it could have been. A heartfelt thank you to all of you!

Another thing that kept me going was the move to new premises and I must admit to feeling more at home in the new rooms than in the old ones. Maybe it has something to do with having actually helped put them together (something I missed out on in the *Löningstrasse*) and maybe it's me just being thankful for having had something to keep me occupied during the treatment. Whatever it was, I'm simply content with the (almost) final result.

Turning my view away from the past and into the future; what does the future hold? Ah, now that's a question that simply can't be answered. I've not always been an optimist (and even now would probably opt for "pragmatist") but I do think that it's a sensible attitude to look for good in the direst of circumstances.

I think my motto for 2011 will be "Out of the darkness and into the light..."

Steve

Committee Report

The old clubrooms were handed back to *Haus & Grund* in December. Brita and helpers did an excellent job in getting the rooms in a fit state to be viewed and after a matter of 15 minutes, the property was no longer our problem. We had hoped to leave the kitchen in place (mainly to avoid having to throw it away) and *Haus & Grund* agreed to buy it, easing our financial burden slightly.

Please have a look in your kitchen cupboards if you may have inadvertently kept any English Club Tupperware boxes. We had quite a few and presently have none . . . we would appreciate you bringing them back to the clubrooms for further use.

Another short reminder to remember your membership fees. Quite a few members take advantage of the possibility to pay for a year in advance (and only having to pay for 11 months). Why not consider setting up a standing order to ensure you can't forget it in the future?

This year's AGM has been pencilled in for April 08th. If you would like to stand for election on to the committee - or would like to volunteer for one of the other positions in the Club - and need to know more, please don't hesitate to speak to a committee member.



The Committee

Club Notes

by Mike Harding



Suddenly it's the end of the year! What a year it's been for the Club – all the usual events plus a move to new premises have stretched our resources almost to the limit. It has been a roller-coaster year for emotions as well, with some real highs as well as lows. This last month has also provided some new and some established events.

As usual this article is presented in an informal style and it will reflect my personal impression of the Club activities. I won't say it will mention everything but it will give an idea what's been going on each month. This doesn't in any way replace proper event reports so please keep sending them in to Steve.

Friday 3rd December

The first 'Vinyl Night' went off really well. It all started with some free thinking between Jens, Kai and myself ages ago and developed as an idea from Jens to bring a good quality turntable to the Club and ask people to bring along some vinyl LP's or singles and we would play them during the evening. Well it worked! We had an amazing selection of records most of which we managed to play. Everything



from *ZZ Top* to *Steeleye Span* to the *Beatles* – just great. The amazing thing was that those who hadn't brought anything along found it just as fascinating to look through these old treasures. Thanks to everyone who brought something along, especially Brita who let me steal her singles collection! Let's do it again in the New Year.

Sunday 5th December

If there's one place I wouldn't want to live, no matter how wonderful the countryside is, it's *Midsomer*, the fictional county featured in our film tea-time. I mean, they have at least one murder there every week! The month we had a film tea time instead



of brunch and a very pleasant afternoon it turned out to be. We watched a couple of 'Midsomer Murders' known here as 'Inspector Barnaby' whilst snacking on Bettina's quiche and a selection of excellent cakes. Thanks to all the super cooks who provided the tasty food.

Friday 10th December

Last minute preparations for the Christmas Party meant a rather shortened Club night for some. Fortunately the logistics of using the room in *Sebaldsbruck* means we

don't need to transport quite so much stuff or empty the clubroom to set up tables and so on. Hung on in the Club until Klaus arrived at around midnight, then had a couple of beers before heading home – not such an early night after all!

Saturday 11th December

Always plenty to do, but with Brita and Bettina organising, assisted by Jessika and Colin what could go wrong? Klaus and I went off at around mid-day with the *Sprinter* to collect the things we needed from the Club, including the wine and puddings. Called in at Jessika's kitchen to pick up the big heater thingy that keeps the turkey and spuds warm. Back home for a short rest and then over to the party room to set up the lights. Last year we thought that the room lacked a bit of atmosphere and that some indirect lighting might help. I used our Christmas tree lights and a couple of clip-on lamps to light up the corners of the room. I must say that together with the tea lights on the tables it made the room more convivial.

The guests started arriving at (or before!) 7pm for sherry and it wasn't long before the room filled up. Those bringing food hurried through the mass with pots wrapped in blankets to get the spouts, potatoes or whatever into the *bain-maries* to keep them warm. As befitting one of the (for me anyway) highlights of the meal, Nicky arrived last but still on time with the 'piggies' – sausages wrapped in bacon – and the meal could begin. It has to be said again that the standard of food served was excellent, they say practice makes perfect but I think passion and commitment has something to do with it as well.



After the meal we had a real surprise as Korinna and two of her visiting students entertained us with Christmas songs and guitar accompaniment. They provided song sheets so that we could sing along. Unfortunately it was really "un-plugged" and I'm not sure everyone in the room could hear them. A pity because the girl had a lovely voice and young man is a guitar virtuoso.



Before we went on to the next part of the evening we had a quiet moment to remember Keyvan, who we still miss so much and who I so much associate with this event. For me, one of the highlights of the year after the meal, is when we can say a public thank you to all those members who have done something for the Club; the list was quite long this year with those involved in the Club move and of course the bar people. The 'bar' presents are paid for out of *Sheepsie* who lives on the bar and is regularly fed with small change. People had been

very generous during 2010 so the gifts were, I hope, a bit special this year. Special thanks also went to Nicky and Reinhard for the amazing amount of work they put into the new Club, especially in re-building the bar. We had planned a surprise guest this year – in addition to Santa of course – but we were having a few technical difficulties which meant as soon as Santa had driven off on his sleigh I had to rush home to pick up my laptop and iPod. Normally I would have gone round with the brandy bottle at this time and I must say a big thanks to Nobby for standing in for me. Now it's not everyday I have the opportunity to introduce live on

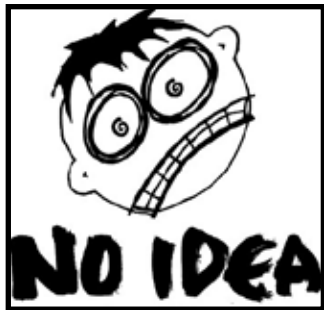


stage Miss Tina Turner, but thanks to some last minute negotiation we enjoyed a couple of songs with the Queen of Soul in down-town Bremen. Great fun and a big thanks to Helga who was, of course 'simply the best' and to Anneke who acted as impromptu wardrobe mistress. Later though the party didn't really take off, maybe we are all just a year older, but somehow that spark of fun was missing. It was a nice evening with plenty of conversation and folks stayed on as there is ample public transport from the venue. I guess you can't make it happen if it doesn't get going spontaneously. What else? I heard that there was a shortage of pudding, which we must correct next year, as the author is very fond of a mince pie!



Friday 17th December

It seemed appropriate that Steve should do the last Quiz of the year. He has raised the standard of the Club Quiz (see - we're not allowed to call it the Pub Quiz any more) and brought in a whole new technology to the event. Earlier we held our last committee meeting of the year and very productive it was. My personal thanks to all the committee members and to Iris as Club manager and Micheal Bittner as our book-keeper for a great working atmosphere during the year and a lot of commitment to make the Club move so successful. Somehow we managed to fit in something to eat, I had a left over portion of Colin and Jessika's *Kohl and Pinkel* just as tasty as last time. The evening was well attended and even though most of Steve's questions were impossible to answer, we all enjoyed it. The Bar Team (who else) won but who cares! Nice to see some new faces as guests despite very cold and snowy conditions outside. The Club seems to be getting back to it's old self again in the new surroundings . . .



Wednesday 22nd December

MOK returned from China and immediately volunteered for bar duty! When we arrived in the Club at about 8.30pm the place was quite full. The reason became obvious when MOK showed me a sign 'Maotai Chinese Schnapps €1' next to a red and white bottle. Never one to refuse a challenge (or a cheap drink) it was 'Gan bei' and down in one with the fierce rice liquor. Later my phone rang and it was Amir calling from Toronto, a real surprise and great to hear from him - he sends his best wishes to all. The Club was well attended, again considering the weather, a very positive sign. A typical Club evening with a Chinese twist, MOK had his laptop with plenty of pictures of his time in China plus we had another couple of rounds of Maotai. Welcome back Mark Oliver Klages, and a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all.



See you in the Club,

Mike Harding



To all those who contributed towards the surprise hampers at the Christmas Dinner: Many, many thanks for your thoughts and generosity. It was a big surprise and very much appreciated. I am so pleased that our work has been so well received and recognised. Again, thank you so much, certainly also in the name of all the Bryson/Robinson Clan and the other workers who did so much.

Iris

I would also like to add my thanks to anyone that contributed towards these wonderful hampers. I really wasn't expecting it (I think none of us were) and this made the surprise all the more special. It really is nice to be appreciated - although I don't think any of us actually do it for this reason - and this acknowledgement of our work and effort makes me want to do twice as well in the future!

Steve

January 2011

Sunday
02nd
15:00

Film Afternoon
"WALLE"
with Coffee & Cake



Non-Smoking Evening

Friday
07th
20:00

Friday
14th
20:00

Live Music Evening



Non-Smoking Evening

Wednesday
19th
20:00

Friday
21st
18:00/20:00/21:00

Committee Meeting
Happy Hour
Quiz Evening



50's & 60's Double Bill

"Nowhere Boy" &
"The Boat That Rocked"

Saturday
22nd
18:00

February 2011

Friday
04th
20:00

Non-Smoking Evening



Saturday
05th
14:30

Kohlfahrt 2011

See page 02



Sunday
06th
11:00

Film Brunch



"Sherlock Holmes"
with Full English Breakfast

Friday
11th
20:00

Live Music Evening

"Boots or Bags"
to be confirmed...

Friday
16th
20:00

Non-Smoking Evening



Friday
18th
18:00/20:00

Committee Meeting

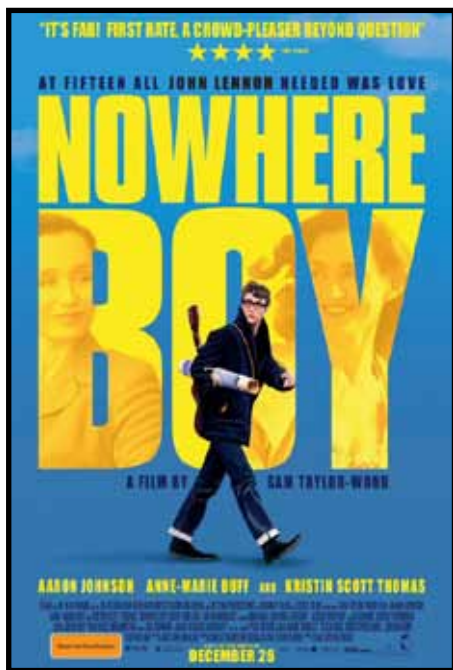
Cocktail Party



No "Happy Hour"
or "Quiz"!!!

“50’s & 60’s” Double Bill

Saturday, January 22nd, 18:00



This month's movie offering brings you a couple of films from the early years of what was to become modern pop music.

“Nowhere Boy” tells the story of John Lennon’s youth in the 1950s, growing up with his strict aunt and eventually finding an outlet in his somewhat crazy mother. The film follows his introduction to music, putting together his first band and the chance meeting with his future musical partner, Paul McCartney. Well acted and really believable docu-drama.

The second film is about something totally different. Set in the 1960s, a group of music enthusiasts decide to do something about the state of radio broadcasting. The state-preferred medium is jazz and they want to bring rock’n’roll to the masses. Although the film is pure fiction, it is loosely based on the story of pirate radio stations that actually existed in the 1960s, broadcasting their music from ships anchored out at sea, supposedly outside of British law. The cast and director are all well-known in the genre and a lot of fun is to be expected . . .

As usual, food will either be ordered on the evening or you can bring something along with you. As has happened at the last couple of events, there may even be some leftovers from Jessika and Colin’s culinary delights . . .

Steve

The Year Without a Summer

By Steve Schmied



When preparing for the December Quiz, I decided to put together a round about winter weather. OK, some of the questions may have been slightly more difficult than quiz-goers are used to, but one question I asked was “when was the year that has gone down in history as the Year Without a Summer”? This innocuous question stuck in my mind and I decided to follow it up . . .

The year 1816 began pretty normally with ordinary winter temperatures - some places even record a slight rise in temperature. It wasn't until the spring that people realised that something was up. March and April records show that it was colder than usual. A persistent dry fog was observed in the worst hit regions of *New England*. It caused the sun to dim to a reddish glow and neither wind nor rainfall could move it.

The real catastrophe began in May when crops were killed by frost. This frost continued and in August, ice could be seen on the rivers as far south as *Pennsylvania*. Crops had actually been poor for years and 1816 simply continued a trend. Temperatures went up and down regularly, sometimes reaching extremes of +35°C and near-freezing within hours. South of *New England*, crops were grown, but the general shortage caused prices to soar. The price of oats rose from 12c a bushel to over 90c. The consequence was that a lot of people suffered and many lost their lives. August then brought a drought that persisted until well into September, but it was too late to plant new crops.



In the UK, Welsh families traveled as refugees, begging for food whenever they had the chance. London experienced snow in August. It is estimated that over 100,000 people died in Ireland alone following a wheat, oat and potato crop failure, which itself triggered a typhus epidemic that went until 1819. In Europe, recovering from the *Napoleonic Wars*, Germany was hit severely and in most countries, riots broke out mainly due to the fact that nobody could explain what was happening. Switzerland declared a national emergency, and all over Europe rivers flooded due to severe rainfall. Estimates of over 200,000 deaths in Europe have been made. In Asia, rice crops failed and water buffalo died. Crops that had been brought to fruition were destroyed by floods. The same problem of floods also hit India, spreading cholera along the *Ganges* and as far north as *Moscow*.

The winter went into 1817 and temperatures of -32°C were measured in *New York*, where the *Upper Bay* waters froze, allowing people to cross from *Brooklyn* to *Governors Island* on sleighs. In Switzerland an ice-dam formed and despite the best efforts of local engineers, it broke in 1818 with catastrophic results.

But what caused the unusual weather? With present day knowledge and nearly 200 years of experience, the general consensus is that the eruption of *Mount Tambora*



in Indonesia in 1815 was the main culprit. Vast amounts of volcanic dust were poured into the upper atmosphere, acting as a curtain against sunlight, reflecting it back into space rather than letting it through. It has been classed as the largest eruption since *Hatepe* erupted in AD 180. This immense outpouring added to four previous large eruptions (between 1812 - 1814) that occurred all around the

world (The Caribbean, Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines), which meant that the atmosphere was already chock full of volcanic dust. Scientist also point out that the Sun was in a period of low activity, although how this exactly influences the Earth is still not fully understood.

One of the consequences of the famines in the US was a strong surge by people to the west. Mainly out of fear, masses moved from *New England* literally to better pastures, in what was then known as the *Northwest Territory*, basically moving to the western and southern sides of the *Great Lakes*.

One fact that I find amusing is that a certain German inventor called *Karl Drais* supposedly invented a precursor to the modern bicycle - the *Draisine* or *Velocipede* - to replace horses that simply couldn't be fed due to the lack of oats. It didn't come with pedals, but he received grand-ducal permission to exploit his invention. Sadly, he fled to Brazil (due to family complications) in 1822, returning after 5 years and died penniless in 1851. Another interesting fact stemming from this one is that he also invented a very early kind of typewriter utilizing a keyboard . . .

The *Mormons* supposedly came out of the year without a summer. The *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* was founded after the publication of Joseph Smith's *The Book of Mormon*. Joseph Smith's family had been forced to move from *Vermont* to *New York* by the crop failures. His book may never have been published had he stayed in *Vermont*.

Another book that may never have been published is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. She had been forced to stay indoors during 1816 due to "incessant rainfall" and out of boredom, she and her friends decided to see who could write the scariest story.

So if you look out of your window and see all the snow, take a moment to think about what it would be like to have this kind of weather for far longer than we're used to and not be able to pop to the supermarket to get supplies. I personally believe that modern society would be far less able to cope with such a catastrophe and hope that I will never have to experience it.



Steve

“Last Night of the Proms”

Bremerhaven, August 2011

Mike received the following mail a few weeks ago.

Dear Michael

I'm one of Nicky and Julie Bryson's former students and they introduced me to the English Club. 6.5 years ago I moved to Manchester and as I'm a keen amateur musician, I obviously had to find a band to play with. I joined the “Crumpsall Concert Band” (www.crumpsallconcertband.co.uk) here in Manchester and also managed to stay in touch with my music friends in Germany (www.blasorchester-wulsdorf.de , www.bremervoerder-stadtkapelle.de)

We are trying to establish a band partnership and are working on a mutual project, involving 2 English and 2 German bands. We are going to stage two concerts in Bremerhaven and Bremervoerde next year. The working title is: ‘Last Night of the Proms’. The idea is to have a truly British programme, ranging from ‘Pule Britannia’ to ‘Let me Entertain you’ by Robbie Williams. We hope to unite the two nations and several generations who enjoy wind-band music as much as we do.

Obviously, there is a reason why I'm contacting you.

First of all, because I wanted to let you know that there will be a very British event happening at your doorsteps and we hope to see your members among the audience but also, I remember Nicky showing me very funny photos of you guys dressing up as Sherlock Holmes and a Police Bobby etc. and taking part at the Freimarktsumzug. I was therefore wondering, if some of you would be interested to play a vital part in our programme? I was thinking that maybe you could dress up and just mingle among the audience or maybe even lighten up the atmosphere with some sketches between the pieces. Also, if one of you is brave and adventurous enough, we still need someone to present the programme. Ideally it should be someone who is fluent in both languages but we are more interested in a native English speaker with a cracking sense of humour.

Here are the details: 27.08. and 28.08.2011, concerts at “Seebuehne Bremervoerde” (1300 seats) and “Theater Bremerhaven” (750 seats) It's going to be a huge event that will make it into the press and we really hope that you would like to be part of it! Obviously, it could be good publicity for the English Club as well.

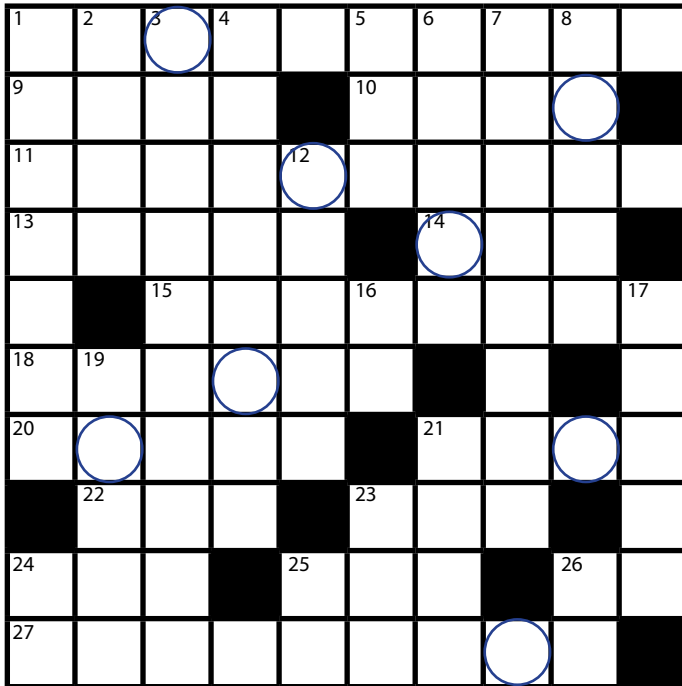
Anyway, it would be great to have your feedback and hear from you soon.

Best regards

Eva Berkholz (eva.kahan@yahoo.co.uk)

If anyone would be interested in taking part, dressing up, possibly even performing or taking on the job of comparing the event, please contact either Mike or Eva directly ...

The English Club Crossword



Across

Down

- 1 Scientific test (10)
- 9 Cut away excess (4)
- 10 Wander (4)
- 11 Money maker (10)
- 13 Laughing animal (5)
- 14 Small sponsor messages (3)
- 15 American sportscar maker (8)
- 18 Land of fantasy (6)
- 20 Catholic clothing (5)
- 21 Quick check (4)
- 22 British plane builder (abb.) (3)
- 23 Buzzing insect (3)
- 24 Cute mother (3)
- 25 Nickname for Vietnam in the US (3)
- 26 With a plane, e.g. (2)
- 27 Former, one-time (9)

- 1 Kind of drawing (7)
- 2 Mr. Roentgen discovered it (4)
- 3 Fantasy (4/5)
- 4 High-ranking church title (8)
- 5 Military arm of Sinn Fein (3)
- 6 Type of tooth (5)
- 7 Proof left behind (8)
- 8 A character from Middle Earth (5)
- 12 Female name (5)
- 16 Abb. For Open Access (2)
- 17 Fool, dolt (5)
- 19 Shady garden alcove of trees (5)
- 21 Half (4)
- 23 Ugh! (3)
- 24 Not you (2)
- 25 One of the ordinal directions (2)
- 26 Exist (2)

Film Brunch

Sunday, March 06th, 11:00

When Gerry dies of an illness, his wife Holly is devastated. She is finally brought out of her funk by the fact that he has left her messages to be received at certain times. Each message has the purpose of not only consoling her in her despair, but also urging her to get on with her life.

Over a period of time, Holly gets these messages, sometimes under weird circumstances, and each is intended to mend her, but her mother and friends fear that these messages are keeping her in the past . . .

Wonderfully played by Oscar-winning actress Hilary Swank, Holly goes through a whole battery of emotions before the final message arrives from a totally unexpected source.

Critics say that the story has been changed for the worse from Cecilia Ahearn's original book, but if you want to watch an emotional film (and have enough hankies with you), this is a film for you.



Breakfast will be available from 11:00 with a slightly Irish character in deference to the origin of the character of Gerry. The film will commence at 12:00.

December Crossword

	1	P	E	R	M	A	N	E	N	1	T					
9	S	A	N	I	T	Y			10	M	A	O				
11	U	P	O	N			12	E	N	E	M	Y				
13	H	E	R	D	E	R			14	R	E	S				
15	A	R	M						16	S	M	A	S	H		
	R			17	O	D		18	O	R			19	L		O
10	T	A	U			20	H	O	21	L	D	22	U	P		
	O			23	S	24	P	A	C	E			N			
		25	C	L	E	R	K			26	E	D	27	O		
28	P	A	Y	N	E					29	M	U	O	N		

Film Afternoon 02:01



Searched Word : YULETIDE

The English Club Bremen e.V.

Mike Harding	President	451738 0171-6042269	Mike@englishclub.de President@englishclub.de
Steve Schmied	Vice-President	876530 0151-54734074	sschmied@mac.com
Brita Harding	Treasurer	451738	Brita@englishclub.de
Nick O'Brien		0173-5207398	nickobrien@tks-net.com
Peter Schmiehofer	Membership	357880	peterschmiehofer@gmx.de
Jessika Stelling		3315039	hwl-rosenberg@wohnpark-weser.de
<hr/>			
Iris Bryson	Clubroom Manageress	5980698 0163-4152457	iris@englishclub.de
Rosi Hofmann	Darts Captain	547168	

Happy Birthday

January

03rd Sigi
09th Cornelia P.
15th Paul H.
17th Wilfried
28th Miranda

February

04th Oliver F.
09th Chris
24th Rainer



Bar Duty

January

05th Peter S.
07th Bettina ☹
10th Kai
14th Volker
19th Jessika ☹
21st Sameer
26th Peter S.
28th Onno

February

02nd Peter S.
04th Sameer ☹
09th Kai
11th Bettina
16th Dagmar ☹
18th Brita
23rd Colin
25th Onno

☹ = Non Smoking Evening; every first Friday and third Wednesday

Bank Details - Postbank Hamburg (20010020), Account Number 291728202

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