

Dear Members and Friends,

2022: what a year!

For Europe: war on our continent; an energy crisis; galloping inflation and surging interest rates; slumping bond and equity markets

For Britain: political crisis, with three PMs in just over three months (not as dramatic as Germany's Dreikaiserjahr in 1888, but heading there); Northern Ireland crisis; government debt crisis; NHS crisis; cost of living crisis; rail strikes, bus strikes, Scottish teachers' strikes, nurses' strikes, ambulance drivers' strikes and civil service strikes

For the British Royal Family: a wonderful Platinum Jubilee from February to June, (with most enjoyable Queen's Birthday Parties here in Berlin, Hochheim am Main and Heidelberg) followed only three months later by the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II; and now mud-slinging in the media by Harry and Megan, casting a shadow on the pending coronation of HM King Charles III, and encouraging British republicans to start raising their voices again

For Germany: where an unprecedented "Ampelkoalition" government has, to the surprise of many inside and outside the country, performed better than several other European administrations (notably that of the UK) in the face of multiple huge challenges

For DBG Berlin: Berlin had an especially active year, inviting members and friends from around the country to join numerous interesting online events. Berlin also organised an excellent physical "Netzwerktreffen" over two days in May at the Auswärtiges Amt in Berlin. This was attended, inter alia, by Peter Barnes, Chairman of the British German Association in London, several leading officers of the "British in Germany" group, Ilka Hartmann, MD, British Chamber of Commerce Berlin, the designated new German Ambassador to Britain, Miguel Berger, as well as representatives from all of the regional DBG societies. It was a very useful and enjoyable forum to share ideas towards a successful future for the whole DBG group.

In addition, Berlin is, as you know, responsible for the Königswinter conferences. These are undoubtedly the crowning achievement of the DBG since 1950. The main conference was due to take place over two days in September in Birmingham, but was postponed out of respect for HM QE II, who passed away the previous week. Having already booked my journey I went to Birmingham nevertheless and had a wonderful time there. I grew up in the Midlands and spent many Saturdays in Birmingham, so this was a trip down Memory Lane. Not only that: Birmingham has had a facelift in the past several years. The central square has been completely redesigned and is now called "Centenary Square". This, incidentally, is where the annual Frankfurt Christmas Market takes place, Birmingham being Frankfurt's twin city in the UK. Further improvements were made in anticipation of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Birmingham is now a completely different place from the drab, grey, drizzly and uninspiring city I remembered from the 1960s.

Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft Rhein Main e. V.

Geschäftsstelle: c/o Mazars GmbH & Co. KG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft Steuerberatungsgesellschaft • z. Hd. Frau Modersohn • Theodor-Stern-Kai 1 • 60596 Frankfurt am Main • Fax: 0 69 967 65-1165 - Tel.: 015165532181 • www.debrige.de • DBG.Rhein-Main@DeBriGe.de • dbg-rheinmain@t-online.de

Vorstand: Nick Jefcoat (Vorsitzender) • Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan (stv. Vorsitzender) • Prof. Dr. Andreas Fahrmeir • Michael Gehrig (Geschäftsführer) • Prof. Dr. Christoph Heyl • Tobias Mackenrodt • Annika Müller de Vries • Hendrik Schmidt (Schatzmeister) • Dr. Jens Zimmermann

Bankverbindung: Deutsche Bank AG • Frankfurt a.M. • Konto 8068447 • BLZ 50070024 – IBAN DE71500700240806844700 • BIC DEUTDE33

The postponed conference eventually took place in an action-packed day last month at Lancaster House (splendid location!) in London. The key topics in a series of talks and panel sessions were Security, Energy and the Retreat from Globalisation. Brexit was inevitably mentioned, but “en passant”, as something to be managed going forward rather than as a cause for perpetual debate and mourning. The audience comprised many influential individuals, including e.g. Prof. Ischinger and Dame Gisela Stuart. I was really looking forward to the scheduled live discussion between Außenministerin Baerbock and Foreign Secretary Cleverly; sadly, Baerbock was held up by bad weather in Dublin, so Ambassador Miguel Berger stepped in and gave a good performance. The highlight for me, however, was that Baerbock took the trouble to record a very personal video message of thanks to, and support for, the DBG. Any Members interested in viewing this video, please let Michael Gehrig know on dbg-rheinmain@t-online.de.

Königswinter Conferences in 2023 will take place as follows:

Defence: 16-17.03.23 in Berlin

Main: 14-16.09.23 in Neuhardenberg

Young: 21-25.07.23 in Berlin

Economic: 2nd half 2023 in UK

For DBG Rhein-Main: the majority of our 2022 events again took place online. We experienced pleasing attendance not only from the Frankfurt Rhein-Main region, but also from other DBG regional chapters, and occasionally from overseas. We held notable hybrid events at the Frankfurter PresseClub for speakers Colin Munro (“The United Kingdom?”) and Sir John Kay (“After Capitalism”) in May and November respectively.

Michael Gehrig has again already compiled a full event programme for 2023:

26.01.23 via Zoom: Ellie Woodacre on “Monarchy past, present and future; the new reign of King Charles III”

28.02.23 in cooperation with the Freies Deutsches Hochstift, at the Frankfurter Goethe-Museum: Dr. Charlotte Lee on „Nimm den Schwung: Lyrik und Bewegung bei Klopstock, Hölderlin und Rilke“

23.03.23 at the Frankfurter PresseClub and via Zoom: Sinclair McKay, best-selling author of “Berlin”, “Dresden” and “Bletchley Park”

28.03.23 at the Hermes Romantikmuseum in Marbach: Shakespeare Festvortrag by Prof. Tobias Döring

27.04.23 at the Frankfurter PresseClub and via Zoom: Stephen Harris “On plants”

25.05.23 at the Frankfurter PresseClub and via Zoom: Catherine Mason on “German literature taught at British schools”

29.06.23 via Zoom: Harry Cliff on “How to Make an Apple Pie from Scratch”

21.09.23 at the Frankfurter PresseClub and via Zoom: Prof Rüdiger Görner on “Stefan Zweig – The Reluctant Anglophile”

26.10.23 at the Frankfurter PresseClub (tbc): Adrian Goldberg on a topic regarding either the British press or the Kindertransport of German-Jewish children to the UK just before WWII

23.11.23 at the Frankfurter PresseClub and via Zoom: Angela Findley on “In My Grandfather’s Shadow”.

Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft Rhein Main e. V.

Geschäftsstelle: c/o Mazars GmbH & Co. KG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft Steuerberatungsgesellschaft • z. Hd. Frau Modersohn • Theodor-Stern-Kai 1 • 60596 Frankfurt am Main • Fax: 0 69 967 65-1165 - Tel.: 015165532181 • www.debrige.de • DBG.Rhein-Main@DeBriGe.de • dbg-rheinmain@t-online.de

Vorstand: Nick Jefcoat (Vorsitzender) • Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan (stv. Vorsitzender) • Prof. Dr. Andreas Fahrmeir • Michael Gehrig (Geschäftsführer) • Prof. Dr. Christoph Heyl • Tobias Mackenrodt • Annika Müller de Vries • Hendrik Schmidt (Schatzmeister) • Dr. Jens Zimmermann

Bankverbindung: Deutsche Bank AG • Frankfurt a.M. • Konto 8068447 • BLZ 50070024 – IBAN DE71500700240806844700 • BIC DEUTDE33HAN

Michael has now been your Geschäftsführer for almost 40 years. He does a wonderful job. Heartfelt thanks, dear Michael!

Our membership has again remained more or less stable during 2022. And, although our investment portfolio has come under some pressure, DBG R-M's financial position going into 2023 remains sound.

The 2022 **Dagmar Westberg-Preis** has been awarded to Dr. Ulrike Kern, who will use the money to part-fund her prestigious research into "Die britische Kunstwelt und der Kontinent. Kulturelle Transfers der frühen Neuzeit" in the UK in 2023.

It is nearly time for me to close. 2022 was a challenging year. We seem to have come through it reasonably well in the circumstances. It is not easy to be particularly positive about 2023. But we can at least be relieved that the Covid-19 pandemic is now behind us in western Europe. Also, that winter has been considerably mild so far. And that it should be easier from now on for DBG Members and Friends to meet in person (perhaps even to party together!). So, despite the undoubted economic, political and social issues ahead - not to mention the war, the climate or natural diversity loss - let's take solace from Monty Python's Eric Idle:

"Some things in life are bad, they can really make you mad;
Other things just make you swear and curse.
When you're chewin' on life's gristle, don't grumble, give a whistle
And this'll help things turn out for the best.

And always look on the bright side of life
Always look on the bright side of life....."

Thank you as always, dear Members, for your continued support throughout 2022. As for you, dear Friends, I hope that, looking back on a successful 2022 and forward to a promising 2023, more of you will now take the plunge and become full Members.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and fulfilling 2023!

Nick Jefcoat
Chairman
DBG R-M
04.01.2023

Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft Rhein Main e. V.

Geschäftsstelle: c/o Mazars GmbH & Co. KG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft Steuerberatungsgesellschaft • z. Hd. Frau Modersohn • Theodor-Stern-Kai 1 • 60596 Frankfurt am Main • Fax: 0 69 967 65-1165 - Tel.: 015165532181 • www.debrige.de • DBG.Rhein-Main@DeBriGe.de • dbg-rheinmain@t-online.de

Vorstand: Nick Jefcoat (Vorsitzender) • Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan (stv. Vorsitzender) • Prof. Dr. Andreas Fahrmeir • Michael Gehrig (Geschäftsführer) • Prof. Dr. Christoph Heyl • Tobias Mackenrodt • Annika Müller de Vries • Hendrik Schmidt (Schatzmeister) • Dr. Jens Zimmermann

Bankverbindung: Deutsche Bank AG • Frankfurt a.M. • Konto 8068447 • BLZ 50070024 – IBAN DE71500700240806844700 • BIC DEUTDE33HAN