September 2018



BCT News

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Frankfurt Zoo Visit, Frankfurt









Night Out in the New Old Town, Frankfurt



BCT News

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Greetings from your President

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

Four years ago, we received an opportunity to move our family abroad from the Irish seaside town of Dungarvan to the Taunus town of Hofheim. An adventure we were game for, without a word of German between us we managed to navigate our way. There have been many ups and downs along the way, but if we hadn't laughed we'd have cried. We now know that 'flip-flops' are a pool shoe and not considered appropriate foot wear.

Over time we've become more aware of the culture and customs ... personally, as an expat all my adult life I feel that Frankfurt is a good mix of things we love about Canada (the appreciation of the great outdoors, rules and the pancakes) and Ireland (festivals, history, and the meat and spuds).

As they say if you make a German friend you have that friend for life.

It would have been much more difficult to navigate had we not had the support of our German teacher. We are obviously grateful that she taught us German but through her lessons she taught us the culture, the customs and really helped us to navigate our way through the systems and the bureaucracy. She brought us off the beaten track and we experienced real German culture at its best. She has since become a great sounding board and a brilliant friend, a friend for life whom we'd be lost without!

"If you build it they will come..."

Initially as the non-worker in our family, my role was to get us connected. I had to push myself out of my comfort zone and get out there and meet people. With limited German I had to look further afield and network in search of social circles for me and my family. I found that this was much easier here in Frankfurt then in Ireland because this city is hugely populated with expat families just like us. Through our wonderful neighbour and saviour, we were not only introduced to the BCT and MC but also a wonderful international Wine Stammtisch and a super

Welcome New Members!

Anna, Idstein Felix, Friedberg – Ockstadt Sarah, Roedermark Vicky, Frankfurt great babysitter. I also ventured to a weekly English playgroup where I developed some lasting friendships. We have also since joined the Gaelic Football club here in Frankfurt and have been able to stay well connected with our Irish roots.

The life we've built here is good, really good. And it's always quite surprising to family and friends back home that we are always busy and never seem lonely. So whether you are new to Frankfurt or have been here a long time I hope you enjoy this month's magazine. I invite you to come out to our many BCT activities planned this month, because you never know - it might help you or someone you meet look on the bright side of life here. You will most definitely feel connected and well, you never know, you may make a friend for life.....



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Frankfurt and Rhein Main - the Best Bits

John shares his favourite places in the region.

An important feature of living in Frankfurt and the Rhein Main Area is Frankfurt's central location in Germany and indeed in Europe – and Frankfurt is serviced by Germany's biggest airport, which facilitates travel all over the world. But you don't have to travel far to find curiosities and interesting places to visit. This article is an eclectic mix drawn from those of interest to the author – which hopefully provide interest to the reader as well.

There is more to the airport than just the terminals for flights to wonderful holiday destinations. Enthusiasts are served by two excellent viewing platforms, one at the west end and one at the east end of Frankfurt's main runways. The west platform is close to the Luftbrückendenkmal where 2 historic aircraft can be seen. They took part in the Berlin Airlift in the late 1940's and commemorate the airport's role in this historic event. And the platforms are surprisingly popular with folk of all ages with much expensive looking photographic equipment. An excellent view can be had of a seemingly continuous stream of low flying aircraft as they land and take off. The eastern platform can figure as part of a bike ride through the woods from Mörfelden, past the Jagdschloss Mönchbruch and through an extensive nature reserve there.

Then there are, perhaps surprisingly, many local connections to the English Royal family. For example, Queen Victoria's mother, also called Victoria (daughter of the Duke of Saxe Coburg) married the Duke of Kent in the church at the medieval town of Amorbach in the Odenwald. Some tourists on the guided tour seemed surprised to see pictures of Queen Victoria and the British Royal Family trees displayed on the walls. One of Queen Victoria's daughters, Princess Alice, married Prince Louis of Hesse and they settled in Darmstadt. The Schlosshotel at Kronberg was built for Victoria, Queen Victoria's eldest daughter. There is the Viktoria Weg in the Taunus hills between Königstein and Ruppertshain.

For those with an interest in botanical matters, the Palmengarten is an excellent place to spend a few hours. But close by, and this can be overlooked, there are the excellent Botanical Gardens which are well laid out over an area of 8 hectares. These gardens are located between the Palmengarten and the Grüneburgpark and are free to enter. Over 5000 plants are labelled, there is a scientific feel with many medicinal plants, as the gardens were formerly owned by the University of Frankfurt.

A trip to Rüdesheim is a popular destination when visitors come to stay. An amble around the old town always goes down well and there are many excellent restaurants where meals can be enjoyed often with excellent locally produced white wine. For those with time to spare and when the weather permits, a cable car drifts leisurely over the



vineyards up to the Niederwald Denkmal with rewarding views over the Rhein below. From there it is but a short walk to the station for the chairlift which takes one down the hillside to Assmannshausen. Assmannshausen is a wine town and is particularly well known as one of the few in the region which produces red wines. A ferry then takes you to Bingen and to complete the circuit, back to Rüdesheim.

Sport plays an important part of life in Frankfurt. Events include 'Ironman'. Athletes begin with a 3.8km swim in Langener Waldsee, followed by a 180km bike race leading to the final stage which consists of a 42km run along a course lined with thousands of spectators. Less punishing and great fun is the J P Morgan run in which more than 60,000 competitors run through the city streets over a course of 5.6km. The region is rich in canoeing opportunities. Canoes can be hired at several starting points on the River Lahn which allow paddling over longer or shorter stretches of river with much to see on the river banks. Canoeing on the Glan (to the South West of Frankfurt) is slightly more sporty. And also in the Glan Valley a Draisine can be hired for pedalling on the railway (which actually used to be the main line from Berlin to Paris 100 years ago). Wagons are available for groups ranging from 2 to 8 people.

Events featuring steam engines are

always well supported. At regular intervals a steam engine hauls passengers along the side of the River Main through Frankfurt. Steam also hauls passengers from Hoechst to Königstein at the Pfingsten weekend and even at Christmas time when a steam hauled excursion is organised to take folk from Frankfurt to Michelstadt in the Odenwald for a day at the Christmas market there. There is the annual steam weekend in May at Kranichstein, near Darmstadt. The museum has many old steam locos and carriages, some of which are over 100 years old. There is always plenty of action at the steam weekend making a great day out for the family at which you can see, smell and experience a bygone era as full size steam locos can be seen in action and again you can go for rides in trains pulled by steam. There is an excellent narrow gauge steam railway museum to the west of Frankfurt, where, on open days, rides can be taken through Rebstock park, which was Frankfurt's airport in the 1920's and 1930's.

For those with an interest in history, there is also much to see in and around Frankfurt. There is an excellent historical museum for a rainy day, which is partly located in the oldest building in Frankfurt (built from 11th to 13th



century) and there is a part of a dock there dating from the 12th century. The Jewish museum is well worth a visit too. Going back to earlier history there are many Roman remains in the region, highlights being the reconstructed Roman Fort, the Saalburg, which can be found not far from Bad Homburg and the Roman boundary earthwork, the Limes, passes across the Taunus to the north of Frankfurt. Coming to more modern times, few know that the Red Baron - a famous German pilot from 100 years ago, Manfred von Richthofen - is buried in a cemetery at Wiesbaden. In the museum at Kronberg Castle some of Julius Neubronner's work can be appreciated. Apothecary Julius Neubronner used pigeons to deliver medications and in 1907 he invented aerial photography. A homing pigeon was fitted with a breast harness to which a lightweight time-delayed miniature camera could be attached and some surprisingly good aerial photos were achieved.

So whether your interests are in food and drink, the British Royal family or seeing something historic – or indeed keeping fit or having a good day out, there is plenty to experience and enjoy in and around Frankfurt. *JW*

Family Life in Frankfurt

Claire highlights the best of Frankfurt for newcomers to the city.

Frankfurt am Main. Bankfurt. Mainhattan.

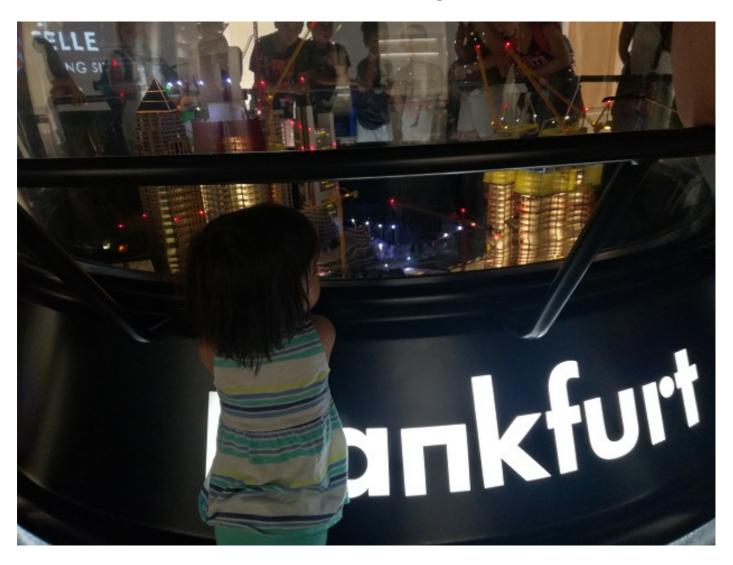
The nicknames for Germany's financial hub aren't very inspiring, and it's true that Frankfurt did used to have a reputation for being, well, a bit boring. However, times are changing, and there are several things that may surprise newcomers to the city.

Firstly, Frankfurt is a very cosmopolitan city, and roughly a quarter of its residents are foreign nationals. A mixture of languages can be heard on its streets, and the choice of international cuisine seems to be constantly broadening.

Secondly, the city of Frankfurt is actually quite small, especially considering its global significance. The population of the city is around 730,000, with many city workers and their families living in the Taunus mountain region, just outside the city.

Which brings us to our third surprise. The Frankfurt area really does have something for everyone. The city itself has an abundance of restaurants, bars, cafes, beautiful parks, a zoo, and even an English theatre, but its proximity to the Taunus offers an alternative to city life. The larger towns of the Taunus, Hofheim, Oberursel, Bad Homburg, are thriving centres in their own right, but nestled amongst the wooded hills and valleys can also be found quaint villages, traditional restaurants, great hiking and mountain bike trails, many ancient castles and forts, and even the occasional glimpse of deer and wild boar.

So what can a family moving to the Frankfurt region expect from life? Germany is very family-friendly, Frankfurt perhaps especially so, and whether you are in one of the city's districts such as Sachsenhausen, Bornheim or Westend, or in the Taunus, you are likely to have a choice of playgrounds and parks on your doorstep. In the spring and summer months these act as a hub for the community, a chance for the children to play and the adults to sit on the edge of the sand (not much astro-turf here) and talk over coffee and 'Sprudelwasser'. Outdoor swimming pools are also popular and plentiful, and it's possible to while away the summer with children in such a way. But even in the winter, Germans are keen for their children to be outside as much as possible, and the cold, crisp days will see families spilling out into playgrounds and walking trails.



Traditionally, German schools finish around lunchtime and, although this is slowly changing with the rising popularity of '*Nachschulbetreuung*' (after school care clubs), it means there is a wide range of afternoon clubs available for children. Whether this is music lessons at one of the many local music schools, handball, football, swimming lessons, dancing or '*Turnen*' (a mixture of general fitness and children's gymnastics), there is no need for little ones to be idle.

The expat community have also been active in offering activities and opportunities to get together. There are a number of English speaking playgroups that meet both in the city and in the Taunus, an English children's music class, Mainhattan Music Together, and the newly opened Link n Learn, an international family centre, offering a range of courses and classes. Frankfurt Sarsfields is the city's Gaelic football club, with teams for women, men and children. The British Club of the Taunus run activities and meetings throughout the year, including nights out, coffee mornings, book clubs and a Christmas fair, and Mother's Corner (an affiliation between the British Club of the Taunus and the American International Women's Club) focus on families and children. Less formal, but perhaps just as important, there are a number of Facebook groups that aim to bring people together, and meetings are often arranged in such a way. These groups include Frankfurt Expat Babies, Frankfurt English Speakers, Toytown and Frankfurt-n-Motion.

Perhaps despite its reputation, Germany is a country that knows how to celebrate life. There is always something happening, and Frankfurt is no exception. The new year is welcomed with fireworks (lots of fireworks!) and cheer, and the next big date is Karneval or Fasching, usually in February. Although Frankfurt doesn't celebrate it with the same gusto as other cities, such as Cologne and Mainz, there are still a number of parades and parties, and most schools and kindergartens will have a dressing up day. Spring sees the start of outdoor festivals, which continue through the summer. Most towns will have at least one such event, with stalls and carousels and a wealth of 'lecker' food on offer. Frankfurt's culinary Fressgass-Fest is one to watch out for in early summer, and the Opernspiele and Mainspiele, which take place during the summer holidays, are a children's paradise.

And as the leaves start to turn and the heat dies down in September, wine festivals start taking place, both in the city and in the nearby wine areas of the Rheingau and the Weinstrasse. These tend to be family friendly and great fun, often with fairground rides and live music on offer. Halloween has grown in popularity in recent years, and the 11th November is St Martin's Day, with most schools and kindergartens holding a lantern parade through the streets, often led by St Martin on a horse. Autumn festivals are also popular, Hofheim's Gallusmarkt is a local one of note, before it's time to round off the year with a Glühwein and a Wurst at the Christmas markets. It feels like an interesting time for Frankfurt. People are flocking in from all over the world, and office and apartment blocks, houses, shopping centres and hotels are flying up as a result. Things are constantly changing and evolving, and the international aspect of the area is certain to be a defining feature of its future. -*CN*

This article first appeared as a blogpost for Parental Choice, a company that help families find suitable childcare options. For more information about their services visit <u>www.parentalchoice.co.uk</u>.

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The next BCT magazine will come out in October. The theme will be **History**.

We know that many of our members are history buffs. We want to hear about your favourite museums, historical periods or famous (or infamous) people.

We look forward to all your submissions including articles and photos.

Please send all submissions to magazine@british-club.de by **16th September.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

Kids Camp Bilingual Primary School

- An integral part of the Königstein school landscape since 2008.

Today 180 pupils from pre-school to 4th grade attend the primary school and 26 teachers are employed. A total of 21 nations are represented at the school. This shows how bilingualism is reflected in the education sector. The demand for bilingual schools is high and will certainly continue to rise in the future – the applications speak for themselves. Places are hard to come by and registrations for future years have already been received.



Just ten years ago the old officer's house in the Bischof-Kaller-Straße was a derelict building under threat of demolition. The idea of turning it into a bilingual primary school was well received by the town of Königstein and the political parties. And so in just eight months, the building was converted into a primary school by the Frankfurt architecture company MMZ which already had a wealth of experience in the restoration of old listed buildings. Today Kids Camp is a bilingual primary school in its tenth year of operation.

Before the renovation and use of the current building, the first 32 preschool and elementary pupils were initially taught by four teachers in a classroom container in the Heuhohlweg right next to the Kids Camp bilingual day care centre. Once the school building was completed, the school expanded rapidly and it quickly became obvious that more space would be needed for the increasing number of children. After the Haus der Begegnung (HdB) was renovated in 2010 Kids Camp was lucky to be able to take over two of the rooms as a cafeteria and music room. As well as for music lessons and various other activities with the school children, these rooms are used for information evenings, presentations, parent evenings or the annual graduation ceremonies of the fourth grade children. For Dr. Martina Dorner, the founder and managing director of Kids Camp, a further plus point is the full-day child-care and the holiday programme which together allow great flexibility for today's working parents. Continuing the concept of the crèche in Schneidhain and the day care centre in Heuhohlweg, where early and late childcare facilities are offered, the bilingual primary school provides supervision before the commencement of lessons in the morning, an extensive programme of workshops such as baking, craft, drama and sports until 5 pm every weekday and an active and exciting holiday programme during the Hessian school holidays.

After 10 successful years of Kids Camp Bilingual Primary School the Kids Camp team is looking forward to the next ten years.

If you would like to get to know our school better we would love to welcome you at one of our information evenings which will be held for Pre-school on Tuesday, 6th November 2018 or Primary School on Tuesday, 13th November 2018, both at 7 pm. We would appreciate if you could advise us if you will be attending one of these evenings, or just come along to our Open House at 5 pm on Thursday, 22nd November where you can look around the school and see the current children's work. *–Kids Camp*

What's New at Frankfurt International School This Year

- Say hello to the FIS Accelerators.

In countless meetings over the past year, the leadership at Frankfurt International School (FIS) reviewed data and exchanged ideas with faculty, parents, board members and students to arrive at a three-year strategic plan for school improvement. Through these discussions, it became clear that the school needed to speed up the pace at which FIS could realize these goals in order to continue to deliver a top-notch international education. To do so, personnel and programs would be added, dubbed "accelerators", which would propel FIS forward at an increased pace instead of slower, incremental change over an extended period.

"FIS accelerators" will be individuals, Learning Coaches, who help support the needs of students in math, science or literacy outside the normal curriculum. There will also be programs, FIS Academies, which allow students to pursue their passion in the areas of performing and visual arts, athletics and languages. Likewise, additional learning spaces, for example an outdoor classroom to give students



FIS Frankfurt International School

hands-on experiences in science and the environment, are accelerators. To enhance - or accelerate - the educational experience for its students, the school will also create individualized learning programs that offer expanded choices, new leadership opportunities and greater student involvement in the realisation of their own potential and goals.

These are just a few examples of the blueprint to augment school improvement at FIS. The school community is very excited about the meaningful impact the accelerators will have on student learning. *-FIS*



Kids Capers

Julie shares her wonderful and notso-wonderful first impressions of Germany.

In honour of our Welcome to Frankfurt edition, I thought I would share some of my earliest memories of Frankfurt and the Taunus here. There are some sad moments but a lot of funny ones.

My first day of living in Germany was spent, as all beautiful days are spent, inside IKEA buying the little things we had forgotten about in our big move. My daughter was almost seven months old and I had her in a baby sling because I didn't trust her to sit still in the shopping trolley. Mid-way through we had to turn around to get a second shopping trolley, so we looked like the family furniture circus at checkout. Another couple in front of us turned to ask if we were new to the area, and when my husband asked how they knew, they pointed out the difference between their stash (parts for one coffee table and one small bookcase) and ours (too many to mention). Same day, same store, same checkout line: Sophie leaned over to pull the cashier's looooong blonde hair and I braced myself for a scolding. Luckily and thankfully, the cashier simply laughed it off and said she had a child of her own who still tries to climb on her using her hair. To this day I will always fondly remember her as Anja, our lovely Rapunzel IKEA cashier.

When Sophie was 11 months old we decided it was time to put her into a KiTa (similar to a day care). There was no centralized system in place before, and spots were not guaranteed, so we had to apply to each facility separately. The first one we visited was in a spacious basement of an office building, that had a wonderful outside play area. It was a five-minute drive away, but on a very busy road that could get quite congested. Also, while we were there, we witnessed a teacher shouting at another teacher that it was not her job to change all the nappies in the world. I shook our guide's hand and told her we'd think about it. My husband was blunter and told her it would be a no.

Our second KiTa was in Königstein, a town away and an even further drive. It was, however, bi-lingual and they had longer working hours AND a kindergarten as well. This meant that we did not have to move Sophie to another school once she was four. Thankfully they had a space for her, and Sophie went on to join a class of kids that she still calls friends to this day, even though she is already in a different school.

Like all schools, turnover rates for faculty can be high, depending on the institution. We were very fortunate that Sophie's class was able to have the same KiTa teachers all throughout, and the same Kindergarten teachers all throughout as well. We are just as lucky with Lucas' KiTa and Kindergarten. There were days when I needed to remind myself that, especially on snowy days where the climb up and down Königstein roads were almost (literally) killing me.



Before Sophie was safely ensconced in KiTa, I started taking German lessons in Frankfurt. Some of my best memories are of meeting friends there who are my heart-buddies today. We styled ourselves as 'Desperate Hausfraus' and laughed about anything and everything, even about getting publicly shushed once in a café (more on that later). These girls were the start of my opening up to really settling in Germany, because prior to that I was closed off to the experience, alternating between loving the adventure but hating the hassle of

having to navigate The New. My only sensible advice to anyone moving into a different country is this: find your people, the family that you fit into because you can laugh and cry together, the family that will call you on your BS but share your happy days without any hint of *schadenfreude*.

One experience made me cry though - getting yelled at by a Deutsch Bahn employee. I had forgotten my monthly ticket during a train ride to Frankfurt, and was told to head to the nearest office, present proof of my monthly ticket, and to pay the lowered fine. There were two attendants there and I had lined up to see the female one. She was all ready to stamp my slips as I paid, when her male co-worker leaned over (while he was still serving someone else) and said to me that no, I could not pay the lower fine since they had no proof the monthly ticket was mine. He made his colleague switch chairs with him so he could focus on me while she took over his customer. I tried to argue that whenever I presented my monthly ticket on the train, there was also no proof that the ticket wasn't mine (and that I didn't borrow it from someone else for that ride). He was silenced for a while, and his co-worked then said something like "she's right." It was at this point that he claimed he didn't understand or speak English, nor was he "obligated" to listen to my "lazy" German. Frustrated but unwilling to show him that, I turned around and walked away, with him shouting after me.

There is always a silver lining however: once I got home, my husband and I sat down together, for the first time, to talk about how the move affected both of us and our relationship. He then sat down with me to draft a letter of complaint to Deutsche Bahn

customer services (I learned a lot about the past tense and how to write using it). A week later we received an apology letter, with a new ticket for me to pay in lieu of the old one (at the reduced fine), and that the employee had been spoken to about his behaviour. I still pass by the same ticket booth from time to time and I still see the same guy there. So, the day after I finished my basic course, I lined up behind his counter and, when it was my turn, asked him if he remembered me. He said quite simply that yes, he did, that my Deutsch and improved. I said it was thanks

to him because even a negative push can still be a push in the right direction (obviously my German was not this philosophical, and I am sure I still sounded like an idiot). I then said "I hope you don't shout at customers learning German anymore," turned and left. I haven't seen him since but I hope he remembers what my back looks like.

So – getting shushed in a Frankfurt café: I have to say this was one of the funniest and most are-youfreaking-kidding-me portion of my program. There were four of us seated together at one table, near the entrance. The café was empty except for us, a server and another couple. For the record, I didn't think we were THAT loud, but we did laugh quite often. I am guessing this other couple never experienced joy before and therefore did not know what it sounded like, and asked the server to tell us to be quiet. The server herself seemed embarrassed to have to tell us, but then again, we were the newbies and the couple were probably her regulars. We all gave her our best wide-eyed expressions, paid and left. We huffed for about a minute outside before dissolving into even louder laughter that we were sure the couple inside heard. It was just such a ridiculous situation that we had no other recourse but to laugh. Out loud.

Every big change is not easy, and there will always be good things and bad things about a new city or a new lifestyle. I've come to appreciate all the steps I've taken to start calling this place home though, and I don't think I would give it up for anything in the world. Welcome to Frankfurt and the Taunus guys – I know you'll make it your own. -JN



BCT Activities in September

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Sometimes arrangements may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If you wish to attend an event it is very important to book in with the organisers so they know who and how many to expect. For fee paying activities, the full price will be charged unless appropriate notice of cancellation is given. If you are a new member and don't know how to get to an event, need a lift or would like to go along with someone, please contact the event organiser who will be happy to help you. You will receive full contact details in the BCT weekly email.

NEWCOMERS FESTIVAL Sunday 9th September Frankfurt

The BCT will be out in force at the annual Newcomers Festival letting the community know what the BCT is all about and what is on offer for our membership!

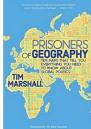
Whether you are new to Frankfurt or would just like to rediscover what this great city has to offer why not attend this free afternoon (1-6pm) full of information and take the opportunity to visit us at our BCT stand!

EVENING BOOK CLUB Tuesday 11th September Frankfurt



September's book is *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates. This book was made into a film starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio in 2009.

MORNING BOOK CLUB Thursday 13th September Karben



September's book is *Prisoners of Geography. Ten Maps That a Explain Everything About the World* by Tim Marshall.

An award-winning journalist uses ten maps of crucial regions to explain the geopolitical strategies of the world powers.

BCT WELCOME EVENING Friday 14th September 7pm Frankfurt

The annual BCT Welcome Evening gives new and longterm members the chance to come and find out what is planned and what is on offer for this club year. Take the opportunity to share your opinions or interests and give us your input into any upcoming activities with other members and the committee. We are always open to feedback! So, come and meet some of our committee members in this popular and cosy restaurant in Frankfurt.

GUIDED TOUR OF BAD SODEN Tuesday 18th September 3pm

Starting at the fountain in the Ramada Treff car park on Königsteiner Straße. Bad Soden is a spa town, which is not only a pleasant place to live but also an interesting place to explore. In its heyday, in the 18th and 19th centuries, Russian doctors used to send famous patients to Soden to take the waters. Nobility strolled through the spa facilities; famous musicians composed here and writers such as Tolstoy described the atmosphere in his novel 'Anna Karenina'. Bad Soden has more than 30 springs ten of which are recognised for medicinal purposes. It has old parks with rare trees, restored 19th century villas along the main road and timbered framed cottages in the Altstadt, and health centres such as the Medico Palais. Finally, it has the Hundertwasserhaus that has to be seen to be believed. Theresa will lead you through the past to the present day. The tour is free and will take one and a half to two hours. There is no need to book in and the tour is buggy friendly.

AWCT/BCT Mother's Corner Autumn Children's Bazaar Saturday 22nd September 11am - 1pm Bad Homburg

The sale features everything related to babies, toddlers and children up to and including age 12, child-related equipment of all description, toys, games, books, DVDs, strollers, car seats, bikes and more!

Admission: 50 cents, children are free All entrance fees are donated to charity. Items purchased must be paid for in cash (euros) / all sales are final.



WELCOME COFFEE/ CLUB COFFEE Friday 21st September Hofheim

The Welcome Coffee this year will be hosted by our BCT president in the lovely Taunus town of Hofheim. We hope to have a great mix of committee members, long-standing members and of course our new members. Come and enjoy a cuppa, cakes and great company as we discuss what the committee have planned for this coming club year – and as always, we would love to hear your ideas and thoughts!

If you are new to the BCT or new to Frankfurt the club coffee is a great way to get to know the club and its members, who are a fountain of information and have helped many of us to navigate life here.

LUNCH AND VISIT TO THE ERNST MAY HAUS Wednesday 26 September 12pm Lunch, 1:30pm Visit Frankfurt



What do the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Historical Museum in Frankfurt have in common? They all house a copy of the world famous Frankfurt Kitchen in their collection. With over 10.000 units built in the late 1920s in Frankfurt, the kitchen was designed to combine industrial efficiency with practical 'hausfrau know-

how'. Come see the kitchen in its natural habitat in the only preserved kitchen left standing in Frankfurt. Join us for a quick bite before at a neighbourhood Italian café. If you are interested in a weekend visit, one can be arranged for October. Just let us know at <u>magazine@british-club.de</u>.

LIBRARY Thursday 27th September 10am Bad Homburg

Come along to our early autumn meeting and catch up with friends after the summer holidays. New books and old favourites await - as well as a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake! See you there.

MOTHER'S CORNER

Mothers' Corner is a volunteer-based group that serves as hub of support and social events for Mothers and Families in Frankfurt and the Taunus.

Membership is free to paid members of the **America International Women's Club** and the **British Club of the Taunus**. It is for families in the area that would like to have a connection to home and have their families participate in English-speaking activities.

Mother's Corner's core strength is in its yearly events, which are well-attended and provide a unique, family-reunion feel;

- The twice-yearly **Children's Bazaar**which has a great reputation in the community for quality of goods and the excellent organization of the event
- The annual **Easter Party** and its famous Easter Egg Hunt that always draws in a huge crowd... and chocolates!
- The Pumpkin Patch Party that is always well-attended and provides a chance for kids and adults alike to show off their costumes and community spirit.
- Various Christmas events such as Santa's Visit to the BCT's Spirit of Christmas Fair, Wreath-Making and many more!

Mother's Corner also organizes smaller group outings such as family BBQs and picnics, trips to the zoo or strawberry patch, and lots more. The group also hosts regular **Coffee Mornings** and **Ladies Nights**!

Communication is easy: Mother's Corner also utilizes Googlegroups and Facebook as an exclusive, member-only space to share events, organize meet-ups, ask questions and seek support. A handful of have volunteered mothers to be Mums' 'Neighborhood to answer questions or offer support to other mothers in their area. You'll always have your own place in the world with Mother's Corner!

Heather's Guide to September

I felt like a hero! I stopped the traffic, I directed them over the road, and saw them safely into the park. (I felt a little bit like a Lollipop lady.) Who were they? A mother Mallard duck with her 4 fluffy offspring. Heaven knows where the family had been so far away from water, but mother duck was quacking like mad as she made her way down the road. Her ducklings could hardly keep up with her with their tiny webbed feet. What a sense of relief I had when they were finally in the park and heading for the pond. My good deed for the day was done.

MUSIC

Pop concerts

- 4 Jonathan Bree; Mousonturm
- 7 Oh Sees; Zoom
- 9 Jazz concert with Manglesdorff; Institut für Stadtgeschichte
- 13 Tiavo; Elfer Music Club
- 13 Coach Esume; Batschkapp
- 14 Rick Astly; Batschkapp
- 14 Tyles Tolone; Elfer Music Club
- 14 Theo Lawrence & The Hearts; Das Bett
- 15 The Swinging Blue Jeans; Stadthalle, Oberursel
- 16 LAUV; Batschkapp
- 17 Lower Than Atlantis; Zoom
- 18 The Night Game; Zoom
- 19 Matt Gresham Who Am I Now; Ponyhof
- 20 Flash Forward; Nachtleben
- 21 Everlast; Batschkapp
- 21 Hotel Bossa Nova; Speicher, Bad Homburg
- 23 Terry Hoax & Friends; Nachtleben
- 25 Rea Garvey; Festhalle
- 25 Tank & The Bangas; Zoom
- 26 Sasha; Jahrhunderthalle
- 26 Jazzanova; Zoom
- 28 Johnny Armstrong; Orange Peel
- 28 Laura Cahen; Speicher, Bad Homburg
- 28 Julia Engelmann; Jahrhunderthalle
- 28 Miro Nemec Band; Stadthalle, Oberursel
- 29 Designer; Gibson
- 29 Biffy Clyro; Alte Oper
- 29 Walking Papers; Nachtleben
- 29 United Stars: Peace, Love & Jahrhunderthalle
- 30 Tiny Moving Parts; Nachtleben
- 30 Song Book Live! Hr-Sendesaal

'Carmen La Cubana,' continues in the Alte Oper until 2 September.

15 September is the 'Beat-Night Oberursel.' It takes place in the Stadthalle.

In Stockstadt am Rhein, it will be loud on 16 September because the 'Trommelfest' takes place. Musicians and groups will show their talents as well as giving the curious a chance of playing drums. There is also an African market and food. www.trommelfest.info The German-American Community Choir presents its autumn concert, 'Ballads of Diversity,' on 22 September in the Dr. Hoch's Konservatorium.

www.gacc-frankfurt.de

The Ladysmith Black Mambazo have won 5 Grammys and been nominated for another 19. They will appear in the Frankfurter Hof, Mainz, on 27 September.

www.frankfurter-hof-mainz.de

On 27 September, Gianluigi Trovesi plays with the hr-Bigband in the Alte Schlosserei, in Offenbach.

Other music

- 4 Yo-Yo Ma, cello; Brahms; Alte Oper
- 6/7 Hr-Sinfonieorchester; Wagner, Strauss, Shostakovich; Alte Oper
- 9 Wolfgang Mozart: Requiem; Kloster Eberbach/ Rheingau
- 9 Die Welt mit Klängen beschreiben; Opernhaus (4pm)
- 11 Günther Groissböck, bass; Opernhaus
- 13/14 Mahler Chamber Orchestra; Schubert, Mahler; Alte Oper
- 15 John Cage, Musicircus; Alte Oper
- 16/17 Concert; Brahms, Ligeti, Liszt; Alte Oper
- 16 Daniel Behle, tenor; Bartok, Ligeti, Brahms; Alte Oper
- 16 Iveta Apkalna, organ; Rogg, Ligeti, Glass, Bach; Alte Oper
- 16 Canorusquintett; Rossini, Dvroak, Mozart; Festburgkirche
- 16 Sanstierce; 'O Jerusalem;' Karmeliterkloster (5pm)
- 20 Ensemble Modern; Pelzel, Ligetis, Lara; Alte Oper
- 21 Martin Stadtfeld Hommage an Bach; Stadthalle, Oberursel
- 22 Lecture/concert with Pierre-Laurent Aimard; piano; Alte Oper
- 23 Pierre-Laurent Aimard; piano; Gesellschaftshaus, Palmengarten
- 23 Messiaen, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Piano; Alte Oper
- 27/28 Hr-Sinfonieorchester; Tenney, Ligeti, Chin, Bruckner; Alte Oper
- 29 Les couleurs de la musique ancienne; Christophoruskirche Wiesban-Schierstein
- 28/29 Frankfurter Altstadteröffnungsfeier: Dom
- 30 Trio Christian Tetzlaff; Brahms, Ligeti, Alte Oper
- 30 Bamberger Symphoniker; Ligeti, Martinu; Alte Oper
- 30 Kammermusik im Foyer; Opernhaus (11am)

'Fugato' the organ festival takes place every 2 years in Bad Homburg. This year it runs from 16-23 September. Why does it take place in Bad Homburg? Because the town possesses a number of historic organs that are absolutely appropriate for the concerts in the festival.

www.orgelfestival-fugato.de

The Forum Alte Musik has its next concert on 16 September at 5pm in the Kaisersaal, Rathaus, Römerberg. Music by Telemann will be played.

www.forumaltemusik.de

On 19 September, there is the Lunchtime Recital with Erika La Roux and friends in the St Augustine of Canterbury in Wiesbaden. It is at one o'clock and the church is on Frankfurter Str 3.

The Main Barock Orchester Frankfurt, plays on 22 September in the Karmeliterkloster. You will hear works by Bach, Pisendel, Vivaldi, Lully & Muffat.

www.main-barockorchester.de

The Cello Meisterkurse & Konzerte takes place between 23-30 September in Kronberg. Check online where and when the concerts take place. www.kronbergacademy.de

EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bad Homburg's 'Laternenfest' runs from 31 August to 3 September. Quite apart from the usual sausage, beer, wine, there is music, 2 parades, Sat/Sun evening, a children's lantern procession on Monday, greyhound racing and a finale on Monday evening with fireworks.

Speaking of Bad Homburg, the town had dreams of becoming one of the UNESCO's 'Great Spas of Europe,' and despite 500,000 euro given for the preparation of the application it failed. But, luckily, the town will use all the information for another project: to be a member of the 'European Historic Thermal Towns Association.' There are around 40 places in 15 countries which belong to EHTTA among them are Bath, Vichy, Evian, Budapest, Karlsbad and Spa. https://ehtta.eu/portal

There is the 'Deutschland Military Tattoo' on 1 September on the Loreley open-air stage. www.deutschland-tattoo.eu

Botanischer Garten, became a part of the Palmengarten in 2012. In 1763, Johann Christian Senckenberg, founded it, primarily to grow plants that could be used medically, thus helping the treatment of ill people, particularly the poor. Nowadays, its aim is to help the environment by preserving native plants. On Sept 1, there is 'Tag der offenen Tür' and on 29 September, the 4th Frankfurter Bienenfestival. www.botanischergarten-frankfurt.de

In Hessenpark, there is a plant market on 1/2 September from 9am-6pm. On 16 September, you have a chance to ride in a horse-drawn coach. The coach stops at various parts of the park; it is free, but 'the coach driver would be happy with a small tip!' On the same day, there is a Farmers' market. On 29/30 September, it will be loud: there is a 'Treckertreff' with over 300 tractors.

www.hessenpark.de

Continuing until Sept 7, is the Rheingau Wine Market. It is held on the Freßgass' in Frankfurt and has over 30 wine stalls and culinary specialities. Say Hello to the New Old Town



An important event for Frankfurt: the opening of the Altstadt. In 1944, the biggest 'Altstadt' in Germany was bombed and destroyed. A project to reconstruct it was undertaken and cost around 200 million euro. The project was controversial, of course, because

of the cost, but it has been completed and will be officially opened on 28/30 September. The most famous building in the complex is the 'Goldene Waage'; a baker and spice merchant, Abraham van Hamel, built it in 1619. He came originally from the Netherlands as a religious refugee.

To add to the festivities, during the 'Altstadtfest,' on Saturday and Sunday, the ensembles, 'Trelva,' 'Les hauts et les bas,' and 'La Moresca,' will play folk music from Ireland, Scotland and Cornwall: At 12, 1, 3 and 4pm. Karmeliterkloster, Münzgasse 9. The hr-Bigband will also be celebrating the opening. There will be a concert on the Römer at 8pm on 29 September.

The traditional 'Saisonstart' for the Frankfurter art galleries is on 7-9 September. On the Friday, it runs from 6-10pm, then on Sat/Sun, from 11am-6pm. In many of the galleries there will be special programmes and there is even a bike tour from Main to Rödelheim, lasting circa 3 hours with visits to galleries. There are also guided tours in English. The tours are free of charge, and no registration is needed. Check it out. www.frankfurt-saisonstart.de

The Dippemess runs from 7-16 September. This is a traditional folk fair featuring a large arts and crafts market, high-tech rides and fairground attractions for the entire family. Festplatz am Ratsweg.

I wasn't absolutely sure what 'Connichi' meant: now I know. 'Welcome to Connichi 2018. We are Germany's biggest non-profit event for Japanese popculture. Our volunteer staff is made up of dedicated fans of anime and manga and connoisseurs of Japanese culture. Together we aim to bring Japan and Germany closer together. At Connichi you will be able to meet manga artists and animation industry veterans, enjoy band performances, cosplay-theatre troupes, internationally acclaimed competitions and many more 'Things Japanese.' It comes to the Kongresspalais Kassel from 7-9 September.

www.connichi.de

The Tigerpalast Varieté resides in Frankfurt but, on the occasion of its 30 year anniversary, there will be a performance in the Kurhaus, Bad Homburg on 8/9 September. Tel. 06172 1783710.



For Castle and Garden Lovers

One of the most renowned Schlossgarten festivals is 'Wolfsgarten' and it takes place this month, 15-17 September. The central theme is garden landscaping and garden art. You will also find garden furniture, a wonderful choice of plants, chic accessories and designer fashion. Opening times are 10am-6pm.

www.gartenfest.de

Another garden festival is in Schloss Laubach and it runs from 7-9 September. The 'Herbstzauber' as it is called, offers things for garden and house, wonderful flower arrangement and a stunning backdrop of the Schloss.

www.gartenfestivals.de

And, yet another Schloss event: 'Farbenfrohes Indien' runs from 30 August to 2 September in the Schloss Büdingen. www.landpartie-schloss-buedingen.de

In the Städel, there is a photographic exhibition. The photographer is Ursula Schulz-Dornburg. 'Assembling more than 200 works from 1980 - 2012, this is the first comprehensive survey of the work of the Düsseldorf based photographer. On view are places of transit, border landscapes, and cult sites of bygone cultures in Europe, Asia, and the Near East – above all, their visible and invisible historical, political, and cultural remains and layers.' Until 9 September.

'Tag des offenen Denkmals,' is on Sunday, 9 September. This year's motto is, 'Entdecken, was uns verbindet,' and is a highlight of the 'European Heritage Days.' Check online to see what is on offer in your area.

www.tag-des-offenen-denkmals.de

From 14-28 September, the 2nd 'Interkulturellen Wochen' takes place in the Hochtaunuskreis. At the time of writing, I couldn't get any details. www.hochtaunuskreis.de

This is a favourite event of mine: 'KunstWerkStadt' in Bad Homburg. On 15/16 September, artists, whether hobby or professional, show their works, usually in their private homes. Paintings, sculpture, handwork all are included and it is amazing to see how many talented people there are. From 11am-6pm, you can visit and admire the works. There will be maps of where the locations are. There are 2 antique markets this month: 16 September in the Rhein-Neckar-Zentrum, Viernheim and 23 September in the Hessen-Center, Frankfurt.

www.interantik-gmbh.de

The Dalai Lama is coming to Germany, that is, to Darmstadt and will be there on 19 September. He will talk about peaceful solutions to conflicts. With him will be Lech Walesa and Rebecca Johnson from ICAN.

www.dalailama-darmstadt.tibet-initiative.de

In the Palmengarten itself, the Harvest festival together with the 'Herbstfest' runs from 19-23 September.

Also another traditional September event is the 'Lucas' international festival for young film lovers. It runs from 20 -27 September in Frankfurt, Offenbach and Wiesbaden.

For info go to, www.lucas-filmfestival.de

The Erntefest 2018 is on the Rossmarkt, Frankfurt, from 20-22 September. It is open from 10am-8pm.

www.erntefest-ffm.de

You want to learn more about the Roman eating and drinking habits? And I don't mean the Romans of today but the Romans who lived in the Römerkastell Saalburg. On 21 September there is a 90-minute guided tour. You will see the cooking utensils and dishes and hear what the soldiers were given to eat. Along the way, you will be offered tasty titbits made following Roman recipes.

info@saalburgmuseum.de

22 September is 'MerckTag'. That means it is an 'open door' day at Merck in Darmstadt. The public can take a look at the people, products and building of the chemical/ pharmaceutical company that is celebrating its 350th anniversary. www.merckgroup.com

You still have time to visit the Darmstadt 9th Kunstbiennale. Twenty-three artists from 9 countries have built installations in a wood. There is a 2.6km route on which you see the objects as well as 32 works from previous Kunstbiennale. It ends on 23 September

'Yakari und kleiner Donner,' the (Red) Indian Horse show will be guesting in Frankfurt from 28 September - 14 October on the Festplatz am Ratsweg. Billed as a 'horse spectacular for the whole family' the video on the website seems to corroborate this. Take a look yourself.

www.yakari-show.de

Running in the Applied Arts museum is 'Gesammelt Gekauft Geraubt:' 'Stolen. Collected. Obscured'. 'What responsibility do museums have, even today, in relation to art looted by the Nazis? As part of a joint project undertaken by a number of Frankfurt museums, this exhibition will present the story of the Pinkus/Ehrlich Collection as a case study. In 1940, the Museum acquired several very valuable silver jugs, bowls and sets of cutlery belonging to the Jewish collector Joseph Pinkus, or to his heir, Hedwig Ehrlich. In 1949, the museum gave back the artefacts – except for twelve items which, according to the inventory register, had been destroyed by fire during the wars. In 2017, however, researchers investigating the provenance of works in the museum's collection were able to identify precisely those 17th and 18th century silver objects. After the 2nd World War the museum had deliberately obscured their origin.' Ending 14 October.

www.museumangewandtekunst.de

In the Museum Giersch, there is an exhibition of photos taken by the Frankfurt photographer, Inge Werths. 'Paris, Frankfurt am Main und die 1968er Generation,' is the name of the show. This was the time of political unrest and student revolt that is shown in her photos. Until October.

www.museum-giersch.de

The Landesgartenschau is still running. Pop along to Bad Schwalbach, it's not far, and enjoy a day out. There is a daily programme that you can download:

www.landsgartenschau.bad-schwalbach.de

SPORT

Mark in your bike diary, 1 September: the Frankfurt ADFC 'bike-night.' The meeting point is the Römerberg at 8pm. It is a fun event, so dress up (but make sure you can still ride your bike) decorate the bike or carry music with you! The route the bikers will take has been cleared of cars so it is safe but helmets are still to be worn.

www.adfc-frankfurt.de

Football again, and here is when Eintracht Frankfurt will be playing: 1 September at 3:30pm, 23 September at 6pm, and 30 September at 3:30pm.

Progress Wrestling,' comes to the Batschkapp, Frankfurt on 2 September. Have not a clue what this is except it is a British promotion and started in 2011.

The American Football team, 'Samsung Universe Frankfurt' plays on 9 September at 3pm in the Frankfurter Volksbank Stadion. www.frankfurt-universe.de

Yes, it is already ice hockey time! The Löwen Frankfurt will play on 9 September at 5pm, 14th and 21st at 7:30pm and 30th at 6:30pm. Eissporthalle.

www.loewen-frankfurt.de

Mini golf enthusiasts, how about mini golf by flood light? On 15 September, beginning at 7pm, you can enjoy yourself in the Sportzenturm-Nordwest, Bad Homburg.

www.mgc-badhomburg.de

The women footballers play on 23 September at 11am in the Brentanobad Stadion. www.ffc.frankfurt.de

'Aktion Pink,' Race for Survival takes place on 23 September. There is a 5km run or a 2km walk. This event is to promote awareness and the cure of breast cancer.



Roll out the barrels!

Oktoberfest, anyone? A big one will be held in the Commerzbank Arena between 12 September - 7 October.

www.frankfurter-oktoberfest.de

The race also opens the 'Europäische Woche des Sports' that runs from 23-30 September. 'Being active is easier than it sounds! To prove that, we launched the European Week of Sport to get you and your fellow Europeans moving. This week is for everyone, regardless of age, background or fitness level. So now it's your turn! Join in on the #BeActive fun in your country or online. Browse around the website to learn all about the events/activities that are being organized all across Europe and let's #BeActive!'

THEATRE

Running in the English Theatre until October is 'The Lion in Winter.' www.english-theaatre.de

OPERA

Willy-Brandt-Platz

Congratulations, Oper Frankfurt: The German theatre magazine, 'Die Deutsche Bühne,' awarded Frankfurt the first place for a convincing overall performance during the year. And this is not the first time. Oper Frankfurt has consistently, over the last few years, been regarded as one of the best in Europe. Aren't we lucky to have such a company in Hessen.

1, 8, 15, 21, 29	Die Zauberflöte; Mozart
2, 13, 16,	Otello; Verdi
9, 12, 14, 20, 23, 30	Tri Sestry; Eötvös
22, 27,	Tosca: Puccini
28	Rusalka; Dvorak

In the Bockenheimer Depot, 'Lost Highway,' by Olga Neuwirth, will be performed on 12, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 23 September.

Survival Tips!

Sunday Shopping! Yes the shops really do close on Sunday everywhere in the city. This can often come as a shock and in disbelief you think that this is just the small shops in the Taunus, or that some shops just open for part of the day, BUT the shops are closed - this even goes for the big box stores. So appreciate that retailers in this country can also enjoy some of the weekend off, and that families are forced to spend time together and not time in the mall. This can be an adjustment, especially when it's a bank holiday long weekend because more preparation is needed, but I find the quicker you buy into it the more you appreciate it.

So some tips: most Taunus towns do offer shopping Sundays. This usually only takes place approximately 6 times per year depending on the town, and it is usually in the afternoons only and not the supermarkets. Chemists also rotate, you can usually find one that is open on a Sunday morning near you, but it takes some searching. Shopping centres and some box stores also advertise open Sundays periodically throughout the year, usually well in advance. If you are very stuck the airport is always open and even has a small City Rewe (mind you I've heard it can be pricier); also some shops in the train stations do open. You could also chance some of the Turkish or Asian shops/markets as they may to be open for part of the day. You could be lucky to be living in a neighbourhood which has a small shop or market that opens as well, providing you with the staples such as bread, milk, butter, as well as fruit and veg. So don't be in despair, it's only one day and if you're willing to be a bit crafty you'll always find something you need ... where there is a will there is a way! *- Michelle*

Venos vs Me.Ta

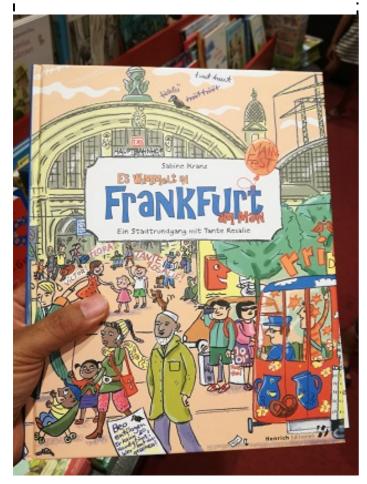
Two of my favourite Italian grocery/wholesale stores are Me.Ta and Venos. Located on opposite sides of the city from one another, these two are an Italy lover's dream. Aisles of pasta, sauces, cornettos, panettone, olive oil and wine await you in both locations. Both were introduced to us by Italian friends who love to cook. Asking me to pick the better of the two is like asking me to choose between eating and drinking. You cannot have one without the other. Venos, located in Rödelheim, is known for their fish market where people flock from all over the Rhein Main to buy fresh halibut, mussels, clams and more. People also buy vegetables and home made Tsatziki and hummus which you can, thankfully, buy in bulk. Me.Ta is located in the Ostend on Hanauer Landstrasse. The highlight is their fresh cheese and meat counter at the back which often sees a line-up of 10 to 12 people on a Saturday afternoon. Good thing they also set up a wonderful espresso bar beside it to help people wait in style. Perhaps my favourite reason to go to Me.Ta is that on Saturdays, they always sell Arancini. These are wonderful rice balls filled with all things good like salsicce or spinach or ragu. And these are not small balls...these are massive, the size of your palm and costing no more than 2 Euros. Whichever you choose, you will not be disappointed. Or do what we do sometimes, and go to both! - Jema

I was thinking about a life-saving tip and came up with Vapiano on Bockenheimer Landstrasse on a rainy day on a weekend afternoon with kids. Plenty of space for kids to run around and staff and other guests seem to be relaxed about the influx of kids running about the place. This has honestly been a life-saver for us (and many other parents) on a number of occasions. :-) -Toni





Looking for a present for a toddler or school kid? I found this Wimmelbuch/Where's Wally-type book by Sabine Kranz, a local Frankfurt illustrator. It's a wonderful book to introduce kids to the wonderful world of Frankfurt. - Jema



While waiting for the bus or tram, I like to circle around the advertisement columns and look for interesting concerts and exhibitions. Did you know that a certain type of ad columns actually have a name? They are called Litfaß columns, named after the German printer Ernst Litfaß who invented them in 1854. The first columns appeared in Berlin in 1855 but you see them all over Europe, especially in Paris.

But I digress.

If you have time, definitely look out for these columns and take a good look. A Boybands Forever concert in the Jahrhunderthalle? I am so there! - Jema

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Kids Camp Bilingual Primary School Bischof-Kaller-Straße 1b 61462 Königstein/Taunus

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Excellent international education with a family spirit



Only IB World school in the City of Frankfurt offering the PYP and IB Diploma Programmes

Only international school in the City of Frankfurt offering the Cambridge International Examinations (Grade 6-10) IGCSE

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Broad range of after-school activities; state-of-the-art facilities





September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Newcomers Festival	10	11 Evening Book Club	12	13 Morning Book Club	14 BCT Welcome Evening	15
16	17	18 Tour of Bad Soden	19	20	21 Club Coffee/ Welcome Coffee	22 MC Bazaar
23	24	25	26 Ernst May Haus Visit	27 Library	28	29
30						