



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISH



AUDIO

Spotlight

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Spotlight



Wild LONDON

Exciting new green
spaces in the metropolis

Spotlight Verlag

Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to the March 2017 edition of Spotlight Audio. I'm David Creedon from Britain. Join me now for a 60-minute expedition around the English-speaking world — with stories, language tips and exercises.

The great cities of Europe are always growing, replacing nature with streets and buildings. But in London, one charity is helping nature fight back.

Does the Commonwealth still matter? Well, 52 member countries certainly think so, and there's a queue to join. Find out more in the Society section.

You'll meet an old friend in this month's short story. British detective Ms Winslow is back in Germany to solve another mysterious case.

World View

[2] The lion and the president

David: Theodore Roosevelt was US president from 1901 to 1909. He wasn't just a politician, though. He was also an explorer, a cattle rancher, a deputy sheriff, a war hero, a New York City

police commissioner, a boxer and a judo expert. Now listen to a story about one of Roosevelt's favourite hobbies — hunting.

The lion, a big male, was at home on the savannah. Teddy Roosevelt, the former US president, was not: He was in Kenya to hunt. The two met in 1909, when "Teddy," on safari and fresh from the Oval Office, shot the big cat. The lion is now getting a new lease on life in a show about the development of the National Museum of Natural History. The exhibition, entitled "Objects of Wonder," opens March 10 in Washington, DC.

This lion is but one of 23,000 natural specimens that the expedition sent home to the US to fill the new museum, which opened in 1910. Roosevelt, who was passionate about building the collections, was roundly criticized back then as being a "game butcher." Scientists disagreed. To them, such specimens had

cattle rancher

► Viehzüchter(in)

commissioner

► Kommissar(in)

deputy sheriff

► Hilfssheriff

entitled ► mit dem Titel

explorer

► Entdecker(in)

game ► Wild

matter ► wichtig sein

roundly

► von allen Seiten

tremendous value for research and teaching the public.

Until the 1990s, the taxidermied lion could be seen in the museum in a glass diorama, posing by a watering hole with several other stuffed lions. Then the animal disappeared into storage. Maine-based conservator Ron Harvey recently visited the capital for five days to oversee the restoration of the lion, one of 100-plus objects to be featured in the show. Harvey told *The Washington Post* he thinks that fixing up the lion now — it was missing several chunks of fur and part of an ear — will help keep it intact for future research.

Source: *Spotlight* 3/2017, page 9

A Day in My Life

[3] BBC producer Robin Markwell

David: In a Day in My Life, we meet Robin Markwell. The 35-year-old from England is a political producer and reporter for the BBC. He works for BBC Bristol, in the west of England, interviewing politicians and entertainers, as well as people on the street.

In the following interview, Markwell explains how working for the BBC has helped his career. Markwell uses some vocabulary specific to journalism. “Network radio” describes a

group of stations that connect to broadcast a programme at the same time. And a “flagship programme” is the most important programme a station produces.

I consider myself very lucky to work for the BBC, a national broadcaster known the world over. There are so many different programmes that you could possibly work on and within the BBC, it is quite easy to find yourself on placements in other departments [where] you learn new skills. I began in local radio in Bristol in England, and I’ve branched out since then to work on regional TV, the nightly Points West bulletin, now the weekly *Sunday Politics* show. But I also work with my colleagues at network radio. I’ve been a network radio correspondent covering events all over the country. I’ve worked for Radio 4 — again a big name across the world — for programmes like *Costing the Earth*, which is an environmental programme

branch out

► hier: in anderen Bereichen arbeiten

broadcast ► senden

chunk ► hier: Büschel

diorama ► plastisch wirkendes Schaubild

fur ► Fell, Pelz

placement

► hier: Einsatz

storage ► Lager

taxidermied

► ausgestopft

or *Farming Today*, which looks at agricultural issues in the UK, or, most recently, *Any Questions?*, which is the flagship political programme for Radio 4, where I had to produce the programme, choose the guests, choose the questions and hope it all went to plan. Every programme and every department is different and works in a different way, so I find it very engaging to be able to just float between these different departments, pick up new skills, meet new contacts and forge a different way through my broadcasting career beyond just sticking [with] the same programme.

Source: *Spotlight* 3/2017, 12–13

Britain Today

[4] Don't bank on it!

David: Since the economic crisis of 2008, banks have got a lot of bad press. Each year seems to bring new scandals. But could a bit of religion clean up the banking sector's image? Colin Beaven has the answer in *Britain Today*.

Studying to be a doctor isn't everyone's cup of tea. Charles Darwin, for example, didn't enjoy his medical training at Edinburgh University. In 1827, he gave it up and went to Cambridge instead.

As it turned out, this was good timing: by the following year, William Burke and William Hare were busy in Edinburgh. These two murderers made a business of selling dead bodies. They sold them to the city's medical school for use in anatomy lectures.

It would have been very unfortunate if Darwin had been one of their victims. Thank you, Edinburgh, for not using Darwin as sushi before he had a chance to think about evolution. One can visit Darwin's later home in southern England — Down House in Kent. He was also a regular visitor to Southampton, where I live. It's a thrill to imagine walking round town in his footsteps.

Why did he come to Southampton, though? It was the home of his eldest son, William Erasmus Darwin, who was a banker here. The father was no doubt pleased with the son's

agricultural

► Landwirtschafts-

beyond sth.

► über etw. hinaus, weiter als etw.

cup of tea: not everyone's ~ ifml. ► nicht jedermanns Sache

engaging

► hier: spannend

float

► hier: sich hin- und herbewegen

forge

► schmieden, formen

plan: go to ~

► nach Plan verlaufen

thrill: be a ~

► aufregend sein

success. Or was he? The step from world-class scientist to successful banker in one generation: is that a step up or down the evolutionary ladder?

The financial crisis in 2008 didn't help banking's reputation. We still hear horror stories. But we also hear such a lot about the importance of London's banks to the UK economy. The City pays much more in tax than it spends on public services.

What saints these bankers are. What will we do after Brexit if they move to exotic cities like New York or Shanghai?

Should we celebrate perhaps? The more one learns about corruption in some banks, the more one wants to see them go. It's easy to forget that banks must not automatically be associated with unscrupulous behaviour, however. After all, some of them were set up by the Quakers themselves, and they were men people trusted.

One example is the Peckover family. Their beautiful house in the English town of Wisbech is another home that people can visit. The Quaker bank owned by this family had high principles and direct links with the organization we know today as Barclays.

How ironic! Barclays has long been controversial — and not just since the financial crisis. It was criticized, for example, when it gave financial services to South Africa under apartheid

in the days before Nelson Mandela became president.

A good name for a modern bank would be the Jekyll and Hyde Bank — if I may steal from Robert Louis Stevenson's story. Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, but a generation after Burke and Hare were active. He was safe. For a while, Mr Hyde, the monster in his story, was able to turn himself back into nice Dr Jekyll. Then it all went wrong, and the process no longer worked.

Similarly, in the course of time, some banks seem to have evolved from Jekyll banks into Hyde banks. No doubt evolution is generally a one-way process, but it would be nice to reverse it just this once.

We couldn't force bankers to become Quakers, of course. The Quakers would protest. But we could make the bankers take an oath. Why not? Even if Quakers don't, doctors do.

Source: Spotlight 3/2017, page 10

City: the ~ UK

► das Londoner Banken- und Finanzviertel

evolve ► sich entwickeln, sich herausbilden

oath: take an ► einen Eid leisten

reputation

► Ruf, Ansehen

reverse ► umkehren, rückgängig machen

set up

► gründen, aufbauen

Travel

[5] Wild London

David: With ever more of the world's population living in cities, the creation of a healthy urban environment is essential. In London, a charity has dedicated itself to protecting the British capital's wildlife and wild spaces. The London Wildlife Trust's mission is to balance responsible development with caring for the city's nature and increasing its biodiversity. The charity aims to achieve this through campaigns and projects, including the creation of nature reserves.

In this month's *Spotlight*, correspondent Karin Holly visits some of the Trust's natural habitats. These habitats include woodland, grassland and wetlands. Listen now to an extract from the article.

The metal gate stands open, inviting visitors to walk through and discover what's just beyond. From somewhere deep within the green park come the sounds of birds shaking out their feathers after a swim. Water bubbles gently down a brook that eventually joins a broad, clear lake strewn with water lilies. All of this is part of Woodberry Wetlands, the London Wildlife Trust's most recent and perhaps most ambitious project to date.

The new nature reserve sits on 12 hectares (30 acres) — roughly the area of 14 football pitches — in the middle of Hackney, one of London's most densely populated boroughs, located north-east of the city centre. Apartment buildings, crowded streets and noise surround the park on all sides. Looking around, it's easy to see that some of the people living here face great socio-economic challenges, none of which will be fixed by a bit of wilderness. But the London Wildlife Trust, a nature conservation charity formed in 1981, hopes that the beauty and quiet of Woodberry Wetlands will provide a bit of a break from the ultra-urban lives of Hackney's residents.

beyond ▶ hier: dahinter

biodiversity

▶ Artenvielfalt

borough ▶ Stadtbezirk, Stadtteil

brook ▶ Bach

bubble ▶ sprudeln

dedicate oneself

▶ sich widmen, es sich zur Aufgabe machen

extract ▶ Auszug

football pitch

▶ Fußballplatz

habitat ▶ Lebensraum

most densely

▶ am dichtesten

resident

▶ Bewohner(in)

strewn ▶ übersät

wilderness ▶ Wildnis

“For some reason and somehow, all of the different [ethnic] communities have decided that this is a great place to be,” said Gordon Scorer, the trust’s **chief executive**. “Some come because of the education element we offer. Others like it because of the peace and quiet and our really great cafe. You can drink a cup of tea and be in a peaceful, **tranquil** environment — you wouldn’t even know you’re in London, and I think that’s what brings people here.”

The popular cafe occupies the site’s **restored landmark** Coal House building, while outside, a 120-metre-long **boardwalk** enables visitors to walk along the edge of the lake that is at the centre of the **preserve**. This **body of water** is actually a working reservoir — formerly known as the Stoke Newington East Reservoir, built in the 1830s — and stores a portion of London’s drinking water. The property Woodberry Wetlands occupies is, in fact, still owned by Thames Water. The water authority has leased it to the trust, however. While London Water still **maintains** the reservoir, the land surrounding it is now accessible to visitors looking to get closer to nature. It’s all thanks to a partnership between the trust, **property developer** Berkeley Homes, the local council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, among others. The £1.5 million construction of the wetlands began in 2015. Its official opening last spring marked the first time in nearly 200 years that

the general public have had access to this area of land.

City sounds **barely** penetrate this oasis. Visitors to the wetlands discover a newly planted **orchard**, wildflower **meadows** and grass that’s actually — **gasp** — allowed to grow. While tall grass doesn’t seem like an attraction to most people, it’s something many local children aren’t used to, says David Mooney, the trust’s development manager. He’s credited by many as having been the driving force behind Woodberry Wetlands.

barely ➔ kaum

boardwalk

➔ Bohlenweg, Holzsteg

body of water

➔ Wasserfläche, Gewässer

chief executive

➔ Geschäftsführer(in)

gasp ➔ nach Luft

schnappen; hier: Man glaubt es kaum!

landmark

➔ Wahrzeichen

maintain

➔ verwalten, betreuen

meadow ➔ Wiese

orchard

➔ Obstgarten, -plantage

preserve

➔ Naturschutzgebiet

property developer

➔ Bauträger(in)

restore

➔ wiederherstellen

tranquil

➔ ruhig, friedlich

“During my time with the trust for the last nine years, I have witnessed how children walk around wide-eyed and in awe of these places,” Mooney said. “We have young children, aged five, six and seven, who walk through the long grass — sometimes it’s as tall as them, and they turn around and ask us what plant it is. We have to remind them it’s just grass, and we just let it grow. And they don’t even realize that grass left to grow can be quite this tall and provide a wondrous experience to walk through.”

See Spotlight 3/2017, pages 14–20

[6] Nature in the city

David: Gordon Scorer is the chief executive of the London Wildlife Trust. Since 2015, he’s been leading the charity on projects including new wetlands reserves and new visitor facilities. We talked to Scorer about the work the London Wildlife Trust does.

What we’re really about is helping people in London understand the nature that’s right there on their doorstep. And you can do that in a number of ways. You can do it in large areas, such as Woodberry Wetlands, where you specifically manage the habitat as a wetlands habitat and you attract migrating birds and those sorts of things. Or, at the other end of

the spectrum, you can have a small area. I’m trying to think of one: Bird Brook in south-east London, where you have a very small area. It’s probably no more than maybe a tenth of a hectare, and you’ve managed a few ponds there for newts and amphibians, and again lots of people can go and see it. You can educate children. You can just go and really understand that London’s full of nature if you know where to look.

David: London is full of construction sites and new buildings. How does London Wildlife Trust come to terms with the constantly growing city?

There are a couple of ways you could go about this. You could say actually London shouldn’t be developed. And all of those people that

awe ▶ Ehrfurcht

doorstep: on one’s ~

▶ vor der eigenen Haustür

facility ▶ Einrichtung

go: ~ about sth.

▶ mit etwas umgehen

migrating bird

▶ Zugvogel

newt ▶ Molch

pond ▶ Teich

terms: come to ~ with sth.

▶ sich mit etwas arrangieren

witness ▶ miterleben

wondrous ▶ wunderbar, erstaunlich

need somewhere to live, well, that's just hard luck. Or you could say, which is where we are, actually when you do develop an area of London, do it sensitively and do it with an eye to nature and biodiversity. And actually, if you do it right, you can improve the biodiversity in an area and you can improve the nature in an area. That's really what we're trying to do here at Woodberry where we're taking a reservoir that's been locked away from anyone being able to use it for the last 200 years, managing it sensitively for people and wildlife and then opening it up to the local community. So everyone can get the benefit of something that's really rather wonderful that's right on their doorstep.

David: Woodberry Wetlands is the Trust's most recent project. It's located in Hackney, which is a heavily populated area in north-east London. The park attracts members of many different cultures that want to escape the busy city streets.

I think that Hackney is a really diverse area, and we're right in the middle of Hackney. You can see lots of different communities: whether the Turkish community, Portuguese community, the Hassidic Jewish community, West Indian communities. For some reason and somehow, all of the different communities

have decided that this is a great place to be for different reasons. Whether it's because of the education, whether it's because of the peace and quiet, whether it's because we have a really great cafe. Who knows? But you can drink a cup of tea and just be in a peaceful, tranquil environment, and you wouldn't even know you're in London, and I think that's what brings people here.

See Spotlight 3/2017, pages 14–20

[7] Green spaces and target species

David: Another important member of London Wildlife Trust is development manager David Mooney. A native Londoner, Mooney came up with the idea of turning reservoirs into urban wetlands. This led to the creation of Woodberry Wetlands, as well as the brand new Walthamstow Wetlands.

benefit ▶ Nutzen, Vorteil

diverse ▶ vielfältig, bunt gemischt

hard luck ▶ Pech

Hassidic ▶ chassidisch

idea: come up with an ~
▶ sich etw. einfallen lassen, ausdenken

Jewish ▶ jüdisch

West Indian
▶ karibisch

As many children in London have little experience of life outside the city, Mooney believes it's essential to show them the beauty of nature.

Like I said, the green spaces around a lot of these kids, there are dogs all over [them], there are barbeques, there are parties on the weekend. Whenever it's hot, as you would, every Londoner goes to the local park and uses it and in some sense abuses it. The local authority has to manage parks. They're under pressure to manage parks in a certain way. So nature reserves and spaces that are allowed to go wild are quite rare; rare places of this size. London is a wild place. London is wild for many reasons. It's a wild and wonderful place, and we like to think we're adding to the wildness by allowing this little postage stamp in the corner of Hackney to go wild and allow people to come and experience it.

David: In the next part of the interview, Mooney talks about how the Trust's nature reserves can help preserve endangered species.

One of our target species was a reed bunting, which is on a list of species that are under threat. We've had over the last six months three breeding pairs of reed buntings come to this site. We've got reed warblers visiting

from West Africa. They come from West Africa all the way to Hackney to spend the summer with us. And two really exciting species that we were not prepared for were the water rail and the snipe. The snipe is a bird that is very rare, under a lot of pressure and has suffered for many years from being eaten. It's a popular dish on British tables, was until not many years ago. I've got a very strange and slightly embarrassing story about my wedding dinner. The restaurant that I ate at, I learned recently, used to have until 10 years ago snipe on the menu. Luckily and thankfully it doesn't any more, but the irony of that, you know? A manager who's created Woodberry Wetlands and Nature Reserve in London and is celebrating snipe

abuse

- missbrauchen, Schindluder treiben

breeding

- brütend

embarrassing

- peinlich

endangered

- gefährdet, bedroht

postage stamp

- Briefmarke

preserve

- erhalten, schützen

reed bunting

- Rohrammer

reed warbler

- Rohrsänger

snipe ▶ Schnepfe

target species

- Zieltierart

water rail

- Wasserralle

is going to a restaurant where it's possibly on the menu. It just shows how far we've come in changing attitudes and raising awareness of how important wildlife is not just in the world but on our doorsteps in London.

David: Mooney sees the development of the enormous Walthamstow Wetlands as the next step in the Trust's mission to protect London's wildlife.

We're working on Walthamstow Wetlands. It's about 10, 12 times the size of Woodberry Wetlands, which is going to be a serious experience for people when they walk around in. If you want to spend a few days walking around Walthamstow Wetlands, you can. It's a 13-and-a-half mile walk if you want to take in every reservoir. We're working over in West London building a little tiny postage stamp of a space, but we're building a facility there to help celebrate and encourage people to come to it more. We're working down in South London. We've got ideas all over London. And we're going from strength to strength working with partners in the public sector, the private sector and our partners in the charity sector. We're always looking to make London more wild. A real, true project for the 21st century: urban nature conservation at its best.

See Spotlight 3/2017, pages 14–20

Everyday English

[8] A car accident

David: Have you ever been in a car accident? Hopefully not. But if it were to happen abroad, would you know what to say in English? Here are two dialogues about such an accident. Dave has rear-ended Fraser — that means he's driven into the back of his vehicle. Before you listen, here's some important vocabulary. “To slam on the brakes”, means to brake fast and hard. And if you're “liable”, you're legally responsible for paying the cost of something. By the way, the AA, or Automobile Association, is a British motoring association that provides insurance and advice for members.

Dave: Are you all right?

Fraser: Yeah, I think so. Are you?

Dave: I'm fine. What's just happened?

Fraser: A dog ran into the road. I didn't have time to think. I'm really sorry.

Dave: It's OK. These things happen. It's not your fault. I slammed on my brakes, but it was all so fast. Your car's in a right old state.

brake ▶ bremsen

nature conservation

▶ Umweltschutz

strength: go from ~ to ~

▶ immer größere Erfolge erzielen

Fraser: It doesn't look too good, does it? What do we do now? Do we call the police?

Dave: Yes, the police and the AA. We'll both need an accident report for our insurance claims. The dog's owner could be liable. Maybe the police can find them.

Fraser: Oh, right. I'll call the police.

David: In the second dialogue, Dave and Fraser are exchanging their details after the crash. A "registration document" gives information about a vehicle, such as the owner's name and the date of its manufacture. A "registration plate" is another name for "number plate". A "write-off" is a car that has been too badly damaged to be worth repairing. And if something is "smashed", it has been badly damaged or broken.

Dave: What we could do while we're waiting for the police and the AA is to exchange names, addresses and registration details. And the police will want to see your car insurance document. Have you got it in the car?

Fraser: Yes, I think so. It should be in the glove compartment.

Dave: We should probably take some photos, too. Your car looks like it might be a write-off, I'm afraid.

Fraser: I know — the whole side is smashed. I'll have to buy a new car! The insurance will

pay for it, won't they?

Dave: They should. And they should pay for a hire car in the interim.

Fraser: I hope so. I'd be lost without a car.

Source: *Spotlight* 3/2017, pages 46–47

Food

[9] Veggie heaven

David: Eating out has never been so good for vegetarians. Gone are the days when the only options at a restaurant were vegetable lasagne and mushroom risotto. Now vegetarian restaurants offer the kind of fine dining that was once only available to meat eaters. *Spotlight* correspondent Julian Earwaker has been a vegetarian for 30 years. For the March issue, he visited one of the leaders in British vegetarian gastronomy — Terre à Terre in Brighton. After enjoying a chestnut rösti followed by cheesecake with Sambuca-soaked sultanas, Julian spoke with the restaurant's commercial and

chestnut ▶ Kastanien-

glove compartment

▶ Handschuhfach

insurance claim ▶ Versicherungsanspruch

soak ▶ tränken

marketing manager, Olivia Reid. There have been a lot of changes in vegetarian dining since the restaurant opened 25 years ago. Listen as Reid talks about how the industry has evolved.

I think you've seen a huge growth in vegetarian restaurants. I mean, Brighton obviously has been championing it for years, but actually Brighton probably now just fits in with the others. I mean, you've got Bristol, you've got Manchester, you've got a lot of cities that really do highlight the vegetarian offering. But not just that. I do believe that you see a lot more choice now on all restaurants' menus. There used to be a time when you'd be lucky to have it mentioned on the menu. You'd have to request it. And pretty much got all the same dishes, featuring mushrooms. Now, I'd say you have up to two vegetarian friendly and some vegan on each course selection on each menu. We'd like to feel that we contributed to that. Don't forget that over those years we've produced a lot of chefs who've moved on to become head chefs in a lot of restaurants locally and internationally. I think we've definitely had an influence on them, and they've definitely taken on board our style of cooking, and implemented it into some of their vegetarian interpretations elsewhere.

David: And what's made the restaurant's style of cooking so different from other approaches to vegetarian cuisine?

There's no compromise. Our food was all about, you know, being plant-based. But we're not taking anything away. There was no abstaining from anything. It was about complete indulgence, but just that the meat happened to not be on the menu. And I think a lot of chefs are kind of more aware of that now. They don't feel like it's a compromise or half a dish. It's now a whole concept.

David: A key aspect of the restaurant's approach to food is the importance of texture. That means how crisp, smooth or tender a food is, for example. Attention to texture is important when meat and fish aren't on the menu.

abstain from sth.

► auf etwas verzichten

approach

► Herangehensweise

champion sth.

► etw. verfechten, für etw. eintreten

crisp ► knusprig, knackig

evolve ► sich entwickeln

implement

► umsetzen, einführen

indulgence ► Genuss

tender ► zart

texture ► Beschaffenheit, Konsistenz

Texture really isn't discussed in food technology a lot. It's one of the key things on our menu that we need to make sure dishes have a real balance of texture so that you're not getting one consistent texture coming through when you're eating. When you talk about fish and meat, they have a clear texture. So people probably don't even discuss it because it's quite obvious. When you're looking at a balanced dish, and especially when feeding someone who isn't necessarily vegetarian, what they're used to is those combinations of textures and tastes. So you have to make sure that you deliver that.

See Spotlight 3/2017, pages 34–36

[10] It's all about the diversity

David: Vegetarian food has a reputation for being bland — in other words, people think it isn't exciting or tasty. Listen as Olivia Reid points out a common mistake people make when producing vegetarian cuisine.

I think it can be a lot to do with combination of vegetables. You know, a lot of people have fears of kind of slimy textures, things like that, you know? It's like, the amount of times I've had someone say, "Oh, I don't like aubergine. I don't like its texture." Aubergine doesn't have a texture — it depends how you cook it. And

how you deliver it, and what you deliver it with, and what enhances it and what strengthens it. You know? We have had aubergine dishes that have about five different textures. So I do think that's [one] of the mistakes that are made out there.

David: Veganism is a major trend right now. So how does the restaurant cater for vegans, and have they noticed more people asking for vegan dishes?

Yeah, we have quite a few vegan choices. What we do is on our menu we have some vegan dishes, and then we have some dishes that can be altered to suit a vegan diet. So have we seen an increase? Yes. Is it because of veganism? We have no idea, because it's very difficult to [know] whether someone's selected that choice out of taste or whether they're a committed vegan. We do not know really, because

alter ► ändern, anpassen

bland ► fade, langweilig

cater for ► eingehen auf

committed ► hier:
überzeugt

diet ► Ernährung(s-
weise)

enhance

► hervorheben, betonen

point out ► aufzeigen

reputation ► Ruf

slimy ► schleimig

I think what you have is you've got a massive increase in dairy-free diets or egg-free diets, whether it's choice or health reasons. But definitely an expansion in dietary requests.

David: For Terre à Terre, it's all about giving the customer what he or she wants. The menu reflects different customer needs with plenty of diversity.

On our menu, we always make sure that we have some quite hearty dishes. The team, the floor team, really are aware of how to sell the right dish to the right person, how to interpret their desires and their needs. We always ask somebody, if they're a new customer, if they've experienced it before so we can gauge what their tastes are and make sure they order the right things. You know, we have lots of dishes that have rich sauces, heavy cheesy dishes. Then we have things like the rösti where it's very much about, you know, substance. A big potato rösti piled high with lots of ingredients. Whether it's kind of beetroots and cheese or it's more eggs and halloumi, it depends on the customer, what they like. And then we also have more delicate dishes for those who like quite delicate, clean flavours. It's about having the diversity on the menu, and that's one of our key focuses.

See Spotlight 3/2017, pages 34–36

Around Oz

[11] A taxing problem

David: The agricultural industry in Australia depends on foreign backpackers. That's because there aren't enough Australians around to pick crops during harvest. This system was recently threatened by a government plan to raise the taxes that seasonal migrants pay. In Around Oz, Peter Flynn wonders what the government was thinking.

I put my latest backpacker visitor from Germany on the bus a few weeks ago and imagine he is still picking avocados on a farm south of Perth. Bastian, as he likes to be called, is among the more than one million temporary visitors to Australia who have work rights. He's part of the group of 160,000 who have "working holiday visas", which allow them to stay for up to two years if they spend at least three months working on a farm. But Bastian

agricultural

► Landwirtschafts-

beetroot ► Rote Bete

crops ► Feldfrüchte

dairy-free

► ohne Milchprodukte

diversity ► Vielfalt

gauge ► einschätzen

hearty ► herzhaft, deftig

pile ► aufhäufen, stapeln

almost didn't stay thanks to a stupid federal government idea to sharply lift the "backpacker tax" rate to a massive 32 per cent from the first dollar earned.

Thanks only to an 11th-hour deal, on the last day of the 2016 parliament, did the government cave in to calls from the farming and tourism sectors to drop the rate to 15 per cent. The deal by the conservative government, ironically, with the support of their natural enemies, the Greens, ended an 18-month political stoush to raise relatively little money.

The government's pig-headedness had alienated most of its traditional allies, such as the National Farmers' Federation and other employer groups. Rightly or wrongly, Australia needs backpackers. Otherwise, fruit and vegetables would rot on the ground. Similarly, bars and cafes need backpackers to serve food and drink or work in kitchen and cleaning jobs.

The same is true of the \$15 billion international education industry, where many students are allowed to take on part-time work. All of the above casual workers earn \$A 20–\$A 30 (about €14–€21) per hour, with most planning to save at least half of that to continue their travels or study. Many of these temporary working visas are part of reciprocal arrangements with other countries, allowing younger Australians to undertake working holidays overseas.

Why the government would have put all this

in danger is instructive in the difficulties this government is having in managing its wafer-thin majority in the lower house as well as the hostile upper house. In the end, it was about political pride and the posturing of party leaders on all sides, totally devoid of common sense or any care for the economy.

If the 32 per cent backpacker tax had been introduced in January — as previously planned — Bastian would be in New Zealand now, maybe picking Kiwi fruit at an even lower tax rate. After nearly two years in Australia, he knows his way around this part of the world, and the internet offers countless useful sites to help

alienate sb.

► jmdn. verstimmen

ally ► Verbündete(r)

billion ► Milliarde(n)

casual worker *Aus., jfml.*

► Gelegenheitsarbeiter(in)

cave in ► nachgeben

common sense

► gesunder Menschenverstand

devoid ► frei von, ohne

hostile ► feindlich

pig-headedness ► Dickköpfigkeit, Sturheit

posturing ► Getue

raise ► erheben, bereitstellen

reciprocal
► gegenseitig

rot ► verfaulen, verrotten

stoush ► Keilerei, Gerangel

wafer-thin
► hauchdünn

backpackers find seasonal farm work at almost any time of the year.

In fact, I think the various German backpackers who have stayed for a short time in my home have worked on farms in every state in Australia. The question of why Australians — other than some hardy older folk touring in their caravans — won't do this work is a topic for another day.

Source: Spotlight 3/2017, page 71

Society

[12] The Commonwealth — part 1

David: The Commonwealth of Nations is an association of states made up of the United Kingdom and many of the former territories of the British Empire. The member states have no legal responsibility to each other. Instead, they are part of a political group bound together by language, history and shared values.

For his article on the Commonwealth in the March issue of *Spotlight*, correspondent Julian Earwaker spoke to Professor Philip Murphy. Murphy is the director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and a professor of British and Commonwealth history at the University of London. Listen now as Murphy discusses the changing face of the Commonwealth.

You couldn't really say that very much tangible by the 1970s really bound the Commonwealth together. It acts in concert over particular issues — South Africa the most notable one in the 1960s and 1970s. With South African full independence and the majority rule in '94, the Commonwealth really has to try and reinvent itself and tries to reinvent itself as an organization supporting particular values: democracy, the rule of law [and] human rights. But it's faced difficulties in making that really tangible and giving [itself] teeth to tackle defaulters in those areas. So one could say really that in a sense you have three phases: the old Commonwealth up until the early '60s, [which was] a fairly tight-knit group of countries united by a strong sense of Britishness. You have a far more diffuse organization from '61 onwards, but increasingly united by the crusade, if you like, to end apartheid in southern Africa and

concert: act in ~

► einvernehmlich handeln

crusade ► Kreuzzug

defaulter

► hier: jmd., der sich nicht an die Vorgaben hält

hardy ► zäh, robust

notable

► bemerkenswert

rule of law

► Rechtsstaatlichkeit

tangible ► greifbar, konkret

tight-knit

► eng verbunden

to restore Southern Rhodesia to full democracy and legality. And from the '90s you have an attempt to create a so-called values-based organisation. And that phase has been the least satisfactory and still causes policy makers huge problems and dilemmas.

David: Even though the Commonwealth has a central body called the Commonwealth Secretariat, along with a secretary-general, the Head of the Commonwealth is actually Queen Elizabeth II. And she's far more than just a figure-head. Her contribution to the organization has been essential to its survival. In the following recording, Professor Murphy explains how the Queen has become so important.

The headship of the Commonwealth, which looked like a little bit of an anachronism in the 1970s, has paradoxically become almost more important to the Commonwealth now than it was at any other time. What the queen did from the beginning of her reign was really to start to, through a series of accretions, to give the role as Head of Commonwealth some substance. But the queen, through supporting the Commonwealth Games, attending openings, closings, through visiting all but two Commonwealth countries, supporting the Commonwealth Day Interfaith Service, through giving Commonwealth Day messages [and

Christmas Day messages aimed at the Commonwealth, has given this role real substance — and of course supporting and attending Commonwealth Heads of Governments meetings. One could say that, really in the last 10 years or so, the queen has become kind of central to the Commonwealth and the way the Commonwealth presents itself. And, indeed, if she hadn't insisted systematically pretty much from the 1970s on going to Commonwealth Heads of Governments meetings, many other leaders wouldn't have bothered to attend. She has a kind of convening power that the Commonwealth Secretariat lacks. And so that is actually quite a difficult situation for the Commonwealth. It doesn't bode well for its ability to create a kind of independent agenda, which is actually relevant. And, of course, the

accretion ▶ Zuwachs

attempt ▶ Versuch

bode well

▶ Gutes verheißen

bother

▶ sich die Mühe machen

convening ▶

Einberufungs-, Versammlungs-

figurehead

▶ Galionsfigur

headship ▶ Leitung

interfaith service

▶ religionsübergreifender Gottesdienst

lack ▶ nicht haben

reign ▶ Herrschaft

restore ▶ hier: zurückführen

headship of the Commonwealth is not hereditary. When the queen dies, there will have to be a decision by Commonwealth members over its future, and how that will be done is not entirely clear.

See Spotlight 3/2017, pages 24–32

[13] The Commonwealth — part 2

David: What does the Commonwealth do when member states turn away from democracy or commit human rights abuses? Not much, unfortunately. The organization has often been criticized for its lack of action. But is that criticism fair?

There was an attempt to create an enforcement mechanism in 1995. Typically, it came out of a crisis. The Commonwealth was meeting. It was having one of its Heads of Government meetings at the time that the Nigerian dictator executed Ken Saro-Wiwa and other protesters in Nigeria. And the Commonwealth Secretary General at the time, who was a Nigerian, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, and Nelson Mandela, who was attending, were both outraged by this. There was a real determination that there should be some mechanism to enforce values. And what the Commonwealth created was the so-called Ministerial Action Group,

which still meets twice every year to monitor countries that might be in default of their obligations. Ultimately, it can recommend the suspension or expulsion of Commonwealth members. But it must be said that it has not acted in all but the most extreme cases, i.e. where there's been some kind of military coup or overthrow of the elected government. There's been a great deal of frustration about the toothlessness of the organization. But there's the paradox really, because the lack of concrete obligations on its members has in a way helped to keep it together because no one is under any threat from the Commonwealth. If the Commonwealth impinged in any significant way on the independence of member

commit

► verüben, begehen

coup

► Putsch, Staatsstreich

enforcement

► Durchsetzungs-

execute

► hinrichten (lassen)

expulsion ► Ausschluss

hereditary

► erblich, angestammt

impinge ► Einfluss nehmen, eingreifen

obligation

► Verpflichtung

outraged ► empört

overthrow ► Sturz

suspension

► Suspendierung

toothlessness

► Zahnlosigkeit; hier: mangelnde Handlungsfähigkeit

states, you would have many more leaving, as indeed Zimbabwe did in the early 2000s, when it looked as though the Commonwealth might move to sanction it in some way; and indeed as The Gambia did more recently. So yes, it's fairly toothless; it's very difficult to see how it could survive as an organization, which really did enforce its values. What the previous secretary-general, Kamalesh Sharma, would say, is that its value is in the kind of below-the-radar, quiet diplomacy before you get to any sort of direct confrontation when there are concerns about a country's record on democracy or independent judiciary or human rights. So it's all about quiet diplomacy. But saying everything is being done by quiet diplomacy, it ends up being a question of whether the light goes out in the fridge when you close the door. You know, if you can't see it happening, how do you know it's happening?

David: In recent years, The Gambia and the Maldives have left the Commonwealth. In the future, though, it looks like more nations will be joining rather than leaving. In 2009, Rwanda joined the Commonwealth despite having no links to the British Empire. States that have applied to join include Somaliland, Sudan, South Sudan and Suriname. What can the Commonwealth offer these countries?

If I was a small vulnerable state, I would want to join the Commonwealth, in that international recognition is part of the way in which you defend your country's independence. So being recognized by something like the Commonwealth in a way strengthens your international position. It would mean someone somewhere would actually give a damn if you were overthrown in a military coup and would do something to bring it to international attention. The Commonwealth is not a major aid organisation, its aid budget as a whole is pretty tiny, but it does include major donors like the United Kingdom and Canada, and indeed some African countries now. Countries have particular strategic reasons for wanting to join. Rwanda obviously wanted to slightly break out of the French sphere of influence. It doesn't cost very much. It allows the leaders of often very small, very weak countries a place within a major international forum where they can meet members of the G8 and G20 on equal terms and try and raise issues around small

donor ▶ Geldgeber

judiciary ▶ Rechtssystem, Judikative

record ▶ hier: Bilanz

sphere of influence
▶ Einflussbereich

terms: on equal ~

▶ gleichgestellt, unter gleichen Bedingungen

vulnerable ▶ gefährdet, verwundbar, anfällig

states, which the majority of Commonwealth states are; [they're] defined as small states. So there are enough marginal reasons for wanting to join to make it feasible.

See Spotlight 3/2017, pages 24–32

English at Work

[14] An audience-friendly presentation

David: Each month, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time Ken has tips on how to make a presentation more audience-friendly.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. When you're making a business presentation, you want the audience to feel involved in what you're saying. One simple way of making your presentation more audience-friendly is to use audience-friendly language. What does this mean? It means trying to avoid using too many sentences with the words "I" and "me" in them. Instead, try to replace these words with the words "you", "we" and "us". This sounds less egotistical and more inclusive. Let's practise this. First you'll hear a sentence with "I" or "me" in it. In the pause, change the sentence to include the more audience-friendly words

"you", "we" or "us". Then you'll hear a model answer. OK? Ready? Let's start.

I want to show you how to solve this problem.

Let's see how to solve this problem.

I would like to thank you for coming to the meeting.

Thank you for coming to the meeting.

I think you all need a fuller explanation.

Probably you all need a fuller explanation.

Let me explain how this works.

Let's see how this works.

Shall I continue in the way I've outlined?

Shall we continue in the way that's been outlined?

I know everyone feels the same.

We all feel the same.

I wonder why everyone makes this mistake.

Why does every one of us make this mistake?

I invite anyone to contact me later if there are more questions.

Please contact me later if you have more questions.

"I" and "me" separate you from your audience. "We" and "you" bring us together. Some

egotistical ➤ egoistisch,
selbstgefällig

feasible ➤ plausibel

inclusive

➤ mit einbeziehend,
offen

marginal ➤ geringfügig

psychologists say that every time you use “I” and “me”, you should use “we” or “you” five times to cover the separating effect. Of course, sometimes you need to use “I” in a sentence. For example, it’s difficult to make a self-presentation without using this word. And if you want to emphasize an opinion or show personal responsibility, then you’ll need to use “I” and “me”. And remember, too, that “we” is not always an inclusive word. The so-called “royal we” really separates you from others: “We in the management group have decided that the production workers will not receive any pay rise this year.” That “we” at the start of the sentence was not an inclusive one! In your next presentation, try to consciously use inclusive language and drop as many “I’s” and “me’s” as you can. You’ll quickly see that it will help you create an audience-friendly atmosphere.

David: If you have a question for Ken, send it by e-mail to language@spotlight-verlag.de. If Ken chooses your question to print in *Spotlight* magazine, you’ll receive a free copy of his book, *Dear Ken... 101 answers to your questions about business English*.

See Spotlight 3/2017, page 55

Peggy’s Place

[15] Community spirit

David: Now it’s time for Peggy’s Place, and things are getting political at our favourite London pub.

Jane: Hi, George! How are you?

George: Mustn’t grumble.

Jane: You don’t sound very cheerful. What’s up?

George: Oh, the usual: too much work, a useless boss...

Jane: What you need is a drink. What can I get you?

George: A pint of bitter, please. Where are Phil and Peggy?

Jane: Oh, they’ve gone to the cinema. You’ll have to put up with me behind the bar tonight.

Helen: Hey, Jane! Nice to see you. Hello, George!

Jane: Before you ask, Mum and Phil are at the cinema. They’ve gone to see *Viceroy’s House*.

George: Isn’t that a film about the Mountbattens’ time in India?

consciously ➔ bewusst

cover ➔ hier: ausgleichen, wettmachen

grumble

➔ murren, meckern

put up with sb. ➔ mit jmdm. vorliebnehmen

Jane: Don't ask me. I just serve the drinks.

Helen: Yes, it's one of those lovely period dramas. It can't have been much of a stretch for Hugh Bonneville to go from Lord Grantham in *Downton Abbey* to Lord Mountbatten in this film.

Jane: Oooh! Then I might go and see it. Hugh Bonneville is quite fit.

George: Jane! He's old enough to be your father.

Jane: Yes, the sexy older man.

Helen: I think you'll find there's quite a lot of politics in the film. It's all about the partition of India.

Jane: Is India two countries? When did that happen?

George: Before your time, Jane. The partition created India and Pakistan.

Jane: Whatever.

Helen: Speaking of politics, I'm seriously thinking of becoming a local councillor for our borough.

George: Why would you do that?

Helen: I think it was Barack Obama's last speech as president back in January. He said one thing that really stuck in my mind about all of us being "guardians of democracy".

George: Still, I've heard it's a lot of work being a councillor.

Helen: You know, in my job as a community nurse, I hear a lot of moaning: about the state

of our streets, about high noise levels, about unreliable public transport...

Jane: People just want to talk.

Helen: I don't think that's true, and often I think they're right. But no one's prepared to do anything about it.

George: So, it's Helen to the rescue, is it?

Jane: What exactly would you be doing?

Helen: Well, I have to be elected first.

George: As a Labour councillor?

Helen: No, as an independent. I don't want the hassle of party politics. And I'm not sure there's any one party out there that represents my views.

Jane: OK, let's say you get chosen. What then?

Helen: Elected, not chosen. Well, remember when you said last month that there was no proper lighting on the alley behind your house, and you were worried about Simone walking along there in the dark?

borough UK

► Gemeinde, Bezirk

community nurse

► Gemeindegeschwester

councillor

► Gemeinderat, -rätin

guardian ► Hüter(in)

hassle ► Ärger, Schererei

moaning ► Jammern

partition ► Teilung

period drama

► historischer Film

stretch: not be much of a ~ ► hier: kein wesentlicher Unterschied sein

Jane: Yeah, it's a bloody disgrace. It would just take two lights...

Helen: I could look into that and see what can be done.

Jane: What's the money like?

George: You don't get paid, do you?

Helen: Well, I'd get a "member's allowance". It's a few thousand quid.

Jane: A few thousand! Show me where, and I'll sign up, too.

Source: Spotlight 3/2017, page 21

Short Story

[16] "The unhappy bride — A Ms Winslow investigation"

David: Have you already met Ms Winslow? In the January edition, we introduced a very special lady from Britain — amateur detective Dorothy Winslow. Now the Spotlight sleuth is back in a new three-part mystery. So sit back and enjoy Chapter 1 of "The unhappy bride".

Chapter 1

Dorothy Winslow was finishing the newspaper crossword at her home in Cambridge when the phone rang. It was her niece Lucy Tischler calling from Germany.

"Aunt Dot," she said, "could you come and stay with us in Heroldstein again?"

Dorothy liked the little village in the Palatinate. On her first visit a few months earlier, she had made friends with Lucy's neighbour, Armin von Weiden, and helped him recover a Renoir sketch that had been stolen from him. "We need your help, Aunt Dot," said Lucy. "I can't talk about it on the phone. I'll explain when you get here."

After arriving the following evening, Dorothy first had to read the children a bedtime story before she and Lucy could sit down to talk. Lucy's husband, Klaus, gave Dorothy a glass of sherry and went to cook supper, while Trotsky, the family dog, fell asleep at Dorothy's feet. "You remember my university friend Bettina Klein?" Lucy began. "I brought her with me to stay in Cambridge once."

allowance

► Entschädigung

bride ► Braut

disgrace ► Schande

look into sth.

► etw. prüfen

quid UK *ifml.*

► (britisches) Pfund

recover ► sicherstellen, zurückbekommen

sign up ► sich anmelden

sketch ► Zeichnung, Skizze

sleuth ► Detektiv(in), Schnüffler(in)

“Of course. She studied data analysis, didn’t she?”

“That’s right. Well, she joined a consultancy and now specializes in doing risk analyses for companies when they have to make big business decisions. About three months ago, she told me she was marrying a prince — Friedrich-Maximilian, Prinz zu Hochburg und Tafelstein.”

“Goodness, what a long name!” said Dorothy.

“Fritz for short,” said Lucy.

“And what’s his dark secret? A room with the skeletons of seven previous wives?”

Lucy laughed. “No, he’s a bit older than she is, but he’s never been married, and I think they’re ideal for each other. He’s a bit unworldly, and Bettina could really help him deal with the business side of things. In fact, that’s how they met; Fritz is chairman of the Tafelstein porcelain manufactory, and the company was planning to move production from Germany to China — until she advised against it. But at the moment, the wedding is about to be cancelled. You see, it’s Bettina who has a dark secret.

“Bettina had a boyfriend when she was at university, Charles Twigg. I never liked Charlie,” Lucy continued. “He was the youngest son of a rich, upper-class English family, who’d rebelled against his parents and run away to Asia. He gradually travelled back to Europe, working here and there as an English teacher,

masseur, tourist guide. When Bettina met him, he’d opened a yoga studio in Munich.”

“What didn’t you like about him?” Dorothy asked.

Lucy pulled a face. “He was all hands! I went to one of his classes, and he kept touching the girls. ‘Move your leg here... Lift your arms... Put your chest out.’ I had a big fight with Bettina when I told her what I thought of him. She said I was imagining everything. Of course, one day she found him on her yoga mat with another girl. Goodbye, Charlie! I was so thankful.”

“When was this?”

“About five years ago. Then last month, he e-mailed her. He’d heard about her engagement. He wrote that he was happy for her, but did she know he’d made a little film of them having sex? He included a couple of pictures to prove it and told her he would put it on the internet if she didn’t pay him €10,000.

chest ▶ Brust

consultancy ▶
Beratungsunternehmen

engagement
▶ Verlobung

gradually
▶ nach und nach

pull: - a face
▶ ein Gesicht ziehen

unworldly ▶ weltfremd

yoga mat ▶ Yogamatte

“Bettina was terribly upset. She knew nothing about this film, but she felt she would have to break off the engagement if it was made public. A scandal like that would be terrible for Fritz’s family name. His mother is still alive, and he has a younger brother and sister who do the day-to-day management of the porcelain business. Anyway, she paid Charlie and hoped he’d never contact her again.”

“But he has?” asked Dorothy.

Lucy nodded. “Three days ago. Now he wants €20,000. She told him she hasn’t got the money, and he’s given her a week to find it. When Bettina phoned, she said she wanted to tell Fritz everything and cancel the wedding. I asked her to wait until I’d spoken to you.”

“And why is she so sure this would be a problem for the prince?”

“She says he’s very shy and reserved, and the shame of something like this would be awful for him. Even if he did marry her out of honour, she thinks it would poison their relationship. What do you think, Aunt Dot?”

“I can’t say, dear. It depends on what kind of man he is. It could be a good test of his character. But anyway, I don’t like blackmailers. Let me think a bit...”

During supper, Dorothy only half-listened as Lucy and Klaus talked about the children and everything that was going on in the village.

“I’d like to use your computer,” Dorothy said

when they’d finished eating. “I knew Randolph Twigg, Charles’s father, when I was working in the Foreign Office. He’s dead now, so I need to write to a lawyer friend in London to check something I heard about his son. Call Bettina, and tell her to forward me the black-mail e-mails she received.” She paused as a fresh idea came into her head. “Then I’ll ask Armin if he can take me to Munich tomorrow. He could be useful.”

To be continued next month...

Source: Spotlight 3/2017, pages 66–67

Conclusion

[17] David: Thanks for joining us for Spotlight Audio. You’ll find more information about becoming a regular subscriber to either our CD or download at www.spotlight-online.de/hoeren Join us again next month, won’t you? Until then: goodbye.

blackmailer
→ Erpresser(in)

upset → bestürzt,
aufgebracht

subscriber
→ Abonnent(in)

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