



**GERMAN
WELFARE
COUNCIL**

Registered Charity Number: 288538

Annual Report 2023

In 2023 the German Welfare Council was very busy advising clients with German and British pension related issues including the German British Double taxation agreement. This made about 50% of our cases.

We also advised clients on moving back to Germany and if and how to make applications for benefits. We listened to a lot of their worries around old age, care, financial hardship, discrimination, disabilities, etc. and advised or post signed wherever possible.

For people who experienced financial hardship we have made grant application and received generous grants totalling of more than £57,000. The majority were heating grants or emergency grants to enable people to pay rent, council tax, a new fridge/freezer or washing machine. For those clients this support made a great difference.

We are pleased to have helped more than 1300 cases via email or over the phone, we were also able to offer consultations and home visits.

We offer

- Pension Advice - help and advice with German and UK pension applications, Life Certificates, tax on German pensions
- Advice for moving between Germany and UK, health insurance and social security systems, and benefits with Pre/Settled Status
- General Social Advice – benefits and health insurance in Germany and the UK
- Support for vulnerable people

Patron:

His Excellence the Ambassador of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Miguel Berger

Committee:

Mr U. Bauer – Chairman
Mr J. Rhys - Treasurer
Ms V. Gronewold - Secretary
Ms B. von Alten (resigned December 2023)
Mr A. Blum
Mrs A. Haase
Mrs A Palmer

Employee:

Mrs D. Scording
(full-time qualified Social Worker)

Independent examiner:

TC Group
King's House
9-10 Haymarket
London
SW1Y 4BP

Bank:

HSBC sort code: 40 04 07
Account number: 31055909

Christmas Party 2023

OUR GRATITUDE GOES TO:

The German Ambassador Miguel Berger and his staff

Charities administered by the Kaiser Wilhelm II Fund

The German YMCA

Our corporate members and members

Our volunteers

The German parishes in England

All organisations and individuals, not specially mentioned

In December last year we hosted our annual Christmas Party at the Lancaster Hall Hotel. We were visited by the school choir from St. James & St. John Church of England Primary School which sang beautiful Christmas songs. After this our guests joined harpist Henriette Poos to sing German Christmas Carols. Look out for our Christmas Party this year and don't forget to bring along loved ones and friends.



Udo Bauer spoke with our staff Doreen Scording.

Udo: Dear Doreen, we have known each other for quite a while. Since when have you been in London? Where are you actually from?

Doreen: I came to the UK in 2006. I am from Meerane/ Saxony. The more known cities are Zwickau, Chemnitz or Leipzig.

Udo: What are the most interesting contacts for you?



Doreen: I found that historical witnesses such as people from child transports, former concentration camp inmates or an old film star were particularly interesting. I also get to read a number of CVs during the German pension application, some of whom are very successful entrepreneurs who started with bad GCSEs. Another example of this would be, someone who often changed jobs throughout their working life but is content and happy with themselves.

Udo: Do you also collaborate with other organisations?

Doreen: Of course. There are authorities with which my clients deal such as Social Services, Citizen Advice Bureaus, the Association of Jewish Refugees or the SSAFA (which takes care of British military personnel and their families and many others). The German Embassy helps in an advisory capacity. We are very grateful for all their support.

We are solely relying on donations to keep our charity running and are always grateful for the collections from German churches or other organisations that are collecting for us.

There is also the German YMCA, which provides us with our office and the Kaiser Wilhelm II. Fund for their support we are deeply grateful for.