

On 12 March, Christopher Harvie, historian, teacher and politician, received the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the German Federal Republic, for services to education and cultural cooperation in Germany, Scotland and the British Isles.

From 1980-2007, Chris Harvie was Professor of British and Irish Studies at Tuebingen University, and author of fifteen books on British, European and Scottish history and culture. As pioneers of compact-seminars and residential colloquia, notably at Freudenstadt since 1991, he and his students and staff have advanced the area of European regional cooperation, with humour, improvisation, drama (not always intended), good food and drink, an encyclopaedic knowledge of railway timetables, and sheer luck.

The ceremony was held in the new [Summerhall Arts Centre](#) , Edinburgh, and the award was presented by the German Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger, who said, "On behalf of the Federal President, I congratulate Chris Harvie. I am extremely delighted that through this distinction, Chris's lifelong contribution to German-Scottish understanding has been acknowledged."



German Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger presents Chris Harvie with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the German Federal Republic.



German General Wolfgang Mees presents Chris Harvie with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the German Federal Republic. (Left: German General Wolfgang Mees, Secretary General of the German Foreign Office, and German Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Bernd Engel)