

# ANGLO-NETHERLANDS SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2015

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President: Sir Michael Perry GBE  
Chairman: Mr Robert Brooke

Vice-President: the Hon. Sir Clive Bosson Bt  
Administrator: Mrs Carine Williams



### Forthcoming Events

#### College of Arms

Our private visit includes a talk from the Windsor Herald and visit to the Record Room followed by a buffet supper

**Tuesday 15 September 6.15 for 6.30pm - 9 pm.**

#### Visit to Oxford - Blue Badge guided

Afternoon tour, ending with tea/ drinks in the garden of the Rector's Lodgings at Lincoln College.

**Saturday 10 October from 12.30 onwards**

#### Waterloo 200 - The inconvenient truths?

Following our visit to Windsor we were invited to join the Anglo-Belgian Society for a lecture and Reception at The Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

**Wednesday 14 October, 6.30pm for 6.45 start.**

#### M.C. Escher

A visit to the Escher exhibition is being planned, details on the application form.

**31 October, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London**

#### 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

2015 is the Society's 95th anniversary year. To celebrate a dinner is being organised at Grocers' Hall. The name of the speaker is still to be confirmed.

**20 November, reception at 7, dinner at 7.45pm**

#### Annual General Meeting,

at the Offices of Wedlake Bell, preceded by an afternoon visit to a suitable interesting location.

**Wednesday 9 December, 4.30 for 5pm.**

### New Members

We welcome:

Mrs J H

Ms A G

Mr E S

Mr F H G

Mr R C and

Mrs J C

We would also like to welcome

**Heineken**, who have re-joined

the Society as a Patron

# The ANS Awards - background

by Robert Brooke

In this Newsletter you are able to see the latest winning entry of the first set of essays submitted for 2015. This one is by Cian Hurley, one of the Sheffield University students whose essay was chosen as their 2015 winning entrant by our panel of Judges. The other submissions for 2015 from UCL, London have been received recently and are now under review by our judges for their adjudication. The winning essay from the UCL students will be included in our Newsletter later this year.

For new members, and as a refresher for all, I felt it might be a useful idea to set out the background to the ANS Awards. In keeping with our Aims and Objects which are set out on page 8 of the Newsletter it was decided in 2011/12 to establish an award for UK University Faculties which were running degree courses involving Dutch studies as part of their curriculum. Unfortunately there are fewer Universities these days who run these degree courses and we seem to be left with just two Universities focusing specifically on the UK and the Netherlands, namely Sheffield and UCL, with whom we have now developed appropriate Awards suited to their individual curricular programmes.

Each student is required to submit an essay on any agreed topic of Anglo-Netherlands affairs and relations including cultural, literary, comparative studies of history and society and other Anglo-Dutch interests.

The first Awards were given in 2012. We have to date been supported throughout by the Netherlands Embassy as the former Ambassador Mr Pim Waldeck was one whose encouragement and inspiration from the outset was outstandingly constructive and encouraging as we developed the ideas and more recently by the current Ambassador, HE Laetitia van Assum.

We have been delighted since the start that Rabobank have hosted the London awards presentations at their City offices overlooking the River Thames. We are very grateful to them for their kindness and generosity to date. For the last two years the Sheffield presentations have been held on their campus and it has been a pleasure for us to visit them and make the presentations on their home patch with a very warm welcome

from their Faculty.

But why did the ANS pursue this idea? We felt then, and we continue so to do today, that the initiative was directly in line with our aims and that it was a potentially very worthwhile exercise in furtherance of Anglo-Netherlands interests without being too much of a burden to the Faculties or an invasion in any way into their own curricular activities.

I believe we have overcome the underlying initial concerns of the Faculties that we might be seeking to interfere with or somehow to meddle with their own University programmes and organization. We have stressed at all times that we would need to have our own independent judging panel and that we would plan with each University Faculty to fit around their separate and different interests.

Above all we have correctly maintained that the interests of the students themselves are paramount. Now one of the most pleasing aspects is the amazing support we have seen from the students themselves and from the pride they have in contributing to the Awards each year. We are also very grateful to the leadership in both Sheffield and UCL in encouraging their students to join in our Awards voluntarily. The winners receive a small financial contribution which they are clearly delighted to be awarded we consider that all the entrants are winners in their own right for the experience they gain from participating and from the satisfaction of successful planning, research and completion of their essays.

As a Society we have been very fortunate indeed to have a wonderful small group of judges who contribute willingly to our review and selection process and who are led admirably by the Chairman of their panel, our Council member Paul Dimond. Without their wisdom, experience and commitment we would be all the poorer and they deserve a very special vote of thanks.

My hope is that this ANS initiative goes forward from strength to strength over the years ahead. I believe in the results to date and in the development of the Awards as they have developed so far. Long may they continue to be a valuable contribution to Anglo-Netherlands affairs.

# SIGNPOSTS

Dutch Art Collective **Tropism** first exhibition in Scotland at the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**. The exhibition features photographs of plants taken with unusual, often scientific, visualization techniques. 7-31 August, [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

**Bernard Haitink** conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, BBC Prom 57, Friday 28 August.

**Caro Emerald** sings at Proms in the Park on Saturday 12 September, Hyde Park. [www.bbc.co.uk/proms](http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms)

**13 Dutch Tall Ships** will return to London for the Royal Greenwich Tall Ship Festival. Option to board and cruise from Greenwich Heritage Centre and Woolwich Royal Arsenal Pier. 27-31 August [www.sailroyalgreenwich.co.uk](http://www.sailroyalgreenwich.co.uk)

## Royal Netherlands Marines Rowing Challenge.

Active and Retired servicemen will row 350 kilometres from Rotterdam to London via Vlissingen to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps and to raise funds for the Dutch Marines Foundation. 5-12 September, [www.dmrc.nl](http://www.dmrc.nl)

**Arifa and The Voices From the East** Amsterdam-based Arifa's improvisational approach is jazz in spirit, drawing on the musical roots of its Romanian, Turkish, Dutch, German and Greek members. Voices From The East brings female guest musicians from China, Iran and Bulgaria. 25 September at 7.30pm, Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, Highbury. [www.unionchapel.org.uk](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk), tickets: [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk).

London Resounding : Dutch fortepiano star **Ronald Brautigam** explores the burgeoning piano repertoire of late 18th-century London. BBC Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, 22 October at 1.00pm, tickets: [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk), at: LSO St Luke's, 161 Old Street, London.

**M.C. Escher**, first major UK show of work by great Dutch graphic artist Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972) brings together the prints and drawings which made him one of the most famous artists of the 20th Century. 14 Oct -17 Jan 2016, Dulwich Picture Gallery [www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk](http://www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk)

London Resounding : Dutch trio **Musica ad Rhenum** perform music composed for London audiences by 18th-century masters. BBC Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, 19 November, 1.00pm, tickets: [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk), venue : LSO St Luke's; 161 Old Street, London.

(paid advertisement)

## Dutch Care At Home

Dutch Care At Home would like to offer Dutch senior citizens in and around London company and day-to-day support. This could be practical help around the house (e.g. organising, cooking, shopping) or the sharing of social activities (e.g. conversation, museum or restaurant visit). The support, at a reasonable hourly rate, can be on an occasional or on a regular basis. For information - and to arrange a free introductory visit - please contact Juliette Bogaers.

Telephone: 020-7435 3200    Mobile: 07968 129 490  
[www.dutchcareathome.com](http://www.dutchcareathome.com)    [info@dutchcareathome.com](mailto:info@dutchcareathome.com)

## Members' Page

linked documents password

username:  
password:

Members can download duplicate application forms and various other papers via links on the Members' Page. Alternatively, please request a paper copy from the Administrator.

## College of Arms

A Private Evening in the Archives at the College of Heralds

The College of Arms, also known as the College of Heralds, is a royal corporation. The Heralds are appointed by the British Sovereign and are delegated authority to act on her behalf in all matters of heraldry, the granting of new coats of arms, genealogical research and the recording of pedigrees. It has jurisdiction over England, Wales, Northern Ireland and some Commonwealth realms. The College is also the official body responsible for matters relating to the flying of flags on land, and it maintains the official registers of flags and other national symbols. Though a part of the Royal Household of the United Kingdom the College is self-financed, unsupported by any public funds.

Founded by royal charter in 1484 by King Richard III, the College is one of the few remaining official heraldic authorities in Europe. Within the United Kingdom there are two such authorities, the Court of the Lord Lyon in Scotland and this College for the rest of the United Kingdom. The College has had its home in the City of London since its foundation and has been at its present location on Queen Victoria Street since 1555. The College of Arms also undertakes and consults on the planning of many ceremonial occasions such as coronations, state funerals, the annual Garter Service and the State Opening of Parliament. Heralds of the College accompany the sovereign on many of these occasions.

The College comprises thirteen Officers of Arms : three Kings of Arms, six Heralds and four Pursuivants. There are also seven Heralds Extraordinary, who take part in ceremonial occasions but are not part of the College. The entire corporation is overseen by the Earl Marshal, a hereditary office held by the Duke of Norfolk, currently Edward Fitzalan-Howard, 18<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk.

Our private visit includes a talk from the Windsor Herald and a visit to the Record Room followed by a buffet supper.

Additional information can be found at [www.college-of-arms.gov.uk](http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk)



"Officers of the College of Arms riding in procession to the Westminster Tournament from a tourney roll, made during the reign of King Henry VIII in 1511."

## M.C. Escher's Amazing World

a playful and impossible place, drawn with mathematical precision

M.C. Escher's work is as instantly recognisable as Salvador Dalí's, but almost unknown outside the Netherlands. He never became affiliated to any group, rarely travelled far from his modest home in the Dutch town of Baarn, and focussed exclusively on graphic art, a one-man art movement he created many famous and popular images in modern art.



This exhibition features over 100 prints and drawings spanning his whole career, drawn from the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague, which holds an almost complete set of Escher's prints.

Initially studying to become an architect in Haarlem, one of Escher's teachers advised him to move to turn to graphic art instead. The interest behind his early studies is apparent, as buildings, distorted and re-invented, remained the primary focus of his work.

During a visit (1922) to the Alhambra (Granada, Spain, 14C) Escher became intrigued by the repeat patterns in Islamic art, and the visual puzzles created in repeated designs. After settling in Rome (1924) his work begins to show the peculiar perspectives, patterns and obsession with minute detail apparent in his later works.

## Visit to Oxford

a Blue Badge guided tour



It is Oxford's turn again after a successful visit to Cambridge in 2011. The visit will take place on a Saturday, so we hope some of our working members and those living in the country-side nearby will be able

to join us. The detailed programme is still under development but will for certain include a comprehensive guided tour through the historic centre of Oxford visiting some interesting places. It will end up in the lovely, recently restored, garden of the Rector's Lodgings at Lincoln College where our members Henry (Rector of the College) and Deb Woudhuysen will be our hosts for teas and drinks. No doubt they would like to show us the beautiful Chapel of the College, built between 1629-1631, and bordering their garden. The Chapel contains some masterly designed glass windows by Abraham van Linge and his brother Bernard.



As the date of this event will be before the mailing of the Autumn newsletter, applications are now sought (via the enclosed application form or by email). Further details of the visit and the cost of attending will be provided to applicants when these are known. There will have to be a maximum number and in principle this event is for members only.

## Our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

a short history of the venue, the Grocers' Hall

The Worshipful Company of Grocers today ranks second amongst the Livery Companies of the City of London. Originally known as the Guild of Pepperers, their earliest records date from 1180. The Company was formed as a religious and social fraternity of merchants and moneyers who traded in spices, gold and other luxury goods from the East, Byzantium and the Mediterranean.



Camels represent spices from the east

The site on which Grocers' Hall stands was acquired in 1427, in the following year the first Charter was granted. The Great Fire in 1666 nearly ruined the Company, destroying its Hall, and its property in the City. Fortunately, the generosity of some of its members permitted the renovation of the Hall, later let as a residence to the Lord Mayor.

King Charles II honoured the Company by being enrolled as a member, and in 1689 William III (of Orange) conferred a more signal distinction upon it by accepting the office of Sovereign Master. In 1694, the second Hall was leased to the newly-formed Bank of England, of which Sir John Houblon, a Grocer, was the first Governor.



The fourth Hall (1893), one of few Livery Halls to survive the Second World War; was largely destroyed by fire in 1965. Perhaps the greatest loss

-amongst many irreplaceable items- were the Company's Charters.

Today, the Company, along with the other Livery Companies, continues to play its role in the daily life of the City, in the election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and carries on the traditions of the ancient fraternities which, since the middle ages, have formed sounding boards of informed responsible opinion.

# Waterloo at Windsor : 1815 - 2015 - a Prince, a Duke and an Emperor

report, by Anne and Wim van der Lee, on our visit on 23 April to the exhibition at Windsor Castle

On a sunny 23 April thirty three members of the Society met at Windsor Castle for an introductory talk on the Battle of Waterloo and to see the items on display to commemorate the bicentenary of the battle.

We began our visit by watching the band of the Irish Guards leading a company of The Scots Guards marching by in to the Castle through a private gate for the Changing of the Guard ceremony. We were told by our guide that Her Majesty would be watching this as she always does when at Windsor, perhaps with guests as it was St. George's Day, the day on which any appointments by her of new Knights of the Order of the Garter are announced. It is the oldest order of chivalry in the world dating back to 1348. As well as regular Knights she may appoint Stranger Knights, usually foreign Royals. Former Queen now Princess Beatrix is a Stranger Knight of the Garter. A banquet for the Knights takes place at Windsor every year in June.

We caught a brief sight of the ceremony on our way into the Castle to have a coffee and then an illustrated talk in a room in The Winchester Tower. The Battle of Waterloo is a very complex subject but our excellent guide gave us a very good and informative overall view of the battle, the events that led up to it and items of note and interest in the Castle's special exhibition relating to it which we would be seeing.

We were told how defeat at Waterloo finally put a stop to the ambitions of Napoleon who through sheer personal cleverness and military brilliance had risen literally from nothing to crowning himself Emperor of France. It ended two decades of war that had ravaged all of Europe. It also marked the beginning of a clear decision to try to avoid using war or the battleground for solving of problems and was followed by fifty years of peace.

Deposed and exiled to Elba by the allies in 1814, Napoleon escaped to Paris and through personal popularity had been able to retake power as Emperor and raise a large army of his former followers to again threaten his European adversaries. Thus was formed an armed coalition between Britain, Prussia, The Netherlands, Hanover, Nassau and Brunswick to stop Napoleon's advance on Brussels in 1815.

But Napoleon was a genius at dividing his enemies by means of distracting forays and it was one of these which led to the defeat of the Prussians at Ligny two days before the main battle which took place on 18 June. But this was Napoleon's last victory. The Prussians, led by the elderly Field Marshall Gebhard von Blucher regrouped not, as expected by Napoleon, to the east but instead, by prior agreement with Wellington, to the west to give him support if needed.

Napoleon's main attack was delayed by the weather- heavy overnight rain had soaked the ground to a muddy quagmire hampering the movement of men, horses and artillery. It also

prevented cannon balls from doing their proper work because they did not bounce as they do on hard ground. He began his attack at noon.

During the ensuing battle the key fortified points of Quatre Bras crossroads, Hougemont Chateau, the hamlet of Papelotte, La Haye Sainte farmhouse and Placenoit changed hands several times with enormous casualties on both

who attended the peace conference of Vienna. We were then left to make our own way with the help of audio guides and very courteous and well informed uniformed attendants through the rest of the State Apartments with their displays of prints, drawings and archival material relating to the battle. Here were also displayed other items of interest, notably a pedestal table commissioned for but never



Caption to photo : Members outside the landmark tower at Windsor Castle

sides. At Quatre Bras the Prince of Orange held out for six hours until badly wounded and having to be carried off.

The arrival of the Prussians late in the day, when Wellington was seriously considering retreat, turned the tide in his favour, but the decisive factor in the victory was the unexpected failure of Napoleon's heretofore invincible Imperial Guard to turn the advance around. This resulted in panic amongst the other French troops who turned and fled, giving victory to Wellington and his allies.

The defeated Napoleon abdicated and sent a grovelling letter of surrender to the Prince Regent begging for asylum in England. This availed him nothing and he was caught and banished to the very remote island of St. Helena where he died in 1821.

The Prince Regent wept tears of joy at the victory. Wellington was acclaimed as a great hero throughout Europe, became a statesman and Prime Minister. He was given Stratfield Saye House and Estate, in return for which the current Duke presents to the monarch annually a 'Waterloo Rental Banner', a French tricolour with the current year embroidered in a corner. We later saw the 2014 version in the exhibition.

After the talk our guide took us to The Waterloo Chamber. This was created by George IV in celebration of the victory and contains full length portraits by Lawrence of all those

delivered to Napoleon and later presented to King George IV by a grateful Louis XVIII. The top of this is a large single piece of Sevres Porcelain on which are depicted heads of twelve classical heroes around Alexander the Great in the centre. There was also a special chair by Thomas Chippendale the Younger made from the wood of the elm tree which had provided shade for Wellington's battle headquarters. We saw the scarlet bedouin style cape that Napoleon always wore given to George IV by Blucher as well as items of silver and some weapons seized on the battlefield.

The State Rooms themselves are interesting and there were of course many wonderful paintings to enjoy by artist such as Rubens. The views from the State Rooms and The North Terrace over the town with Eton College in the distance are magnificent and the garden within what was once a moat is very beautiful and includes features such as a waterfall.

On the way out we were able to visit the massive gothic St. George's Chapel, home of the tombs of monarchs from Henry VIII to the most recent and individual banners of all the current Knights of the Garter hanging over their individual stalls.

A most enjoyable visit. Many thanks to Connie Sangster for arranging it so well. As our entry tickets were validated for a year we can revisit as often as we like during the year.

# Magna Carta : Law, Liberty, Legacy

report, by Caroline Doggart-Voûte, on our visit on 21 May to exhibition at the British Library

As I write (June 15th), a large replica of Magna Carta travels on *Gloriana*, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee barge, down the River Thames towards Runnymede. This is where 800 years ago the original charter was granted by the autocratic King John under pressure from his rebellious barons. The original document was what a group of Anglo-Netherlands Society Members had come to see in the British Library on that warm spring afternoon in May. Impressive media coverage and a comprehensive preview in the Society's Spring 2015 Newsletter had prepared us for the visit. The collection of documents and artifacts on show is directly and indirectly related to the original agreement between King John and his barons at Runnymede. It is a journey through the world's political and judicial history.

Ostensibly this is the largest exhibition "ever devoted to a single sheet of parchment". The parchment itself is moving in its handwritten simplicity. It was a peace treaty, a practical solution to a political crisis created by organised and growing resistance to King John. While relations between king and barons worsened in the face of excessive taxation and harsh punishments for non-compliance with arbitrary rulings, there were covert negotiations in which Archbishop Langton played a mediating role. These consultations helped to formulate the original 49 Articles sealed by the king (the Great Seal is in the exhibition, as are the Articles of the Barons which were lodged by Stephen Langton at the archdiocese of Canterbury, now held by the British Library). Shortly after the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1215 officials from the royal chancery drafted the formal text of Magna Carta. It has 63 clauses of which the first clause: "the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired" reflects the influence of Archbishop Langton on the drafting process. In later years the charter undergoes a series of reissues. The important 1225 reissue is eventually copied on to the first statute roll in 1297 when the essence of the Runnymede agreement between king and barons becomes official English law.

The terms of Magna Carta applied primarily to "free men", a minority of the population of medieval England. However, regulation of the administration of justice, the need for popular consent in return for tax certainty and commitment to the principle of due legal process form

an enduring legacy for the benefit of most people. The most effective clause in Magna Carta provided for the election of a commission of 25 barons to monitor the king's compliance with the charter and its enforcement. It had a clear message: the law applies to all and the king could not set himself above it. Clause 40 of the 1225 charter says it all: "To no one shall we sell, to no one deny or delay right of justice".

Magna Carta acquired real political significance in the 17th century due to the influence of lawyer and politician Sir Edward Coke (shown in a wonderful portrait borrowed from Trinity College,

documents, particular bones of contention being the imposition of judicial and fiscal rules without consent.

The use of references to Magna Carta in 18th century cartoons and in 19th and 20th century political campaigns provides a wealth of visual interest. The transcript of Nelson Mandela's court proceedings is a poignant reminder of the charter's reach across the globe. Less edifying are the exhibits illustrating how the Treaty of Waitangi (1840) between Maori chiefs in New Zealand and the British Crown, in practice paid scant regard to the Magna Carta principles that it was based on. A

black and white British Pathé film of the 750 Years of Liberty ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral on 13 June 1965 (a precursor of this year's Magna Carta festivities) has the commentator grandly announcing that the Commonwealth High Commissioners "came to give thanks in the mother country from which their liberties went forth". Notwithstanding the lapses in implementation of the charter's principles the exhibition reminds us that the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights has roots in that one-page document signed eight centuries earlier:

"Article 3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile".

A few years later, while still struggling with the consequences of World War II, European nations added to the Magna Carta legacy with the European Convention on Human Rights in 1953. UK adherence to this treaty, of which it was a founder member, ironically is now threatened by Parliamentary opposition. This fact makes the exhibition even more relevant as we are reminded of the long and convoluted history of the struggle for the right to life, liberty and security of the person that was recognised, however tentatively, in that one-page parchment.



Portrait of Sir Edward Coke, reproduced by permission of the Master and Fellows of Trinity College Cambridge

Cambridge). He prepared the 1628 Petition of Right which limited the power of King Charles I. During this period new interpretations were placed on the charter, strengthening the rule of law and the rights and freedoms of citizens, a process illustrated in a wealth of documents and objects.

The exhibition section entitled *Colonies and Revolutions* follows Magna Carta as it becomes embedded in the laws of American colonies. Thomas Jefferson's hand-written draft of the Declaration of Independence (1776) shows the influence of Magna Carta, later echoed in the United States Bill of Rights (1791). The ambivalent attitude to Magna Carta in Britain's colonies is explored in a series of

# Anglo-Netherlands Award, Cian Hurley, winner, The University of Sheffield

"On development in the response to Geert Wilders' provocations over the past ten years"

Does the response to Geert Wilders' political and media provocations over the past ten years show a development, with consideration of the political and social theories of nationalism and multiculturalism?

The leader of the far-right Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV) in the Netherlands, Geert Wilders, is infamous in political circles for his highly polemical and controversial performances, both in a political setting and in the media. He is a politician with well-documented anti-immigration, anti-European Union and, above all, anti-Islam sentiments. In the wake of recent incidences of extremism linked to radical Islam, such as the Charlie Hebdo massacre, the rise of the radical Islamic State and the 7/7 and 9/11 terrorist attacks, reaction to these events (and to Islam as a whole) has become polarised and divisive. While some call for strict anti-integration measures and a return to the notion of the unified nation, others have reacted with a multiculturalist stance, calling for tolerance and celebration of diversity (a reaction prompted by the nationalist reactions as well as the atrocities themselves). Wilders is a clear subscriber of the nationalist category because, while he labels himself a patriot, his actions fall more in line with a nationalist definition of being a 'principle that state and nation should coincide [...and being alert to] the threat immigrants can pose to the cultural and national identity.' In this essay I will not only discuss a number of Geert Wilders' specific provocations but also analyse the reactions to them from political opponents as well as wider individual or organised responses from affected and other key demographics in Dutch society. My expectation is that these responses will demonstrate an increasing sense of belonging among Dutch Muslims and Dutch-Moroccans as well as an increasing sense of acceptance of other cultures and support from other segments of society in order to combat not only Wilders' dogmatic rhetoric but also generalisations and preconceptions from society as a whole.

The first of Wilders' provocations I will analyse is the release of the anti-Islamic film *Fitna*, described by Canadian solicitor Richard Warman as 'classic hate propaganda', which was released in March 2008 to convey Wilders' negative interpretation on the subject of Islam. It uses decidedly anti-Islam imagery, for example, video footage from 9/11 and radical Muslim clerics preaching hate, to enlighten the masses of non-Islams, or kaffirs, about the true nature of Islam. Such an inflammatory piece of media on such a sensitive topic naturally brought about numerous strong reactions.

There was general consensus among Wilders' political opponents that the film was abhorrent. Then-Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Jan Peter Balkenende, released a statement on behalf of the entire Dutch

government, condemning the film for '[equating] Islam with violence' and pointing out that 'the vast majority of Muslims reject extremism and violence' and that 'the victims are often Muslims themselves', sentiments that were also held by numerous other parties, such as the Christen-Democratisch Appèl (CDA) and Partij van de Arbeid (PvdA) as well as GroenLinks (GL) and the Socialistische Partij (SP). The then-leader of the CDA, Pieter van Geel, further criticised the film for attacking Islam while contributing nothing to solving the issues. Mark Rutte, then-leader of the Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (VVD), suggested that Wilders refocus his efforts onto solving the issues rather than merely showing 'old footage of terrorist and criminal acts', an idea that the SP and Femke Halsema (GL) likewise alluded to, by stating that the piece was 'nothing new' and '[did] not



add anything to what has been published about violent extremism over the past years', respectively.

This assertion of unoriginality was furthermore the main response from the most affected demographic, the Muslim community, which further suggested that Wilders was not as provocative in his efforts as he could have been and that they were expecting more offensive content. Yusuf Altuntas, speaker for the Dutch Muslim organisation Contactorgaan Moslims en Overheid (CMO), was quoted as saying that Wilders sought the boundary lines without crossing any of them, implying he was not as brave as he made himself out to be. The Landelijk Beraad Marokkanen (LBM), a union of Dutch-Moroccans, was relieved the film was finally out and was underwhelmed by its content. The Dutch Islamic Federation did nevertheless take legal action against Wilders on grounds of violating hate speech laws, for which he was later acquitted. However, the general response from the Muslim community was calm and non-violent, for which Balkenende and Wouter Bos (PvdA) praised them. The demographic that did in fact have a stronger reaction than the Muslim community was the Jewish community. The Centraal Joods Overleg (CJO) denounced the film for generalising and for effectively hurting its own cause. In particular, head of the pro-Zionist Centre for Information and Documentation, Dr.

Ronny Naftaniel, was critical of the insinuation that all Muslims were terrorists but commented on how surprised he was that the community stayed silent throughout. He stated that, if he were in that position, he would have been very vocal. He blamed this silence on governmental pressure to stay quiet and to rise above it but also on fear of anti-Islamic repercussions and reactions from the general public. This claim by Naftaniel highlights the Islamic predicament: the Muslim community, already fearful of consequences and backlash from the rest of society because of the atrocities committed in the name of Islam, are urged by the government to respond 'appropriately', which makes them even more wary of reacting. This fear effectively paralyses them, yet other communities interpret this silence as a sign of weakness, as an inability or unwillingness to stand up for themselves – they cannot win either way.

The second provocation to be analysed happened the following year in September 2009 during parliamentary session. Occurring around the same time as the proposal for France's 'burqa ban', the proposal for a law, which would require Muslim women to purchase a permit costing €1000 per annum in order to wear a head scarf in public, was pejoratively named a *kopvoddentaks*, meaning 'head rag tax', which would lead to the total dehumanisation of Muslims, according to Francis Pakes, something that 'regularly characterises the Wilders approach to issues of religion and diversity'. In his speech during parliamentary General Reflections, Wilders stated he did not want to ban the headscarf but simply make the 'polluter' pay. While this move was intended as a move to remove, what Wilders, a self-proclaimed supporter of the rights of women, referred to as, a symbol of female oppression, and was no more anti-Islamic than the release of *Fitna*, he failed to see the irony of his proposal. He wanted to remove a symbol of an ideology he abhors by making the people he wanted to liberate, in effect, pay for it and moreover label them as 'polluters' in the process.

The responses were again particularly damning, ranging from disbelief at 'selling his principles' to accusations of sexism. While Alexander Pechtold of *Democraten 66* humorously asked whether Minister of Education Ronald Plasterk's trademark hat would also count as a head covering or would that be 'a different price', the response from women, which was more prevalent now than in response to *Fitna*, was much more serious. Agnes Kant (SP) asked whether the wearing of *yarmulkes* among Jewish men would be taxed, clearly referring to Wilders' past support for the Jewish community and for Israel, and Femke Halsema (GL) went as far as to compare him to a controlling Iranian man. Their only difference, according to Halsema, was that the

Iranian man forces women to wear a headscarf whilst Wilders is forcing them to take it off but they still use the same tactic of force.

This was also a key issue brought to the fore by the demographics. While the CMO denounced Wilders' remarks for going against the right of religious freedom, Abdou Menebhi of the Nederlands Marokkaans Netwerk stated that such a development as the kopvoddentaks would lead to 'increasing tensions between communities [...] legitimising that part of the Dutch population is treated as second class citizens'. Sheikhs representing the As-Sounnah Mosque in The Hague said that, instead of 'building a peaceful mutual future between Muslims and non-Muslims', an openly anti-Islamic will cause 'more hatred, fear and violence' – everything the PVV does not want to happen. The disparity in social class for different demographics that Menebhi speaks of is emphasised by the Sheikhs' opinion that a 'one-way adaption of Muslims to the Dutch culture, norms and values will not lead to anything', which relates to Soutphommasane's idea on multiculturalism that 'minority ethnocultural groups' seek political recognition and protection of their shared identity. It is evident that the Muslim community is calling for a more multiculturalist and understanding society, which was echoed by PM Balkenende, who said he stands for 'a society, in which we respect each other' and that does not 'throw people in one heap'. Yet, even though their response is stronger and defensive than the one to Fitna, there is still an air of negativity. The focus on the negative results of a non-multicultural society reflected a common feeling of dissatisfaction among Muslims with the construction of the coalition, as Yasmine El Ksaihi of the Poldermoskee in Amsterdam supported. They were disheartened that, because of the way the government is set up and Wilders' position in it, he did not have to abide by the ministerial codes of conduct, thus was able to say anything in parliament without repercussion, which 'gives the PVV relatively a lot of power'.

The third provocation to be discussed happened five years after the suggestion of kopvoddentaks, in March 2014 in the run-up to the European Union elections. It is arguably his most inflammatory provocation because of its more extreme nature. His infamous Minder Marokkanen speech, in which he asks a crowd of supporters of the PVV whether they want more or fewer Moroccans in the Netherlands, is considerably more nationalistic than his previous provocations because not only was there audience participation reminiscent of national-socialist rallies but, as stated by Gören Sluiter, his comments shifted the party's concentration from a faith (namely Islam) to a specific ethnic group.

Once again, his provocation incited a great deal of responses. This time however the responses were notably unanimous in the sense that they all felt Wilders actions to be

deplorable, with the majority outright referring to his comments as 'inciting hatred'. The former GL-MP Tofik Dibi drew a comparison to Hitler, suggesting that 'Hitler thought there should be fewer Jews [, which] we should never forget'. These actions similarly caused the CJO, as representatives of the Jewish community with many connections to other prominent Jewish organisations, to 'strongly [distance themselves] from his statements', a bold and telling move, considering Wilders' previously strong relationship with the Jewish community. This speech prompted Aissa Zanzen of the Samenwerkingsverband van Marokkaanse Nederlanders to call on other groups affected by it to produce statements against Wilders. The speech also instigated an



investigation and then a formal prosecution from the government (Openbaar Ministerie) on grounds of discrimination and hate speech. Gören Sluiter released a statement on behalf of several organisations, affirming that they were 'very happy' with the decision to prosecute, as was Mohamed Rabbae (LBM), who said that it was a 'good sign for society' and to show that Wilders, and anyone like him, are not above the law and that 'in order to keep the country together, it's important that everyone is treated equally'. Rabbae went on to praise the government for its handling of the situation and, while it was a long time coming, it was a sensitive issue that needed the appropriate amount of time to be sorted, indicating a good relationship between the government and the Muslim community. This relationship has evidently improved since the time of the kopvoddentaks proposal, when the government was criticised by the community. The reoccurring response was a call for more acceptance and equality between cultures. Along with Rabbae's remark on the subject, the now-PM Rutte stated that Wilders had gone 'yet another step further' and that his comments 'left a bad taste in [his] mouth', saying that distinguishing between people based on their background is unacceptable because he wants every child with some sort of "allochtoon" background to feel that they are

welcome in the Netherlands. These comments are in the same vain as former PM Balkenende, indicating that the message of multiculturalism from the government has not changed despite a change in leadership. Wilders released a statement in December 2014 as a clarification of his position in his Minder Marokkanen speech by saying he was not 'out to discriminate or to sow hatred [nor to] hurt or offend anyone' but simply that he did not want to mince his words. Despite the fact this fits in with his personally-held belief that he is a patriot, not a nationalist, there is a discrepancy between this statement and his personal history of offensive speech and actions.

In conclusion, the development in the responses to Wilders' provocations has been a significant one, both from a political level and a societal one. The evidence suggests that, as Wilders' rhetoric became more outwardly nationalistic and extreme, despite his internal beliefs remaining the same as they always had been, the response from political opponents and

those affected by his statements became affirmative statements of embracing equality and a more multicultural society. Politically, support for the Muslim and Moroccan communities, specifically, from other parties and politicians in Dutch parliament has generally been consistent, becoming more asserted and passionately expressed in light of more instances of radical Islam as well as Wilders' aggravations, in order to actively separate the radicals from the regular members of society. In stark comparison, the response from the Muslim community, particularly, has been one of learning to defend itself, while still standing for the same ideals as the government as well as fellow members of society. It evolved from a people too afraid to react to such defamatory declarations to a community, who not only responds effectively and appropriately, but one that works with other people and communities in order to achieve their intended outcome of acceptance and equality. This transition has been noteworthy as a respectable example of how to respond to people with incendiary opinions and methods of communicating said opinions.

The Essay -including footnotes and bibliography- can be downloaded in the form of a PDF from the Awards section on the website at [www.Anglo-Netherlands.org.uk](http://www.Anglo-Netherlands.org.uk)

The photo above shows Cian Hurley on the left, and Robert Brooke, chairman, Anglo-Netherlands Society.

## East End Art Tour

report, by Anna Frank, on our tour on 13 June with art historian Sabine Casparie

Fortified with a lunch at Jamie Oliver, we set out walking to about five galleries. We started with the radical abstract Victoria Miro Gallery, which opened in 2000 in a former furniture factory between Old street and Islington. The space is enormous and has an attractive terrace at the back, with pond, live ducks, silver floating Japanese balls and greenery. The sculptors were Ian Hamilton Finlay and Conrad Shawcross (RA), the latter being the creator of the bronze tetrahedron trees/clouds sculptures in the Annenberg Forecourt at the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy. We were all quite taken by the paradigm studies of descending folds and inverted spires.

We then visited the next door gallery Parasol Unit with a display by an Icelandic artist, Katrin Sigurardottir, of a giant white

igloo type installation, which extended to the second floor, rather lost in a vast space, somewhat puzzling.

After a nice walk through Shoreditch, we visited the small, just opened gallery l'Etrangere, displaying a solo exhibition called Every Single Crash, by Polish artist Filip Berendt, with photographic works of aesthetic studies. We finished our trip in the gallery of Kate MacGarry, where three oil paintings were displayed.

The whole experience of the Art Tour in this changing area of the East End was well worth it, giving us some insight in the struggles and successes of international artists, young or old.

Our thanks to Marianne Denney and Sabine Casparie for organising this interesting tour!



The photo shows Members next to the Conrad Shawcross sculpture, with the Japanese balls floating on the water in the background.

Hester and Paul King, members of the Society from Norwich, wrote to Marianne Denney expressing that the trip to London had been very much worth their while - if only to see the splendid works of Conrad Shawcross. This had been a huge privilege. He is the youngest RA and one of Britain's greatest sculptors, with work currently showing at Roche Court near Salisbury, celebrated for its fine sculptural works by renowned artists. The monumental work 'Paradigm', 14 metres high, in weathered steel and a feat of engineering in its own right, is eagerly awaited at the entrance to the new Francis Crick Institute medical research building at King's Cross, to open in October.

Hester and Paul found the walk through

these East End streets, to visit the different galleries, very interesting and worthwhile. The development and revitalisation, with green spaces, apartments and office buildings, has profoundly changed this part of London compared to twenty or more years ago.

Hoxton and Shoreditch have become celebrated venues for contemporary art galleries, with works selling at unbelievably high prices. No wonder a number of West End art concerns have established second galleries in the area. In closing, Sabine Casparie's background - a lawyer, then a mother, she later studied history of art and contemporary art at the Courtauld Institute and at Christies- definitely added a lot to the delight

## Anglo-Netherlands Society

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### AIMS and OBJECTS

The Anglo-Netherlands Society exists to promote the social, artistic, literary, educational, scientific, and other non party-political interests in common to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Apart from publishing this Newsletter, the Society reaches its members by organising social functions (including dinners, lectures and recitals) and by arranging visits to exhibitions, concerts, and places of interest. It relies on voluntary workers.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Any person or organisation desirous of promoting the objects of the Society is eligible to apply for membership, subject to acceptance by the Society's Council. More information is available from the Administrator, Anglo-Netherlands Society, P.O. Box 68, London EC4P 4BQ. Telephone: 020-7767 6959, website: [www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk](http://www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk), or via e-mail: [adminfo16@anglo-netherlands.org.uk](mailto:adminfo16@anglo-netherlands.org.uk).

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