

ANGLO-NETHERLANDS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2017

President: Sir Michael Perry GBE

Vice-President: The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Hon. Newsletter Editor: Mr Hans Neher

Chairman: Mr Dick van den Broek

Administrator: Mrs Carine Williams



Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Coign of Vantage, 1895; © Ann and Gordon Getty.
One of over a hundred pictures by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, whose work we intend to admire during the Guided Tour of the exhibition at Leighton House on Saturday 8 July.

Forthcoming Events

Obsession, Toneelgroep Amsterdam, Barbican
Jude Law, Ivo van Hove; only two tickets remain.
Sunday 30 April at 3pm, optional lunch at 12.30pm

Purcell Club: a Private Musical Tour of Westminster Abbey in the evening
Saturday 20 May at 6.45pm, sold out, waiting list only

Battle of the Medway: 350th anniversary
Trip to the Medway, Chatham Dockyard and Upnor Castle.
Saturday 10 June at 10.30am

Alma-Tadema Exhibition, Leighton House, guided tour

Exhibition themed around Alma-Tadema's interest in antiquity, his paintings -with their sensuous depictions- evoke a Hollywood vision of the domestic interior in Ancient Greece and Rome.

Saturday 8 July at 11am, 12 Holland Park Road, W14

A guided walk through Soho

Private tour with ANS Member and City of Westminster Guide Lulu Martyn-David.

Saturday 12 August at 11am

New Members

We welcome:

- Mrs Francine B.
- Mr Robbert B.
- Mr Arend D.
- Mrs Deborah D.
- Miss Abigail G.
- Miss Caroline G.
- Mrs Kirsti H.
- Mr Berend N. (LSE student)
- Mr Milan P. (LSE student)
- Mrs Brigitte van R.
- Mr Maurits van R.
- Ms Lore van V.-R.

We would also like to welcome **Philips** who have re-joined the Society as a Patron.

The Hon. Sir Clive Bossom, Bt 1917 - 2017

Sir Clive Bossom served as President of our Society from 1978 until 1989 and as Vice-President thereafter. On his ninetieth birthday he announced to his startled colleagues that it was time for him to stand aside as Vice-President, and make way for younger successors. His offer was firmly declined, because at ninety he still exhibited the same vigour and enthusiasm that had given us the triumph of the William and Mary Tercentenary celebrations, and the same determination as ever to ensure that the Anglo-Netherlands Society fulfilled its role as the

United Kingdom meeting point of our two nations and our shared cultural heritage. To follow where he had led, as I was privileged to do some years later, was to stand on the shoulders of a giant.

Sir Clive continued as a Vice-President with undiminished energy until the end. He will be remembered with gratitude, admiration and that affection reserved for a close friend, ensuring that the mark he leaves on the Anglo-Netherlands Society is both unique and indelible.

Sir Michael Perry, GBE President



The photo shows Sir Clive at the Society's 95th anniversary Dinner, held at the Grocers' Hall.

The Hon. Sir Clive Bossom, Bt

Obituary by Dick van den Broek (Chairman) and Heleen Mendl-Schrama (Advisory Committee)

Sir Clive Bossom was the son of Lord Bossom of Maidstone, an architect and successful British politician who was made a Baronet and then a Life Peer. In an interview with Heleen Mendl-Schrama published in the ANS newsletter in December 1985, Sir Clive, the second Baronet, described how he had made three careers. The first one was in the military as a regular soldier serving from 1939 until 1948 when he retired with the rank of Major from the Royal East Kent Regiment (the Buffs). His soldiering led him to his first acquaintance with the Netherlands and the Dutch and took place in the grim winter of 1944/45. Having landed in France on D-Day, he fought his way to the Netherlands as part of operation "Market Garden". During the advance, heavy mortar shelling by the Germans caused great casualties, so his Divisional general devised a plan. Sir Clive was to fly in a small plane and discover where these mortar shells came from. Once they had been spotted they could be destroyed by heavy artillery. So he spent his time flying over the Southern Netherlands in a two-seater plane with a speed of only 100 miles per hour, too slow and too low for the German Messerschmitts to shoot him down, taking photographs, and working out on maps where the destructive mortars had been dug in. He spent that severe winter in

Nijmegen; he came off unscathed, saying laughingly that he was very careful in the war. After the liberation he was sent to the Far East and spent some time in Surabaya in Indonesia. There he worked in conjunction with the Anglo-Dutch brigade and helped in sorting out many of the post-war problems.

His second career was, like his father before him, as a politician and covered a larger part of his life. It culminated in the period from 1959 till 1974 when he was MP for Leominster in Herefordshire. He was the first Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mrs Margaret Thatcher (1960); she even got married from his home and they remained good friends afterwards. Apart from a moment when he ventured to disagree with her over the Maastricht Treaty in the 1990's: she playfully hit him with her handbag, exclaiming "My dear boy!". In Parliament he took an active interest in Foreign Affairs and in 1960 became Secretary and then Chairman of the Anglo-Benelux Parliamentary Group.

His business career began in 1971 and his activities were many and varied. It started when he became Chairman of Europ Assistance Ltd, the world-wide emergency services. He became a Board member of various companies and got heavily involved with the restructuring of British motor racing.

Sir Clive was also active in voluntary

work, not least with the Order of St. John. He was a Council member of the Royal Society of Arts, the Royal Geographical Society, as well as International President of ISS (International Social Service for Refugees)

How, one might ask, was he able to devote time to the Anglo-Netherlands Society in addition to such a multitude of responsibilities? He became our President in 1978 until 1989 and, for his unflinching promotion of friendship and understanding between the English and the Dutch, he was honoured by the Dutch, becoming a Knight Commander in the Orde van Oranje Nassau. To our Society, Sir Clive was a tremendous support since becoming our President in 1978. Even at his advanced age, now in his role as Vice-President of the Society, he was instrumental in the success of our 95th Anniversary dinner at the end of 2015 which took place in the Grocers' Hall, belonging to the Worshipful Company of Grocers for which he had been a former Master. He and his wife Lady Barbara were guests of honour. In his long association with the Society he was always present at important gatherings and his cheerful disposition and wise counsel were much appreciated.

Our condolences go to Lady Barbara along with their four children.

(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 info@dutchcareathome.com

Members' Page

www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk

username: withheld
password: withheld

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.

Battle of the Medway : the 350th anniversary

trip to the Medway, Chatham Dockyard and Upnor Castle on Saturday 10 June

This year sees the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Medway, better known to the Dutch as the Battle of Chatham, one of England's greatest naval disasters. You will have learned more about this in this year's Unilever Lecture ("Learning a hard lesson: the Dutch in the Medway 1667"). In June 1667 the Dutch fleet sailed up the River Medway and destroyed the English fleet. This daring invasion brought the Second Anglo-Dutch War to an end.

Under Lieutenant-Admiral Michiel de Ruyter, the Dutch captured the fort at Sheerness before entering the River Medway to attack the English fleet at Chatham. Despite cannon fire from Upnor Castle they broke through the defensive chain and burned a number of ships before towing away England's flagship, the Royal Charles. Around 30 Royal Navy Ships were sunk by the English themselves to prevent their capture.

The battle was a high point of the Dutch

Golden Age and was a humiliating defeat for the English, who subsequently made sure this would never happen again.

To commemorate the 350th anniversary we have organised a visit to the Medway to join in with some of the activities and exhibitions organised in Chatham and at Upnor Castle.

We will start our day at 10.30 am at the Historic Dockyard Chatham where we will visit the exhibition 'Breaking the Chain' and be given a guided tour entitled 'The Dutch Raid'. The exhibition shows wonderful Dutch and British art, literature, historic manuscripts and extraordinary objects drawn from collections at The Royal Museum Greenwich, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Dutch National Maritime Museum, the Michiel de Ruyter Foundation and the British Library.

At around 2 pm we will be picked up from



The Dutch Ships Return Home, painting by Kevin Clarkson

the Dockyard Pier and taken by boat across the river to Upnor Castle. Upnor Castle is an attractive turreted fortress, which was built in 1559 to protect Queen Elizabeth's warships. In June 1667 it failed disastrously in its mission. Here we will join in with living history events, activities and re-enactments of the battle.

Around 5 pm we will travel back by boat across the Medway to Chatham Marina where you can spend some time before making your way back to your car in the Dockyard carpark or to Chatham Station.

Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema : At Home in Antiquity

a guided tour at Leighton House Museum on Saturday 8 July at 11 am

Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, born Lourens Alma-Tadema (1836-1912), was a Frisian/Dutch painter. Born in Dronrijp, he trained at the Royal Academy in Antwerp, settled in London in 1870 where he spent the rest of his life. He happened to be the last person whom was granted a denizenship (1873).

He specialised in historical-genre scenes, beginning with medieval subjects and then following a visit to Pompeii in 1863 turning to the Ancient World. His paintings evoke a Hollywood vision of Ancient Greece and Rome with their sensuous depictions of beautiful women, exotic costumes and marbled settings.

As an incredibly successful artist Alma-Tadema enjoyed a sumptuous lifestyle in his extraordinary studio-house in St.Johns' Wood. He was made a full Royal Academician in 1879,

knighthood in 1899 and received the Order of Merit in 1905.

In July, Leighton House Museum will present the first major exhibition of Alma-Tadema's works to be seen in London since 1913. It will include approximately 100 works from leading public and private collections including a number of rarely seen pieces. Leighton House will be the final venue in a European tour that started at the Fries Museum in Alma-Tadema's home town Leeuwarden in the Netherlands before travelling to the Belvedere in Vienna.

The exhibition will be themed around Alma-Tadema's interest in the domestic interior in antiquity, as expressed in his work as a painter and in his own life, through the remodeling of his home into a Roman Villa. The exhibition will



Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, A Coign of Vantage, 1895 (detail). Collection of Ann and Gordon Getty

also use the idea of the house to introduce new material for his fascinating family life, including works by his wife Laura an extraordinary painter herself and his daughter Anna.

At Home in Antiquity finds a perfect setting in Leighton's own studio-house. The interiors known to the Alma-Tademas as frequent callers are included in In My Studio. This was presented by Alma-Tadema to Leighton as a token of his esteem and is now part of a private collection.

A Saunter through Soho

a private guided walking tour on Saturday 12 August at 11 am

Soho is so much more than restaurants, theatres and China Town. Arguably this centre of Theatreland is the most cosmopolitan of all London's 'villages'. Rich in a history of refugees, who came and settled, writers, who walked the streets and medical breakthroughs that changed lives.

Originally a collection of quiet rural grassland and fields, Soho was once a hunting ground belonging to Henry VIII and attached to the Palace of Whitehall. In 1677 after building permission was granted, the development started that marked the end of the area's rural character.

The landowners intended Soho to become a fashionable area, attractive to the wealthy and influential cream of London. Neighbouring districts such as Bloomsbury, Marylebone and Mayfair had successfully bloomed into very desirable districts. However, the plan failed

and the few wealthy aristocrats that had made their home in Soho eventually sold up and moved on. The area became inhabited by immigrants; the Huguenots from France founded the French Church in Soho Square in the 17th century. The character of Soho began to change as the money moved out and theatre houses and drinking dens moved in. Along with the music halls and theatres came prostitutes and by the mid 19th century Soho was firmly associated with the more colourful aspects of life.

In the 19th century Soho played a part in the advancement of science. During the cholera outbreak of 1854 Dr John Snow's study of the Broad Street Pump led to him identifying the cause of the disease. By the turn of the 20th century Soho's character was established and the area began to attract writers, artists and intellectuals - all drawn to the unique flavour

of Soho.

From the 1930s pubs and clubs

sprang up in Soho and blues and jazz found a natural home in these. Soho's association with the alternative side of music continued through the rock and roll years and it became a centre of the 'Mod' culture of the late 50s and early 60s. Musicians have continued to live and play in Soho even though most of the myriad independent record shops that were once the pride of the area are now all but gone.

Please join us for a private guided walking tour with City of Westminster guide and long-standing ANS member Lulu Martyn-David through this exciting neighbourhood with many interesting landmarks and stories, followed by a dim sum lunch in China Town.



“Learning a hard lesson: the Dutch in the Medway 1667”

Report, by Rob van Mesdag, on the Unilever Lecture by Professor Andrew Lambert, delivered on Tuesday 21 March

A record number of some 110 members of the Anglo-Netherlands Society filled the auditorium of Unilever building to its maximum capacity for the 27th Unilever lecture. Some members had positioned themselves on the steps, but for obvious safety reasons had to be moved to somewhat more comfortable and safer positions. Our Chairman Dick van den Broek introduced Ms Lysanne Gray, Executive Vice President Financial



Control, Risk Management, Pensions & Sustainability, Finance at Unilever, who welcomed Members on behalf of our Patron of so many years.

It was an email from Events manager Connie Sangster that did it. Thinking that naval historian Professor Andrew Lambert would be the best person to lecture members on the reasons for the Battle of the Medway, she contacted him. His reply was immediate and his talk was illuminating. Not surprising perhaps because he is Professor of Naval History in the Department of War Studies at King's College, London, a position he holds since 2001 during which he must have inspired, guided and encouraged hundreds of his students to make their knowledge of wars their profession.

Maybe he also tells them that if ever they give a lecture their talk should have a logical structure, show evidence of impressive research, be understandable to the layman (as most Society members are), be spoken with a clear voice, include illustrations and contain a touch of humour because these are the exact fundamentals our speaker displayed so abundantly.



King Charles II must have been besieged with insoluble problems. While he recognised the importance of trade, London merchants having complained to Parliament

about the Dutch republic's hegemony of the seas, his finances were weak, his navy ill-equipped and its seamen often unpaid. Professor Lambert went into detail: "the English navy had fallen into debt, leaving sailors and dockyard workers unpaid, demoralised and destitute. Unpaid workmen stole from the yard to feed their families, and attended to their own affairs."

As to sovereignty over the seas, the King had the dynamic maritime economy of the United Provinces as his greatest competitor and while he needed trade and wealth he could not obtain from his Parliament the funds needed to acquire either of these benefits without losing his royal power. Besides, Charles and his brother James who was the Lord High Admiral, distrusted their Parliament which only 16 years earlier had



voted for the execution of their father Charles I. They would rather see their Dutch nephew, stadtholder William of Orange regain power in their country than Raads Pensionary Johan de Witt who believed that having an hereditary head of state such as a Stadtholder, was incompatible with the interests of the merchant elite of the United Republic.

By way of curious circumstance our speaker reminded us that Charles II had arrived back to his Kingdom coming from the shores of the United Provinces so as to avoid any mention of France where he had been in exile during England's Civil War. Professor Lambert said: "He arrived on board Cromwell's great first rate flagship the Naseby which had been hastily renamed Royal Charles."

Of course our speaker concentrated on the year 1667; the Second Anglo-Dutch War, explaining how the United Provinces' Raads Pensionary Johan de Witt and fellow republican Michiel de Ruyter had been planning their strategy long before any fighting could begin. "Spies had been sent",



he said: "to report on the river, the defences and the possibilities and they asked themselves how to burn and destroy England's ships and the dockyard at Chatham, how to blockade the Thames and which would be the best winds and tides to cut off trade with London."

The professor went on: "Henry VIII had recognised the Medway as an ideal location for a naval base, combining a slow stream and rock free river bed with shelter from the prevailing south westerly winds while the sinuous ten miles of river between the Thames Estuary at Sheerness and the bridge at Rochester offered security, and natural locations for fixed defences. It was the ideal position for supporting fleets operating in the Dover Straits and Southern North Sea, the battleground of the Dutch Wars. Under the Tudors Chatham Dockyard expanded to support the fleet when laid up in ordinary, with dry docks, slipways and storehouses linked to private shipyards along the Medway. Good local supplies of oak and iron supported shipbuilding. The construction of Upnor Castle was ordered by Queen Elizabeth in 1559 when almost the entire Navy Royal lay close by."

Yet de Witt also had his doubts, the



Professor again: "De Witt had spent the winter of 1666-67 refining his plan for the Medway which if successful would support the peace negotiations at Breda. Thus, a devastating raid would humble English arrogance and secure a satisfactory treaty. Recognising an opportunity to strike down an

enemy of Dutch trade and make a dramatic statement of power de Witt hoped that the entire dockyard would be destroyed and the fleet captured rather than burnt. How far he envisaged using the ships as leverage and how far as propaganda is unclear. There is no evidence that he realised just how fragile the English state was, perhaps underestimating the possibility that it might collapse."

Supported by maps of the Medway projected onto a large screen members were given a most detailed account of the battle: of the 80 ships including 51 battleships and a 3,000-man Marine landing force and how they reached the King's Channel. Then this detail: "A Council of War on board de Ruyter's flagship, de Zeven Provinciën that night revealed serious differences between de Ruyter and his admirals, fearful they might be trapped in the difficult navigation. Cornelis de Witt, the Civil Commissioner who was on board, urged his brother Johan's demands for immediate action."

Because the word "chain" is linked so closely to that of "Chatham" – to the Dutch at least - it was interesting to hear the Professor



explain exactly how the chain was broken. "When two formations of de Ruyter's ships were held up by a massive English chain stretched across the river and covered by the fire of armed guard ships, Captain Jan van Brakel, recognising the favourable north east breeze, offered to take his ship, the Vrede, (Peace!), close to the chain to support an attack by two fire ships which were small, manoeuvrable vessels packed with combustible materials and gunpowder that were run into larger enemy ships and set alight. The crew escaped in boats. This terrifying weapon which called for nerves of steel and superior ship handling was a Dutch



speciality."

It was easy for the Professor's audience to imagine and understand the wish of de Ruyter's men to crown their victory by lowering the morale of the enemy by going for their greatest prize: the English flagship Royal Charles. Some details from the Professor: "Having cleared the chain and floating defences the Dutch took possession of the Royal Charles, which had thirty two guns



on board but no powder or shot, and very few men. The gunner and boatswain were tried for abandoning ship without setting it on fire and batteries built to secure the ends of the chain were overwhelmed by Dutch gunfire. It was now midday, de Witt and Admiral van Ghent boarded their great prize and discussed the next stage of their attack. De Ruyter was summoned from the fleet still at sea to advise on the next day's work. That evening Cornelis de Witt, sitting in the Great Cabin of the Royal Charles, reported back to the Hague that the fleet had humbled the pride of the English." There must have been



quite some jollity on board the Royal Charles as she was towed across the Channel to Holland where eventually she was scuttled but not before her beautifully carved stern had been removed, preserved and later exhibited to this day. The return of the Dutch fleet to Hellevoetsluis on October 5th, the Zeven Provinciën symbolically leading the Royal Charles into captivity, prompted more celebrations with Admiral de Ruyter, Cornelis de Witt and van Ghent receiving elaborate gold cups to commemorate their heroism. The sale of the 32 bronze cannon from the English flagship provided prize money for her captors in 1668. Numerous medals were struck to mark the success.

The second Anglo-Dutch war having come to a disappointing end for a humiliated Charles II and his people and his Parliament, the King was compelled to consider serious compromises. He became increasingly alarmed by the ambitions and power of Louis XIV and needed to keep the French out of the Spanish Netherlands and restrict Louis's power over the Channel and entrances into the rivers Scheldt, Maas and Meuse. A compromise seemed inevitable and was made in 1668 when The Treaty of Breda was signed on July 21st and ratified on August 22nd when all operations ceased.

The Professor ended his talk by mentioning the delicate matter of King Charles enticing the Dutch marine painters



father and son Van de Velde to come and live in England, the defeat of his brother James when his very nephew stadtholder Willem of Orange landed on Torbay, opening the way to the Glorious Revolution and finishing with proving the strength of Britain's current naval power with photographs of aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth now nearing completion.

In thanking Professor Lambert, our president Sir Michael Perry said: "You gave us such a well-balanced picture of the strengths of the naval forces of our two countries over the centuries. It was most impressive."

Rineke Weatherill - who with Connie Sangster and Sylvia Knight had been much involved with preparations for this Unilever evening - on a previous occasion told me: "our Society has three members who are direct descendants of de Ruyter: Cordula Waldeck, wife of one of our former ambassadors, Society member Jan-Otto van Boetzelaer and guess who?"



Linley Sambourne House

Report, by Chantal Tjon, of our guided tour on 19 January

Linley Sambourne House on 18 Stafford Terrace in London was from 1875 the home of Punch cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne, his wife Marion and their two children. While waiting, our attention was drawn to the obituary of the famous photographer Lord Snowdon, the ex-husband of Princess Margaret, who died a week before. This is the house where his great-grandparents lived.

By way of introduction Angela Bollier, our lovely guide, showed a ten minute video featuring the late Lord Snowdon explaining that the parents of his great-grandparents bought the house for £2000 as a wedding gift for their daughter and son-in-law. In 1875 his great-grandparents moved in and turned this house into an artistic house and workspace. His great-grandfather was Edward Linley Sambourne, cartoonist for the popular and prestigious weekly satirical magazine *Punch* (from 1867 till his death in 1910). Uniquely at that time, for his work Edward Linley Sambourne used photography. He would create posed photographs by using amateur (often his servants) and professional models which he would use to draw from; a single cartoon could potentially combine several poses.

Linley Sambourne House has been so carefully preserved by the descendants, that with its many original features it gives an insight into a Victorian family home and an artist's studio. In addition it provides a rare example of what was known at that time as an 'Aesthetic interior' or 'House Beautiful' style. The aesthetic movement of the late nineteenth century encouraged the use of foreign or 'exotic' influences in the decoration. This can be seen by the various Japanese, Middle-Eastern and Chinese objects throughout the house. It is also a typical artist's house like many of the houses of

the Holland Park circle.

The tour starts in the beautiful Entrance hall and Staircase, with many original items, including the William Morris wallpaper. After hitting the gong we continued to the Dining room, where one of the most outstanding features are the many black and white framed photographs of the famous paintings covering large parts of the walls. The Sambournes loved to entertain by hosting dinner parties. As Edward Linley Sambourne saved all documents, even receipts and menus, we know that most of the furniture was bought at auction. The interior is an eclectic mix of styles with many references to the classics and the Orient.

However, the house also contains some modern details like a speaking tube to communicate with the servants, a revolving sign in the loo door and a bathroom with a bathtub in which Linley would also develop his photographs (for that reason Mrs Sambourne probably did not want to use that bathtub herself).

The Morning room, located adjacent, was used by Mrs Sambourne and was decorated like all rooms with bright colours that unfortunately have faded over the years. Two Dutch paintings, Oriental ornaments and door panels, which were hand-painted by Edward Linley Sambourne himself, were pointed out.

A unique feature of this house is that the windows at the back of the house on almost each floor are stained glass, placed to cover the view to the back house and courtyard. The lower panes of the stained glass are filled with a simple repeat pattern inside coloured borders, but the upper panes contain specially commissioned armorial shields, which seems to have been a means of expression of the Sambourne's family pride.

The Drawing room on the first floor consists



of two rooms joined into one large, covering the length of the house. This room with the piano was used for entertaining guests and to showcase the many collectables like the French clocks, Italian marble pieces and Oriental plates among others. In this room again a small piece of the original embossed wallpaper can be seen. In the back of the southern end of the room was Edward Linley's studio. The camera and easel mark the place where he used to work before he moved his studio into the old nursery on the top floor of the house.

After visiting the bedrooms we ended our tour on the top floor to visit Edward Linley's Studio and the Maid's room. The Maid's room gives a good impression of the much smaller size and simple furniture compared to the other rooms. The Studio, with the skylight, bookshelves and some props he used, was converted from the old night nursery where the children slept. In 1899, the shelving and overmantel were constructed and the room entirely redecorated. Covered with glass under the floor you can see still part of the original water draining. Edward Linley would work here for the last decade of his life.

After the tour the group headed for lunch in a pub nearby. We would like to thank Angela for guiding us around this nicely preserved historical house and Evelien for organising this interesting 'stepping back in time' excursion.

The New Europe 1600-1815 Galleries at the V&A

Report, by Ann McMellan, on our visit on 14 February.

After Marietta Freeman introduced 20 keen ANS members to guide Elizabeth Hamilton, the group followed the first of various narratives through the 1600-1815 galleries. The first target, illustrating the Baroque features of drama, movement and vigour, was Gianlorenzo Bernini's statue of Neptune and Triton. One of the most famous sights in Rome, this monumental sculpture stood in a fishpond in Cardinal Montalto's garden.

Attention shifted to a large tapestry depicting a fully frocked matron, distanced by warmth and wealth from the snowy 'Winter' scene beyond her windows. The woman's dress is fur-lined, a fan protects her painted face from the roaring fire and the servant's tray is piled high with afternoon tea treats.

Via images of Cardinals Zacchia and Medici, progress was made from Italian magnificence to Dutch Domesticity where Abraham Raguer's 1663 Portrait of a Man highlighted the individual's fine lace collar. Close by were three exquisite examples of lace in a case displaying a curfew, warming pan, tiles and a linen press. After the collapse of the Ming dynasty and the

cessation of the Chinese porcelain trade, Delft potters forged ahead with imitations of the popular blue and white designs. The amazing 1695 Flower Pyramid was an extremely ambitious and costly construction.

Impressed by the statement of Status and Security offered by imposing cabinets lavishly decorated with ebony veneer, turtle shell and Pietre dure, the group moved on to the Rise of France. This was exemplified in a painting of Juvisy, the home outside Paris of Louis XIV's Head of Secret Police. The small original building became overshadowed by a chateau modelled on Versailles and confronting a garden designed by Andre Le Notre.

Travelling shaving kit and an elegant blue Banyan - infinitely preferable to Trump's bathrobe - gave way to musical instruments such as the baryton on which Prince Nikolaus Esterhazy performed Haydn's music. A recording of this would have enhanced our halt at The Globe, a structure based on a late 18th century panopticon, a circular jail which enabled one warder to guard hundreds of prisoners. The Globe, an artwork specially

commissioned from Los Carpinteros, draws on Enlightenment themes and is a space to meet, debate and discuss.

From this point Rococo designs predominated, whether in the form of vegetables on a 1764 Dutch tureen, in Valentijn Caspar Bomcke's silver scrolling leaves or the richly decorative embroidery on a bright yellow waistcoat - until Napoleon's Empire style spread throughout the courts of Europe. Making decorative and fine arts central to his new image, Bonaparte chose simple bold designs in luxurious materials and rich colours to link him to great civilisations of antiquity. Prematurely Napoleon had commissioned mementos of his anticipated conquest of England but these were outshone by a towering display of silverware. Recently used at a 2014 banquet, the Victory Service was a gift from Portugal to Wellington to celebrate the Allied liberation of Iberia.

Members of the group conveyed hearty thanks to Marietta and Elizabeth for a varied and enlightening tour before departing for lunch.

Mathieu van Bellen and the Dutch National Student Orchestra

Report, by Heleen Mendl-Schrama, on the concert on 23 February at Cadogan Hall

Some members may remember the concert Mathieu van Bellen gave for the Society in the Old Hall of Lincoln's Inn on 6th November 2007. It was given under the auspices of the Anglo-Dutch Piano Platform, which I had founded in 1995, and the chosen artist the Dutch pianist Karolinka de Bree had asked if she could bring her violin playing friend Mathieu, so they shared the programme. The Bar Musical Society was involved and they provided the wonderful venue. Also the concert was given in memory of Joop Krenning, who had been the Society's Treasurer for 30 years and was also a Trustee of the Anglo-Dutch Piano Platform, who had died earlier that year, now already 10 years ago.

Mathieu van Bellen excelled in his performance of Bach's Partita No.2 BWV 104 for solo violin and he has since this first performance in England indeed made a name for himself as a soloist and as a founder-member of the Busch Ensemble, giving concerts not only in England and Holland but all over Europe. It was therefore a pity that not more members were made aware of his appearance with the Dutch Student Orchestra at Cadogan Hall on 23rd February.

Every year students from all over the Netherlands – music students but also students in other faculties such as law or medicine, who

play an instrument - apply and audition to play in the Netherlands Student Orchestra, and about 100 players are selected. In February they rehearse for ten consecutive days in preparation for another ten days of high-level performing in major Dutch concert halls, ending with a performance in the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. After the Dutch tour the Orchestra travels abroad to give concerts at international venues. One of those was Cadogan Hall in London and the orchestra, now in its 65th year, was conducted by Jurjen Hempel, who had already conducted the orchestra four times since his debut with them in 1999. He is much liked by young musicians and is Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Youth Orchestra.

The programme started with a waltz by Johann Strauss Jr. called "Freut euch des Lebens". Then came the Violin Concerto by Toru Takemitsu entitled "Far Calls. Coming, Far!" (1980) with Mathieu van Bellen as soloist. The renowned Japanese composer Takemitsu (1930-1996) was mainly self-taught. As a 14-year-old he was still involved in the final stages of WWII, digging trenches in 1944 in anticipation of an invasion that never happened. It was then that he was first introduced to Western music when an enlightened sergeant invited the youngsters to

listen to some records in a back room and it was a disk of Lucienne Boyer singing "Parlez-moi d'amour" that put Takemitsu in a state of shock and as he later confessed it was the birth of his musical consciousness. He first studied scores of Debussy and Messiaen, moving on to Schönberg, Boulez and Cage.

Mathieu van Bellen and the orchestra gave a refined performance of the dreamlike score, which is all in one movement with an interesting cadenza for the violin; one heard echos of Debussy and Alban Berg. After the enthusiastic response from the audience they gave an encore, staying with the dream-theme: a transcription for violin of the song "Après un rêve" by Fauré, where van Bellen's beauty of tone and the gentle accompaniment of the orchestra clearly delighted the audience.

After the interval the National Student Orchestra gave an inspired performance of Mahler's Ninth Symphony, a work in which he embraces life, but knows that for him the end is nearing. The searing beauty of the final movement came over particularly well under Hempel's direction. Sadly Mahler never heard it performed; he died on 18 May 1911. Bruno Walter conducted the first performance in 1912.

Orchestra and Conductor received a standing ovation from the audience.

"Make the Future - Live"

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Thursday 25 - Sunday 28 May

As part of the Society's Aims and Objects we feel our Members (and their children) might have an interest in scientific matters such as the event described below. Entry is free; it seems to be worth a visit. For details please refer to the website at the end of this article.

Make the Future

"We believe that in the power of people's ingenuity lie the answers to tomorrow's energy challenges, and that together we can #makethefuture today"

More than 30,000 visitors are expected to come together and explore what a lower-carbon future might look like. Make the Future Live is a four-day festival of ideas and innovation organised by Shell offering curious minds a rare glimpse into the future of our cities, showcasing bright energy ideas and providing a platform for innovation, collaboration and conversation about the global energy future. It is the perfect family outing with a focus on generating interest with the younger generation for energy solutions for the future.



In addition to witnessing the finals of the Eco-Marathon being played out at a circuit set out in the Olympic Park, there is a range of events and attractions:

Our Energy Future

Discover how much energy London is using right now, take a virtual reality journey beneath the earth's surface, and compete to see how much energy you can generate in our giant zorbs – the amount you create depends on the effort you put in!

Live, Work, Play

Explore the innovative ways the world can use, consume and recycle energy. Be inspired by the brilliant minds who have turned their ideas into reality. Score a goal on an energy-generating pitch, sample delicious food from a BBQ powered by waste coffee grounds, and check out the inventions that could change the way we live, work and play in our cities.

Pavegen

The next step in energy innovation? This smart idea uses special tiles to capture the kinetic energy from footsteps. Imagine people helping to power the city they live in. That's the future Pavegen is heading towards.

GravityLight

GravityLight are on a mission to help create



electric light and power for more than a billion people living off the grid. Using gravity, a bag of rocks and a lot of knowledge, this low-cost solution will soon be lighting up lives around the world.

On the Move

Discover the latest technology that could enable us to travel further on less fuel. Find out more about how we can light roads at night using the sun, and turn our motorways into energy highways. Visit the paddocks and meet the Shell Eco-marathon teams preparing to take their ultra-efficient cars on the track.

Shell Eco-marathon is a unique global competition that challenges student teams to create the ultimate energy-efficient vehicle. With three main events in Asia, Americas and Europe, the competition attracts thousands of young engineers and students aiming to push the boundaries of energy efficiency on the road.

Website link: <http://www.shell.co.uk/energy-and-innovation/make-the-future/live.html>

Nederlandse City Lunch

"Prominent speakers from the Netherlands"
This requires an excellent understanding of the Dutch language as it is spoken!

26 April: Camiel Selker,
econoom Focus Orange

9 May: Alex Brenninkmeyer,
lid Europese Rekenkamer

21 June: Laurentien van Oranje,
Prinses der Nederlanden

Toegang GBP12.50, incl. buffet lunch en consumpties; zaal open 12 uur voor aanvang inleiding om 12.30, Social Hall, Dutch Church, 7 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2HA. Gaarne opgeven vooraf: aanmeldingen@nedcitylunch.org

Dunsborough Park Festivals of Flowers



Ripley, Surrey, close to RHS Wisley; please refer to: www.dunsboroughpark.com/events-functions/ for times

Koningsdag/ King's Day Celebration,

Wednesday 26 April, from 6:30 pm onwards
Dutch Centre, 7 Austin Friars, London EC2N2HA
Tickets www.dutchcentre.com

Join us for the celebration of King's Night and enjoy the "orange madness" in the Dutch Centre with drinks, Dutch music and a special performance of Erik Mesie from Toontje Lager.

Nationale Herdenking

"Opdat wij niet vergeten"

Thursday 4 May at 7pm for 8pm, 'Mill Hill Cemetery', Wise Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7 2RR
The National Act of Remembrance of all civilians and military personnel who died in war, due to acts of terrorism or during peace missions since the start of World War II.

Bevrijdingsdagconcert

Friday 5 May at 7pm, Dutch Centre, 7 Austin Friars, London EC2N2HA

The Dutch Centre, with the Dutch Embassy, organise a bevrijdingsdagconcert by the World Harmony Orchestra. This orchestra, made up of professional musicians from all over the world who live in London, play for peace and humanitarian causes. To commemorate Dutch Liberation Day, the WHO will perform works of several refugee composers.

Talk with Arjen Lubach

Tuesday 16 May at 7pm, Dutch Centre, 7 Austin Friars, London EC2N2HA

A talk with Dutch writer and comedian Arjen Lubach, well-known for his weekly satirical TV

show Zondag met Lubach ("Sunday with Lubach"), in which he comments on the latest in news and politics. Also called "the Dutch John Oliver", Lubach received worldwide fame recently with his hilarious response to Donald Trump's "America first" message.

Brighton Fringe Dutch Season 2017

18 May - 4 June, Brighton Spiegelent, Old Steine Pleasure Gardens, Brighton, BN1 1GY

www.seasons.brightonfringe.org

Amsterdam-based experimental performance group 7090, who recently celebrated their 15th anniversary, bring a plethora of work to Brighton Fringe. Hosted by Brighton Spiegelent and supported by the Performing Art Fund NL.

Janine Jansen, Wigmore Hall

2 June 7.30pm & 9.45pm, www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

7.30pm Programme: Messiaen and Schubert

9.45pm Artists in Conversation: Janine Jansen
Post-concert Talk.

Medway : a river in flames

8 - 18 June : Battle of Medway www.visitmedway.org

In June Medway commemorates the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Medway with a spectacular river event and a series of exhibitions and activities.

"Harmony in Colour and Form

The Goldsmith's Company are delighted to present a Celebration of Five Decades of artistic collaboration between Leo de Vroomen, a Dutch goldsmith and British Jewellery Designer, and artist Ginnie de Vroomen. The showcase brings together over 100 pieces of jewels and Ginnie's vivid nature and urban landscape paintings.



Anglo-Netherlands Society

Established 1920, incorporated 2002

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e-mail: administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk

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. The Society 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.

PRESIDENT

Sir Michael Perry, GBE

VICE-PRESIDENT

H.E. the Netherlands Ambassador

COUNCIL

Dick van den Broek (Chairman)

Paul Dimond (Hon. Secretary)

David Glassman (Hon. Treasurer)

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EVENTS COMMITTEE

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The Society has for years been fortunate in having the help of several organisations. To recognise this support, which has often been sustained for decades, the following organisations are termed Corporate Patrons:

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CORPORATE MEMBERS

Carpenters' Company

This form of membership can be tailored to your requirements.

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