

ANGLO-NETHERLANDS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

c/o Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 38 Hyde Park Gate, London SW7 5DP Tel: 07401 660 615 (Wednesdays 11 – 3 pm) administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk Winter 2017-18

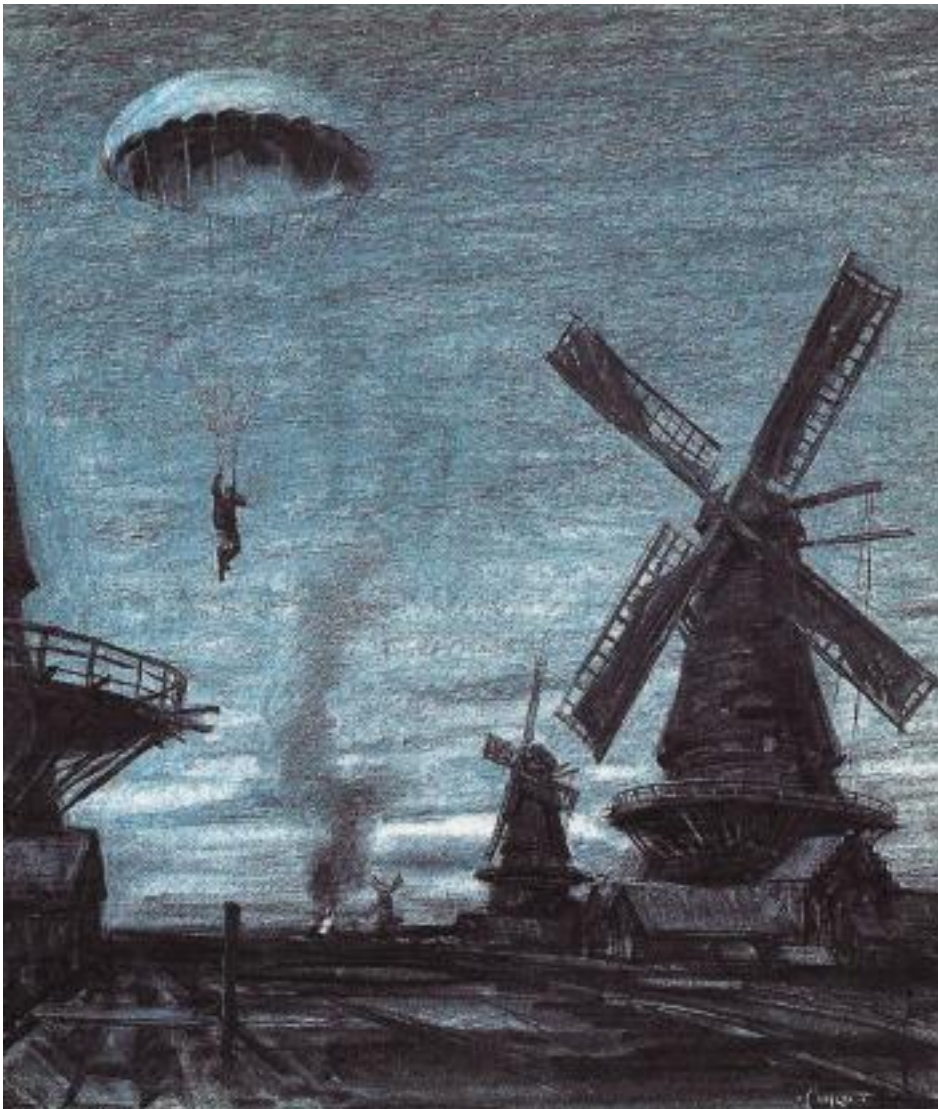
President: Sir Michael Perry GBE

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



"Second World War airman dropping at night amongst windmills" c. 1939-46, this drawing* by Terence Cuneo features on the cover of the book 'Shot Down and on the Run', which is also the title of the 2018 Unilever Lecture by Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork, MBE BA FRAeS *in black chalk, charcoal and white gouache, held at the National Archives, Kew

Forthcoming Events

Spencer House : waiting list

A private guided tour of the magnificent State Rooms, followed by optional lunch
Sunday 21 January at 12 noon

New Postal Museum : waiting list

Tour of the Exhibition Gallery and Ride on the Mail train, followed by optional lunch.
Friday 16 February at 11.00am

Unilever Lecture 2018

"Shot Down and on the Run"

The Guest speaker will be Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork, MBE BA FRAeS.
Tuesday 13 March at 6pm for lecture at 6.30pm

"Reformation Treasures" at the British Library

A private "show and tell" event by Marja Kingma, curator German Collections, Dutch Languages.
Tuesday 17 April at 11.00am

Trip to Rotterdam

Only a couple of places are still available. Could Members who are interested in joining this visit to the Low Countries please let the Administrator know as soon as possible?

Tuesday 8 - Saturday 12 May 2018

Royal Hospital Chelsea

An afternoon tour, led by one of the pensioners, to include the Great Hall, the Chapel and a visit to the museum.

Tuesday 15 May at 1.30pm

New Members

We welcome:

Mr. Theo B and

Mrs Mariette B

Mr Klaas de B and

Mrs Anneke de B

Mr Gijs van B V

Mrs Martje van B V-L

Mr Kenneth E and

Mrs Sandra E

Mr Derek H and

Miss Nicola T

Mr Neil H and

Mrs Irene H-G

Mr Jasper van de L and

Miss Emma R

Mrs Michele R

Mrs Emma T-H

Rotterdam Visit : Tuesday 8 until Saturday 12 May

Provisional programme for our planned trip

The Netherlands' second-largest city and Europe's busiest port is home to some of the 20th and 21st centuries' most important architectural feats, which is the direct result of nearly the whole centre of Rotterdam being razed to the ground during World War II. On this trip we will aim to combine visits to both the new and the few remaining old parts.

We propose to stay on the ss Rotterdam, previously the Holland-America Line's flagship, then used as a cruise ship and now a unique four-star hotel. After check-in on our first day we will have a tour of the ship and dinner on board. The guided sight-seeing programme will start the following morning. Among other things we will visit the Markthal, an iconic statement of Rotterdam design, with huge glass facades and colourful panels on the internal walls and ceiling. As well as a market with over a hundred booths, it includes luxurious apartments and offices. Also on the programme for that day are the Kubuswoningen (cube houses) and the

Sint Laurenskerk, Rotterdam's only surviving late Gothic building. The church cuts a striking profile amid the

tour of the Van Nelle Factory, designed and built in the 1920s on the banks of the river Schie, for the

processing of coffee, tea and tobacco. One of the icons of 20th century industrial architecture, it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On our last full day we are planning a visit to Futureland and Maasvlakte 2, a major extension of the port of Rotterdam into the North Sea – the scale perhaps best appreciated during a short boat trip. Our final evening's dinner will take place in the Art Nouveau building (a national monument since 2000) of KR&ZV

De Maas (Royal Maas Yacht Club) with wonderful views over the river.

This is a provisional programme. The final programme will be sent out shortly to members who have put their name down for this trip., together with the costings.

At the time of writing there are only a few places still available. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the administrator as soon as possible.



The Markthal -designed by architects MVRDV- at dusk

boldly modern architecture surrounding it.

The next day we plan to visit historic Delfshaven, a small inner-city harbour with many historical buildings which were spared during the bombings of World War II and where you can still feel the atmosphere of pre-war Rotterdam. Here we will have a tour (and lunch) at a small beer brewery. In the afternoon we hope to have a guided

Tour of the Royal Hospital Chelsea

Tuesday 15 May at 1.30pm

We consider ourselves fortunate to have secured 15 tickets for one of the very popular but scarce Pensioner Guided Tours of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, just before the entire site closes to the public for seven weeks for the Chelsea Garden Show. The Royal Hospital Chelsea is a retirement and nursing home for about 300 British Army veterans (men and women) located on Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. As an independent charity it relies on donations – and activities such as the

guided tours - to cover its running costs. The Royal Hospital Chelsea is a 325 year old home, a grade I and II listed site, and a beautiful architectural legacy left to us by Charles II, its founder, and Sir Christopher Wren, its architect.

The Chelsea Pensioners, recognisable by their red coats and black caps, come from all corners of the United Kingdom to Chelsea. One of the resident pensioners will give us a guided walking tour of the Royal Hospital. We will be admiring Sir

Christopher Wren's stunning building, hear the stories of its inhabitants, both past and present, and learn about what life is like for them today. The museum is well worth a visit as well, with its entrance hall dedicated to the Duke of Wellington, featuring a famous massive panorama of the Battle of Waterloo. The museum has many artefacts of the various campaigns the pensioners were involved in, and shows a typical berth a pensioner would have had.



“Shot Down and on the Run” : the 2018 Unilever Lecture

Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork, MBE, BA, FRAeS, Tuesday 13 March, 6 pm for lecture at 6.30 pm.

On 1 April 1918, the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps were amalgamated to form the Royal Air Force. During 2018 there will be numerous activities and major events to commemorate the centenary of the world's first independent Air Force.

The history of the RAF is rich with many actions where individual pilots and large crews disclosed their commitment to their cause. Many reports tell of deeds with great valour and bravery. Unfortunately, many stories will never be heard because nobody reached home to tell. The history includes the ingenuity and creativity of many who designed and built the aircraft that allowed the crews to carry out their jobs.

A selection has to be made from 100 years of history. The lecture will review the creation and activities of the Dutch squadrons within the

Royal Air Force in the European Theatre during World War Two, highlighting the deeds of some of the aircrew that distinguished themselves. Major operations mounted by RAF squadrons against key targets in the Netherlands will be discussed as well and it will conclude with how Dutch patriots helped airmen avoid capture after they had been shot down.

Graham Pitchfork served in the Royal Air Force for 36 years as a navigator. He was trained at the RAF College Cranwell and then joined a Canberra reconnaissance squadron based at RAF Laarbruch on the Dutch – German border. In 1965 he started his long career on the Buccaneer strike/attack aircraft first on a three-year exchange tour with the Fleet Air Arm, which included a year embarked on the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle in the Far East. After two more

appointments in the RAF Buccaneer force he was promoted to command a squadron. He served as the

Director of Air Warfare at the RAF College Cranwell before commanding the largest flying training base in the RAF. He was one of the last Commandants at Biggin Hill and then served as a Director of Operational Intelligence in the MOD before retiring as an Air Commodore in 1994.

Since retiring from the RAF, he has become an established author and lecturer on RAF history with thirteen books and many articles to his name and he is the aviation obituary writer for the Daily Telegraph. He is a Vice President of the Yorkshire Air Museum, the Archivist of the Aircrew Association and serves on the committee of the RAF Historical Society.



Badge of no.322 (Dutch) Squadron of the RAF, active 1943-1945. This picture of the squadron crest signed by King George VI, with the Dutch motto "Niet praten maar doen" features the parrot Polly Grey, the squadron's mascot.

Reformation Treasures at the British Library

A private viewing on Tuesday 17 April at 11:00 am

October 2017 marked the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. In 1517 Martin Luther launched his momentous campaign against papal teaching on indulgences. Luther's posting of the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on 31 October 1517 is one of the most famous events of Western history. Most likely, Luther did not nail the Theses on the door but he did, on the eve of the Feast of All Saints, send them to the Archbishop of Mainz, along with a strongly worded letter of protest - the catalyst for a crisis in the Holy Empire, and a permanent schism in the Western Church.

Though the English reformation began later, the 95 Theses were known about in

England by 1518 as Erasmus had sent a copy to Thomas Moore in March of that year. Luther's works were on sale in an Oxford bookshop in 1520 and were burned by Cardinal Wolsey in 1521.

Still, the reforming movement that subsequently spread across Europe was to have profound consequences in England, triggering centuries of religious reform, conflict and suppression that have been described as England's 'Reformations'.

In 1525-6, inspired by Luther's work, William Tyndale's English translation of the New Testament was printed. His biblical translations were the first to be mass-produced as a result of new advances in the art of printing. Henry VIII's 'break with Rome' was completed in 1536, with the most crucial parliamentary legislation having been passed in 1533.

To commemorate the anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, the British



Library is currently holding a special exhibition on the subject, featuring among other items an original copy of the Theses and examples of contemporary pro- and anti-Lutheran propaganda.

Marja Kingma, Curator Germanic Collections, Dutch Languages at the British Library, has invited the ANS to a private 'show and tell' event, where some unique pieces will be shown, for instance Erasmus' letter to Luther, the family Bible of Daniel Elsevier and the, lost but later found in the British Library, 1566 Hymn book by J. Utenhove. The items in this event are not featured in the public Reformation exhibition, and will offer some more insight into Luther's life, work and lasting influence. Please join us for this unique experience.

Pictures : the British Library and "Droom van de keurvorst van Saksen" by Jan Bartentsz-Muyckens 1643 (Source : Museum Catharinje Convent, Utrecht)



Lansdowne Club

Report by Christopher Freeman, on the visit on 17 October

"The House in Berkeley Square" was built as a grand family home in 1763 and became a social club in 1935. Lansdowne House is rich in history, architecture and art, not to mention some secrets and scandal too. Twenty of us from ANS went to see for ourselves in mid-October as organised by Marietta Molenaar.

Our guide Alan gave us an overview of the house and its history before taking us on a tour of the Club's many fascinating rooms, foyers and hallways where we were shown numerous old photos, maps



and artworks. The house was designed by Robert Adams and was the property of Lord Shelburne (aka Marquess of Lansdowne) and his heirs who owned it until 1929. During that time Lansdowne House was the venue for a number of notable activities including the drafting of

the Treaty of Paris (to end the American War of Independence), meetings of the Privy Council in mid-19th century, and serving as a First Aid station in World War I. We learned that the Lansdownes produced a number of leading statesmen and diplomats across the centuries including two Prime Ministers, a Viceroy of India and two Foreign Secretaries.

Our tour featured explanations of the architecture and interior design of the building including the Art-Deco Bar and Dining Room (with its semi-circular piano from the Queen Mary cruiseliner), the grand Ball Room, the "manly" Billiard Room and my favourite, the Round Room, now a slightly quirky but most "gezellige" bar where Lord Shelburne received Ben Franklin and John Adams in 1782 to discuss the terms of peace.

Apart from showing us around the Club's impressive rooms, Alan also shared with us some of the more colourful facts and stories about Lansdowne House. For most of the 1920s it was home to Harry Gordon Selfridge who rented it from the Shelburne family. His lavish



Members in the Sun Room

lifestyle surpassed even *his* budget and he and his mistresses eventually moved out in 1929 when he declared personal bankruptcy. And for most of the 20th century the building immediately next door to Lansdowne House was home to



MI5, whose agents would frequent Lansdowne Club until their move earlier this century.

Today Lansdowne House remains a place of grand hospitality and elegance to be appreciated by its members and visitors alike.

Occasional Email Alerts

for Short-notice Events

In our Summer newsletter we invited Members to register for this new service which would inform you of Events which will take place before our next quarterly Newsletter is published. Details of such Events are quite often received at short notice and these can therefore best be communicated to you via e-mail.

This will, of course, be in addition to our quarterly Newsletters, which we know are much appreciated by our membership. These printed Newsletters will continue to provide details of all the Events which the Society is organising, as well as some Events organised by others and of potential interest to Members.

As a result of the positive response to that Summer Alert, we will now expand this initiative to Members whom we think might be interested. Obviously, we can only provide this additional service to Members whose e-mail address we have. Naturally, Members who do not want to continue to receive these Alerts will be able to un-subscribe easily by notifying us via signposts@anglo-netherlands.org.uk.

We expect these Alerts to be an occasional feature of our communications with Members, more incidental - such as the early December one on the Christmas Carol service at the Dutch Church.

Subscriptions 2018

As mentioned in our autumn Newsletter, we are keeping our subscriptions for 2018 unchanged, for the eleventh year running. Members who are not paying by standing order are requested to pay their subscription at their earliest convenience, if they have not done so already.

We prefer the standing order method as it simplifies our office procedures. If you would like to change to that system, please download the form from the website or ask the administrator to forward a copy to you. For easy reference the subscription rates are:

Subscription rates:	Greater London	Country*
Joint membership **	£30	£25
Single membership	£23	£20

* A Country rebate is available for members whose address is outside a radius of 50 miles from Hyde Park Corner

** Two members at a single address, receiving one copy of each mailing.

David Glassman, Hon. Treasurer

"Britain and the World after Trump and Brexit"

Report by Sir David Miers on the Annual Members' Dinner at the Reform Club on Friday evening 17 November

The Society's annual dinner was held on November 17 in the beautiful surroundings of the Reform Club on Pall Mall. This annual dinner continues to increase in popularity, as witnessed by the fact that a waiting list had to be introduced at a fairly early stage. It started off with an enjoyable and lively reception in the Smoking room of the Club which included "bitterballen", perfectly cooked by the Chef. We then moved to the Library of the Club, restored in its full glory after the recent renovation. Our Chairman, Dick van den Broek, formally welcomed our guest of honour, Sir Nigel Sheinwald, who



was accompanied by his wife Julia, and also H.E. Mr Simon Smits, the Netherlands' ambassador to the Court of St. James's. He expressed particular delight that the eighty members present included so many who had joined the Society recently.

ANS members must be looking ahead to future political developments with apprehension. For the British, the Brexit negotiations are clearly not proceeding with the simplicity predicted by the Brexiteers.



For Europeans Brexit is an unwelcome distraction from other pressing EU problems such as the refugee crisis and management of the Euro. And for all with wider horizons the unpredictability of US policy under President Trump in a world increasingly focussed on Asia and a resurgent China is an additional concern. So, coffee with Dutch chocolates having been served, it was illuminating for the Society to have a talk on "Britain and the world after Brexit and post Trump". And who better to deliver it than

Sir Nigel, a former British Permanent Representative to the EU and former British Ambassador to the USA? He spoke with welcome frankness.

He said that the Brexit decision and the election of Trump had been regarded by some as a triumph of populism on the back of manipulated social and other media. However, over the past year electorates in the EU including in the Netherlands had stepped back from the brink and ultimately backed the political centre, strengthening the sense of unity in the EU in the process. As for America, the UK could be taking a risk in getting too close to the new administration too early. The rough edges of the President's original policies might be worn down a bit after two or three years in office. But we should not expect the US to be of help behind the scenes over Brexit. Our influence with Washington would certainly decline as a result of it. And, while the Trump effect on US policy might not last, the effect of Brexit would be permanent.

An important result of Brexit would be the loss of insight and influence that Britain would experience as a result of no longer sitting at the EU decision-making table. In Europe our concerns would be ignored if they conflicted with those of the 27, and outside Europe the Americans and others would no longer regard our voice as so important. We would suffer a significant loss of international clout. The multiplier effect of being a leading member of the EU would disappear.

He made no secret of his belief that the decision to leave the EU was mistaken. He did not call for the decision to be reversed, but he said it was illusory to think that the satisfactory future relationship with the EU predicted by Brexiteers could be easily or rapidly achieved. The remaining member states would be looking to protect their own interests, not accommodate the UK's. Even the Netherlands, traditionally helpful to the UK, had a strong interest as a major contributor to the EU budget in the separation payment demanded from Britain. France or Germany might have predatory ambitions in regard to London's position as Europe's primary financial centre. So might Amsterdam.

It was also illusory to imagine that after Brexit Britain would be able without delay to sign free trade agreements with a queue of non-European trading partners. These agreements took much longer than one imagined to negotiate as each side sought,

understandably, to protect or promote its particular interests. And for most of them their trade with the EU was a prior concern over trade with the UK.

The future was not entirely gloomy. London would still be Europe's No 1 financial centre after Brexit. Britain would still have a respectable diplomatic and military capability after Brexit, effective commercial networks and opportunities for the deployment of "Soft power". But our interests demanded a close future relationship with the EU, similar to that enjoyed by Norway. This would require some revision of our existing attitudes and above all the abandonment of the "happy talk" and delusional claims deriving from the referendum campaign.

Sir Nigel's candid remarks provoked many questions. He gave clear and thoughtful answers, without claiming that he could see accurately into the future, or indeed speculating from a historical perspective on what leaving the European project might portend for future generations.

Sir Michael Perry thanked him warmly on behalf of the ANS for his frank and



illuminating remarks. As the Anglo-Netherlands Society we needed to view current and future developments as they affected not just Britain but also the Netherlands. This might mean viewing issues from two separate camps. In this situation the ANS could supply a calm voice. Sir Nigel had given us much valuable insight.

Dick van den Broek presented Sir Nigel with a copy of Graham Stewart's "Britannia: 100 Documents that Shaped a Nation" with grateful thanks for his talk.



Clementi House

Report by Gerard Teunissen and Marlie Roes on the visit preceding the Annual General Meeting

As Tom Stacey was our host for the visit to Clementi House, 128 Kensington Church Street, we had the double pleasure of the owner/occupant, writer, publisher, penologist, former journalist and explorer/traveller in Africa, now an octogenarian, guiding us through the interesting history of this famous house. We enjoyed his running commentary from the very moment we set foot in the house.

In its long history, Clementi House became a centre for music, especially piano (forte) music. It was built originally (1737) as part of a row of six houses, then known as 'High Row', out in the countryside, near the Sheffield and Holland Estates. When the builder cum speculator found there were no buyers for these houses, Dulwich College and another Foundation bought all six from the builder's receiver for £500. Subsequently these were let at 100-year leases for the next two and a half centuries. Thus Tom Stacey explained how he bought the last 30 years of the last 100-years-lease period and at the end obtained the freehold.

By the time (1818) that the Italian born Muzio Clementi (1752-1832) moved his family into No.1 High Row (Kensington Gravel Pits), he had already become a famous composer and brilliant pianist, much admired by Beethoven. In his youth Muzio, a gifted teenage pianist, son of a silversmith, had the good fortune to be adopted by the British music lover Peter Beckford, at whose house he developed his pianist skills over a period of seven years, gradually acquiring an international reputation. In 1781, at the age of 29, Clementi entered a piano competition in Vienna against the then 25 years old Mozart. The outcome was declared a draw.

After years of touring Europe Clementi returned to London to settle down and concentrate on composing, conducting, teaching, publishing (including for Beethoven; they became good friends) and – not least – designing and building piano forte instruments. Some fifteen years later, towards his retirement, he wrote 'Gradus ad Parnassum', which up to this day is used as a training manual for aspiring pianists.

At the age of 72 Clementi retired and settled with his family in Evesham, Worcestershire.

Apart from historical facts Tom Stacey gave us several pointers of interest while guiding us through different parts of the

house. In the entrance room, he had drawn our attention to the small piano that has been there ever since Clementi had it built at his piano work shop to his own design. He demonstrated that this was a 'soft' piano forte; contradictory as that sounds to us, because piano forte instruments of the time couldn't produce the forte sounds the later pianos can.

The big room downstairs, stretching from front to back of the house, would nowadays be called a drawing room, but at the time



Muzio lived there it would have been much too noisy. Clattering horse hoofs and rumble of coaches and carts over the cobbled street, made conversation and enjoyment of music impossible. The drawing room with a piano forte where the recitals were (and are) held was (and is) therefore upstairs.

Tom also took us to the end of the back garden from where we were looking some seven feet down on the adjoining street corner, part of what is now known as the

Russian part of town, including the Russian Embassy. There he told us the story of the builder who, long ago, had discovered that the area contained a large gravel deposit; he got permission to dig it all out and ship it as building material to St Petersburg on a contract with Tsar Alexander of Russia, a highly profitable enterprise. The unusual

level difference explains how the original address of the row of six houses, of which Clementi House is one, came to be named "High Row".

With the departure of the Clementi family, their friend, the composer and organist William Horsley (1774-1858) took over the lease. Another of Clementi's friends, the pianist and composer Ignaz Moscheles (1794-1870) also became great friends with the

musical Horsley family, where three of the five children were musicians. Not long after, Felix Mendelssohn's father asked Moscheles to come to Berlin and coach the 15-year old Felix and his sister Fanny. Five years later, when Felix went to London Moscheles introduced him to the Horsley family; it was the beginning of a great friendship between Felix Mendelssohn and the Horsleys and their children. It resulted in many happy musical encounters, with the young Felix a very frequent visitor at the

house. Just before his return to Berlin he made a promise, playfully making up a formal contract, to write an arrangement of the Overture 'Melusina' as a piano duet for the two sisters.

Their brother became a well-known painter. In the National Gallery hangs a portrait of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, painted by John his brother-in-law when Brunel married Mary, the eldest of the Horsley children. A copy of that painting can be seen in the dining room of Clementi House. John also became well-known as a specialist in subject-painting by which a story is told or implied. An example hangs in the back parlour of the house.

Throughout the years of Mendelssohn's friendship with father and daughters Horsley, cementing the bonds of music, many great musicians came to visit Clementi House: big names like Ignaz Moscheles, Paganini, Chopin, Bellini and prodigy violinist Joseph Joachim.

As the years went by the house was adapted to the changing needs and circumstances of the family, including the addition of a studio with a large north-facing window. Some time later the space under the studio was closed-in and later became a nice dining room. For a long time the house stayed in the Horsley family, retaining its musical and artistic heritage. The studio is now used by Tom Stacey's wife, Caroline Clay, an internationally exhibited sculptor. Much of her work can be seen in the house and garden.

Musical traditions continue and in 2014 Clementi house was formally opened for cultural and musical tourism. Since then there are piano recitals and other musical events from time to time.

For more information please view www.hha.org.uk/property/2788/Clementi-House, also look up Tom Stacey on Google



Sign of the times? A note 'Housebell', and an instruction 'Please Pull'



Chairman's Message

Incorporating points from the annual report at this year's AGM

As your Chairman now for about two years, I hope you enjoyed a relaxing end of year 2017 which brought us many surprises. Allow me also to express a few sentiments about our own lively Society.

First of all I would like to thank all the volunteers on the Events Committee, led by Connie Sangster, who made such tremendous contributions in organising events, writing up reports on them, and making suggestions in respect of future ones. These have been much appreciated by our members, judging by the large number who have participated in these events. We have an increasingly diverse and dispersed membership which does not make it easy for our dedicated Events Committee to offer events which suit everybody. Any suggestions would be most welcome. I would also like to thank our Administrator, Mrs. Carine Williams, for all her work and enthusiasm which she continues to display.

Referring to our quarterly newsletter, it is not surprising that we continue to receive such positive comments about our publication, both from members and from outside sources. It is produced with considerable skill and effort by our Hon. Editor, Hans Neher, who has on each occasion the challenging task of managing quite often different masters and meeting strict deadlines. I can only express the hope that he will continue in this masterful role for many years to come. Our website is not only for outsiders, but also for you, members, where you can find old newsletters, details of future activities, and various application forms. Just use the username/password you will find on page 8.

We organised twelve events for our members during 2017, i.e. one every month. Some of these attracted record numbers such as the Unilever Lecture with our guest speaker Prof. Andrew Lambert on "Learning a hard lesson: the Dutch in the Medway 1667", and our recent Annual dinner at the Reform Club with Sir Nigel Sheinwald on the subject of "Britain and the world after Brexit and Trump". An extensive schedule of events is already planned for 2018, some of which you will find in this newsletter. I should also mention the successful continuation of our Awards to undergraduates in Dutch studies at Sheffield University. Unfortunately the Awards for students at



UCL could not be organised in 2017, but we hope to re-instate this event during 2018. These Awards are much appreciated by the faculties and students; the winning essay at

Sheffield in 2017 was published in our Autumn newsletter: "How the Dutch Language Became Standardised".

A fair number of our members attended the AGM on December 4, but I would like to provide those members who were not able to attend, with some information which was reported to members, so that all can be aware of part of the formal discussions.

Firstly, the financial health of the Society remains strong. There was again a surplus for the year, with stable subscriptions income and costs being kept under control. This surplus is being added to reserves in which connection I should mention that Council has decided to allocate some of these to a special Centenary reserve. We have started our planning process for what promises to be a very special year for the Society, namely 2020. It will then be 100 years since our Society was established and it is still thriving. One of the projects we are now working on for publication to mark the Centenary is a book of essays on Dutch and British achievements together over the last 100 years across a wide range of walks of life. If members have any specific ideas on subjects and suitable authors for such essays, could they please send these to our Hon. Secretary Mr. Paul Dimond at centenary@anglo-netherlands.org.uk.

You will already have been informed that Council has decided to keep the level of subscription fees unchanged, for the eleventh year running. It was explained that the subscription rates are for covering our basic costs, including those for the Administrator and the much appreciated newsletters. Events are being charged separately and should cover our costs and make a small contribution to overheads.

Our individual membership numbers continued to show a small net increase during 2017. A relatively large number of resignations during the year for various reasons was still more than made up for by a very diversified range of new members. Quite a few of these are still active working people for whom perhaps a slightly different choice of events is required to get them actively involved in our activities. We were pleased that Philips decided to re-join our Society as a Patron in April 2017. The Netherlands embassy, in various ways, continues to support our activities in many ways. The 2017 AGM was held at their premises and was

followed by drinks in a very relaxed way. We continue to encourage employees of our substantial list of Patrons to participate in our events. In this connection we have started to

send electronically an abbreviated version of our quarterly newsletter to our Patrons who will then distribute this version internally.

The Advisory Committee of the Society met twice during 2017, hosted on these two occasions by our Patrons Royal Dutch Shell and ING in their respective offices. This Committee represents various "streams" within the Society, both Patrons and individual members. The input and advice given by these Advisory Committee members is much appreciated by Council.

It was with deep sadness that we learned at the beginning of the year that our former President and subsequently Vice-President, Sir Clive Bossom, had passed away. For many years he had been a very strong supporter of our Society, in many different ways, and this lasted until his very last day, notwithstanding his respectable age. An extensive Obituary was published in our Spring newsletter.

In my message last year I mentioned a few challenges:

Last year I reported that the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands came to our rescue and offered us a room in their lovely building at 38 Hyde Park Gate. We may well not be there for too long as the Embassy is considering various options for the future in terms of location. So, we had better be prepared for a further move, hopefully with sufficient notice. For the time being we are well-established there with great support from the Ambassador and his team.

Secondly, and more of an on-going challenge, is the need to attract new members as there is always a natural falling off in membership for various reasons. I am personally aware that there are still many potential members around, including family members and friends with interests in Anglo-Dutch matters, so do not hesitate to entice them when meeting one. We shall be happy to send them a sample newsletter. There is also the possibility of a Gift membership, already being used by some members and non-members.

Lastly, but this is not a challenge, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Council for their great support and many contributions. We are meeting, on average, every two months, in high spirits and with plenty of ideas.

On behalf of the Society, I wish all members the best possible year ahead in health, safety, and fulfilment.

Dick van den Broek

Chairman

Photos: Sir Clive Bossom, Bt; and Paul Dimond, Chairman of the jury, Anglo-Netherlands Society Awards, with contestants at the University of Sheffield.

SIGNPOSTS

Poets of the New Millennium | Gender, Desire, Community, Earth

Join the Centre for Low Countries Studies for a poetry evening with four contemporary poets from Flanders and the Netherlands:

Annemarie Estor Lieke Marsman Els Moors Xavier Roelens

The event will be accessible to an English-speaking audience.

Wednesday 17 January 7pm, Bloomsbury Studio, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AH www.ucl.ac.uk/event-ticketing/booking

Rem Koolhaas Architecture on Film

A feature length interview from the beginning of Koolhaas's career, by Dutch pioneer of the interface between television and culture, Jef Cornelis.

14-20 January, Barbican Cinema 2, www.barbican.org.uk

Janine Jansen

Martha Argerich, Janine Jansen and Mischa Maisky – three of the world's finest living instrumentalists – come together in Piano Trios by Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. Mischa and Martha's musical friendship goes back decades, recently enriched by their chamber music partnership with Janine. But the opportunity to hear the three together is still rare and precious.

Tuesday 6 February 7.30 pm, Barbican Centre, www.barbican.org.uk



Pieter Wispelwey, cello, and Alasdair Beatson, piano

Programme: Reger and Brahms Max Reger followed Brahms to become one of Germany's champions of absolute music as a composer of works that explore the colours and contrasts of sound. Dutch cellist Pieter Wispelwey unites Brahms and Reger in a fascinating programme. Part of Chamber Zone, a free ticket scheme for young people aged 8-25 old.

Sunday 25 February 7.30pm Wigmore Hall, www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Janine Jansen, violin, with the London Symphony Orchestra

Programme : Sibelius Symphonies nos 6 and 7 show different dimensions of Sibelius' distinctive voice, from the brooding intensity of the Violin Concerto to the experimentation of the Seventh Symphony, written in a single, surging sweep of music. Sibelius likened his own music to 'the purest spring water', a challenge to the rich cocktails 'of every hue and description' purveyed by his contemporaries. The result was an unmistakable voice, one that is full of shimmering strings, shifting textures and the sounds of birdsong, conjuring up the elemental forces of nature and the legends of Finnish folklore.

Thursday 17 May 7.30 pm, Barbican Centre London

Liza Ferschtman, violin, with Brussels Philharmonic 2

Programme: Connesson and Bernstein Brussels Philharmonic is back for a second visit this season with a programme full of romance and drama. The orchestra's Music Director, Stéphane Denève, is joined by the Dutch violinist Liza Ferschtman.

Thursday 31 May 7.30 pm, Cadogan Hall, www.cadoganhall.com

Anglo-Netherlands Society

Established 1920, incorporated 2002

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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. 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.

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