

ANGLO-NETHERLANDS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2022-23

President: The Rt Hon. the Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE

Hon. Newsletter Editor: Mr Hans Neher

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

Chairman: Mr Dick van den Broek

Administrator: Mrs Carine Williams



'Het Puttertje', by Carel Fabritius, subject of the online talk by Clare Ford-Wille on Thursday 26 January
Carel Fabritius The Goldfinch, 1654 Oil on Panel, 33,4 x 22,3cm Mauritshuis, The Hague

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New Members

We welcome:

Mrs Josepha A-L
Mr Michael A and
Mrs Cecile A
Mrs Annette de la C
Mr Bart de H
Mr Daniel K and
Mrs Heather K
Mrs Anna M
Mr Richard Z and
Mrs Jeanine Z

Chairman's Message: Hoort, zegt het voort!

by Dick van den Broek, Chairman

We hope that this extended 16-page newsletter will (postal strikes permitting) reach you just before Christmas. It contains a large variety of articles which you can read at your leisure. Articles which look back at some of the activities the Society organised for its Members during 2022, some describing events for the coming months and a few of a more general nature which you may find of interest. Our main event was, of course, the re-staged Centenary reception at Kensington Palace in the presence of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and HRH Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, two years after the original date. In our hard copy Summer newsletter you will have seen many colourful photos which reflected the atmosphere and conviviality at this memorable happening. One of



these photos showed a picture of a special tree being presented, commemorating this event, a sample of which was subsequently planted in the gardens facing the Palace. A recent inspection indicated that this young sapling may have survived the summer drought.

You will later in this newsletter see some financial data which were presented and discussed at our recent AGM. I would just like to mention that our membership continued to grow during 2022; another 45 Members joined the Society. There is always a natural attrition in membership and the Society has been successful in making up for this. But there is more potential, both within our existing membership through family and friends with interests in Anglo-Netherlands matters, and beyond. As one would say in Dutch "Hoort, zegt het voort!". Council

itself has started with various new initiatives which will hopefully lead to an even larger and broader membership.

Council met formally every month, either via Zoom or live, and the many events required regular informal contacts in-between. In that context we were very pleased that at our recent AGM we could announce happily that Mr Guus Greve has accepted our invitation to join Council. Guus and his wife Georgette have already been individual Members of the Society for quite some years, but he was also our principal contact at Shell, one of our long-standing Patrons, and from which he retired during the summer of 2021. We are looking forward to working with him.

For a number of reasons we could only hold one meeting with the Advisory Committee during 2022, but after some three years we could organize a live one, a more effective way of exchanging ideas and looking for ways and means to further strengthen and widen the base of the Society. At our recent AGM we said farewell to Mrs Heleen Mendl-Schrama and Mr Denis Doble who for many years have provided the Society with valuable input and suggestions. The Society is most grateful to them. At the same AGM we elected four new members of this Committee: Mr Andrew Wood (Honorary Consul of the Netherlands in East Anglia) and Arend Dikkers (retired from various financial careers, now working with charities) as individual members, and Mr Doug Graham (our new contact at PwC) and Mr Boudewijn Haarsma (the new CEO of Heineken UK), the latter two representing these Patrons who have been supporting the Society over the years.

Our AGM provided us with an ideal opportunity and forum to appoint two Honorary Members of the Society. Mrs Sylvia Knight had been a member of Council for some 30 years until she resigned at the end of 2020. Because of Covid-19 we had not had a proper opportunity to present her with this Award. Her many years as a member of Council and organising events in all sorts of ways, including quite a few visits to parts of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, have been much appreciated. A second Honorary Membership was awarded to Mrs Selma van de Perre who for many years has contributed in different ways to support the relationships between our two countries. She is still active with this, her Centenary

notwithstanding. You will find a special article on her further in this newsletter.

I would like to end this message with expressing my sincere thanks to the many volunteers who have again helped to make and keep our Society such a thriving one. Our Administrator, Carine Williams, is now spending more time again in our office at the Netherlands Embassy and our Hon Editor, Hans Neher, has focussed his attention to detail and professionalism on the two special hard copy newsletters issued this year. Our Events Committee, chaired by Connie Sangster, has again done a wonderful job. In addition, Connie with her excellent monthly electronic E-News has opened a new world for the Society with much faster communications on forthcoming events and thereby responses from Members. Finally, a deeply felt thank you to my colleagues in Council. Their time and input into keeping the Society thriving in challenging circumstances, coming up with new ideas, has been beyond duty. I am honoured to be a member of such a strong team.

I hope you will enjoy reading this extended Winter newsletter. May I wish you all a peaceful Christmas. We look forward to meeting many of our Members during 2023, either at our live events or via Zoom.

Instagram

part of the Society's move on-line

"With our lives increasingly moving on-line, we can't stay behind". With these words Adrienne Montheath-van Dok launched the Anglo-Netherlands Society Instagram account in April 2020 when we had moved into full Covid lockdown. The Society's Events Committee was quick to move the events on-line and our Members learnt quickly how to work their Zoom accounts. Marina Mathon-Clark, with the help of Ros Burgin, has subsequently taken over the management of our Instagram account.

The account has grown organically; it now has some 70 posts and around 300 followers. It reflects the Society's activities and reminds Members of upcoming events.

Do join us @anglonetherlandssociety on Instagram or mention the account to friends who might be interested in Anglo-Netherlands relationships.

Looking back and moving forward

by Connie Sangster, Council member and Chair Events Committee

The year 2022 was another challenging year since COVID-19 was first identified nearly three years ago. The first two years we had to learn to live with the uncertainty caused by it. We decided it was time for recalibration, doing things differently and adapting ourselves. One thing we learned is how to use technology to connect to people and services and remain as active and safe as possible.

As the end of the global pandemic seems to be tapering off, we are very pleased to return to more and more in-person events again. Meeting up and getting to know each other is one of the key factors in these get-togethers. However, suitable online events will still be a part of the agenda as this format is highly valued by many Members, particularly by those living further away from London.

Over the last year we have held a wide range of exciting and interesting events that we hope you were able to enjoy. These included lectures and tours on art, architecture, history, book club discussions, a trip to Salisbury, a drinks reception, our Members' dinner and the highlight in our calendar: our 100th Anniversary Reception. We welcomed some 435 members and guests to our in-person and online events this year.

We started this year with an online lecture by art historian Lizzie Marx, talking about *Fleeting Scents in Colour*. A fabulous exhibition at the Mauritshuis in The Hague about smell in seventeenth-century art. A fascinating, informative and lively presentation which was very much enjoyed by our Members and some guests.

As the world was getting back on its feet at the same time a distant dream, enjoying in-person events, became reality. We were thrilled that on 29th March we were able to re-stage our Centenary Reception at the State Apartments at Kensington Palace, originally built and lived in by King William III and his wife Queen Mary II. After the Loyal Toasts, some two hundred Members and guests could mark our Centenary in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands. Following a welcome by the Society's President Lord Taylor of Holbeach and an introduction by Chairman Dick van den Broek, the evening included a speech by the Duke of Gloucester, also on behalf of Princess Beatrix. A number of Members and guests was presented to the Royal Guests of Honour in the magnificent King's Gallery and King's Drawing Room. It was a splendid evening in content and atmosphere that seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended. Members were free to download photos of this memorable night for personal use.

The Interpreter from Java by Alfred Birney was discussed by our ANS Book Club. A superb novel about a crucial chapter in Dutch and European history. *The Long Song of Tchaikovsky Street* by Pieter Waterdrinker has been scheduled for next year.

We continued our programme with a guided tour of the permanent collection at the

Courtauld Gallery in Somerset House and a visit to the Van Gogh's exhibition *Self Portraits*. This first ever exhibition dedicated to the self-portraits by the artist was much appreciated.

In May we enjoyed a day-trip to Salisbury and see the Salisbury Cathedral transform into a floral wonderland. ANS Member Dame Rosemary Spencer invited us to discover this medieval city which is best known for its history, wonderful architecture and magnificent flower festival.

We were pleased to see many of you at the Inns of Court guided walk. Together with Blue Badge guide and barrister Tom Hooper we explored the heart of legal and illegal London and visited the capital's Inns of Court where the wigged and gowned English Barristers have lived and trained since medieval times surrounded by ancient rites and customs.

On 8 September, just before our drinks reception at the Reform Club, the sad news arrived of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In consultation with our President it was decided to go ahead with the event. Some 30 people were able to meet over a successful drinks reception for new Members, Members and their guests. Guest Speaker Professor Martijn Zwijnenburg (UCL), Chair of DANinUK (Dutch Academic Network in the UK) talked about the social and professional network for Dutch nationals working in Higher Education and (academic) research institutions in the United Kingdom.

As a mark of respect to The late Queen it was decided to reschedule our special guided walk of Kensal Green Cemetery of 10 September.



In October we visited Two Temple Place, one of London's hidden gems. This dazzling neo-Gothic building on the Victoria Embankment was commissioned by and built for American businessman and politician William Waldorf Astor as his estate office. On our guided tour we learned about the history behind the place, the Astor family story and the building's stunning ornamentation.

Early November the postponed guided tour of one of the most fashionable Victorian burial grounds was re-staged. With great passion, Henry Vivian-Neal, Chief Guide of the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, introduced us to some of the many famous (and infamous) figures buried within this great necropolis.

We also look back on a successful Members' Dinner. The demand for our ever-popular traditional annual dinner at the Reform Club was very strong this year. The event was fully booked but we managed to accommodate all

who wished to come. Some 75 members attended the evening with guest speaker H.E. Joanna Roper CMG, British Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, who talked about the bilateral relations between the United and the Netherlands.

Our final event for 2022 was our Annual General Meeting which was held in-person again at the Carpenters' Company Livery Hall. The AGM was preceded by an optional tour of the ceremonial rooms of the Hall by the archivist. The formal meeting was followed by a drinks reception generously offered by the Carpenters'. The Carpenters' Company is a City of London Livery Company and was established to provide support and regulation to the carpentry trade and were granted their coat of arms in 1466. The Carpenters' have strong past connections with the Dutch Royal Family and they are also a Corporate member of our Society. Some of their Liverymen participated in our events this year.

Our events programme will continue to be vibrant. We have some very special treats lined up, with a preview of some of them in the November E-NEWS and this Newsletter.

We will start the new year with a virtual art history talk on Dutch painter Carel Fabritius, painter of the *Goldfinch*, by art historian and ANS Member Clare Ford-Wille. We will explore the context and meaning of the world-renowned painting and its creator.

In February Harrow School, a famous public school in northwest London opens its doors for a group of our Members for a private guided tour. The tour offers a chance to get a behind-the-scenes look and learn about its history.

We are delighted that, after a three-year interruption due to Covid, Unilever has generously offered to host our traditional Unilever Lecture again, in mid-March. Due to some modifications at the stunning Skyline Restaurant on the 8th floor the format of the evening will be different from previous years.

Preparation has started for a visit to the Netherlands in May 2023. We shall be focussing on the area around Arnhem with visits to the Commonwealth War Graves, the Airborne Museum, the Kröller-Müller Museum, possibly Palace Het Loo in Apeldoorn and a guided tour followed by dinner in the historic centre of a former Hanseatic town on the river IJssel.

All forthcoming events will be announced in our E-NEWS, Newsletter, website and social media platform Instagram. Please do keep an eye on your inbox for the latest updates.

Thank you all for your continuing support, positive feedback, interesting ideas and suggestions.

Whether in-person or online we look forward to welcoming you again soon.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2023.

Events Committee

Bilateral relations between the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, from a British perspective

Report by Arend Dijkers on the Annual Members' Dinner at the Reform Club on 18 November 2022



Where else will one find on a November night an event honoured by the presence of not just one, but two ambassadors of neighbouring countries other than at the Anglo-Netherlands Society's Annual Members Dinner at the stately Reform Club on Pall Mall?

Council Chairman Dick van den Broek graciously welcomed members at the entrance to the, perhaps not so aptly named for this evening, "Strangers Room". He recounted the first time he had arranged for bitterballen to be served at the Club, with special permission: "I had to tell them exactly how to cook them in order to stay firm...".

Immediately noticeable was the wide range of age groups happily chatting away over a glass of wine or beer. Clearly, a testimony to the huge interest in the Society's activities and the popularity of this particular annual dinner.

Ushered upstairs for the meal, one enjoys the ornate, classical Italian saloon and the monumental staircase. It becomes easy to imagine actually being in the Palazzo Farnese, which inspired the front façade of the Club in the 1830s.

The gold leafed Library is a lovely setting for this dinner and speeches. Robert Brooke, former chair of the Society commenced with the Grace, followed by a brief word of welcome by the Chairman before the courses were efficiently and imperceptibly served by the Club's staff.

The composition of tables, as always, demonstrated the wide geographic reach of our Society. Ours was, to paraphrase the title of that famous film: "Dutch in London", "British in London", "Dutch in London & Holland" (yes, the province), "Dutch in Switzerland" and "An American in London."

At the main table, of course, the Chairman of the Society and hosts, Dick and Victoria van den Broek, as well as the President, the Rt Hon the Lord Taylor of Holbeach and Lady Taylor. Sir Michael Perry GBE and Lady Perry completed the ANS party. Guests of honour were Her Excellency Ms Joanna Roper CMG, British Ambassador to The Netherlands and her spouse, Thomas Drew CMG, Director General, Defence and Intelligence at the FCDO. Joining them was His Excellency Karel van Oosterom, Netherlands Ambassador to the United Kingdom and his spouse Anna, also honourable guests.

Over coffee with chocolates, as Dick said with typical Dutch frugality, "Chocolates purchased tax-free at Schiphol" before he invited the British Ambassador to deliver her address. In a brief eulogy of the late Queen Elizabeth II, she highlighted the great contribution Her late Majesty had made to the close relationship between both countries. As to current status, the British Ambassador noted that two days before Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Netherlands Wopke Hoekstra met with U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly for the inaugural UK-Netherlands Strategic Dialogue in the margins





of the North Sea Neighbours bilateral conference. This was the first such meeting since the U.K. left the European Union and indeed in that context the countries are “working together ever more closely”.

The Ambassador further touched on several areas of cooperation between the nations, including British-Netherlands training to Ukrainian armed forces, the size of our trading relationship, shared values such as human rights, the condemnation of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the International Court of Justice and issues like the recent Dutch court verdict in the trial of the downing of MH17. On the environment, Ms Roper praised The Netherlands’ commitment to emission reductions by 2025 citing Dutch expertise in sustainable transport. Last but not least, the Ambassador celebrated the vibrancy and variety of interaction between the two peoples.

Lord Taylor responded briefly to the speech of Ambassador Roper. With a “goedeavond” he greeted all. Reminding us of the 102 years since ANS founding, it remains an outstanding example of friendship and enduring bonds between these North Sea neighbours far above the “mutual love for cheese and not being made of sugar (Niet van suiker gemaakt). The toast was “to The King” and “to The King of the Netherlands”; a new era with a King in both countries, not seen since the 1800’s.

Questions from Members covered a wide range of subjects such as the level of cooperation of the armed forces, crime, education exchanges and the effects of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. The Ambassador ended this session with a light-hearted comment about buying a raincoat for her bike. A good ending to her presentation.

With Dutch punctuality, the formal proceedings finished at 22:15. All that was left for Dick was to thank the guest of honour and give his favourite book as a token. The Council Chairman had cleverly set us up: he presented “Britannia; 100 documents that shaped a nation.” In Anglo-Dutch relations, he handily pointed out on page 168 the “Immortal Seven letter to William of Orange” of 1688, the prelude to the Glorious Revolution. In his closing remarks, he called for a more friendly revolution: that of the younger generations getting opportunities to increase communication and co-operation between the countries. He called for more university exchanges, more trips for youngsters to the other country and eventually for them to take up the mantle of working towards solutions on the climate crisis and diminishing the threat of nuclear weapons.

In all, it was a typical, good spirited Anglo-Dutch evening with bitterballen, beer, wine and soft drinks, a gezellig dinner and a frank exchange of ideas.

Looking forward to the next one in 2023.



Legal London: The Inns of Court

Report by Ludolph van Hasselt on our guided walk, Thursday 25 August

We woke in the middle of the night as the heavens opened. Judgement Day had arrived with our afternoon appointment at the Inns of Court. But we were innocent. At the allotted time the clouds parted and a benevolent sun shone down on our party. We were ready to be enlightened.

In fact, we were not the accused, nor even neutral bystanders, but the jury, about to be addressed by the Barrister for the defence, Mr. Tom Hooper MBE. Concentration was required and a sharp mind. No easing up until the case was argued. We were the privileged audience of a highly capable communicator and motivator. At times Tom addressed us as a group, or he would move forward and fix one of us with his gaze, pulling us deeper into history, into the story, of which we were now fully a part.



Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple and Middle Temple harbour some of the most picturesque, least changed and historically fascinating places. Their time-locked lanes and tucked away squares, gardens or fields have witnessed and indeed influenced some of the most important events in English history. They remain a relatively little explored part of London, behind their sturdy wooden gates that keep the outside world and the modern age at bay. Steeped in history and the sheer magnificence of the surroundings combine to make the Inns of Court such an absolute joy to discover. Many, famous or infamous, trod their flagstones.

This is history in action. The Inns of Court

were created as places where barristers would live and work. They are situated outside both the City of London and the City of Westminster in what were open fields, away from medieval hustle and bustle and pests. Nearby are the Royal Courts of Justice, which were moved for convenience from Westminster Hall to the legal quarter of London in 1882. Thankfully none of us ended up "On Carey Street"; at least not yet. Dickens might have done, had he not kept moving on (living near Gray's Inn at one stage).

History created a system of barristers as a monopoly on the representation of defendants in court and a monopoly in selecting and training future barristers. This monopoly has slowly eroded through reforms: the Inns of Court no longer provide all the education needed by prospective barristers; solicitors can selectively gain the right to plead in court. Yet the Inns of Court remain a unique cluster of legal expertise.

The structure of Chambers can be gleaned from the rows of names by their front doors, including the Clerk, who has traditionally done very well from his role of distributing cases within Chambers. On the other hand, taking recent media reports as a starting point, the Criminal Law system (as against Civil Law) faces serious financial challenges and with that challenges to its proper functioning.

Presenting a legal case in court not only requires an intimate knowledge of the law, but an ability to focus on the winning arguments in a case and an ability to communicate convincingly. Dining in Halls has been an important tradition: it gives young aspiring barristers the opportunity to learn debating with more senior and experienced members; as well as to get to know one another, important for independently operating, sole traders.

The architecture of the Inns of Court is akin to a cathedral with cloisters, the only reference point in medieval times. Now they present a wonderful timeline of evolving architectural tastes through the ages. Each new style is built next to the previous one; juxtapositions, which



now blend in perfectly. Lincoln's Inn especially presents an opportunity to witness this collection of styles to be seen from a single view point.

The original church of the Knights Templar still stands in the Inner Temple, having survived a WWII bomb dropped through the roof into its centre (leaving havoc inside, but preserving a near perfect structure). A commemorative Millennium column in the Inner Temple caused uproar: the rear of the horse carrying two knights points towards the Middle Temple (which itself only managed a meagre fountain as memorial). The Hall of the Middle Temple was restored with American money: a relationship going back to the founding of the USA as Middle Temple barristers helped draft its constitution. Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" was commissioned and premiered here with the "Virgin (.umph) Queen" as guest.

Lincoln's Inn fields contains an old execution ground, where the convicted would be hung, drawn and quartered. A great spectacle of the day. Did we get value for money of a long drawn out process witnessed from our prime seats; or did the executioner "pull the leg" of the condemned to speed up the end? Those were the days!

Members' Reception

Report by Paul Dimond

Moments before the start of the Society's reception on 8 September, the news of deepest sadness arrived of the passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As guests were already assembling in the Strangers' Room at the Reform Club and after consultation with our President, we took the decision to go ahead with the event, although inevitably the news cast an enveloping pall over the evening. Lord Taylor reflected right away to the assembled Members the Society's extreme sadness and our recognition of all Her late Majesty had done over so many years to define the bilateral relationship. We sent soon after a condolence message to the Palace on behalf of the Society.

Of the about forty Members who had registered for this event, including a number of new ones, some thirty actually attended. We were pleased to welcome Professor Martijn Zwijnenburg of UCL as our Guest Speaker. He most helpfully described the activity of DANinUK, the Dutch

academic network he chairs. A few of his DANinUK colleagues also joined us, adding to the opportunity for Members to learn more of what they did and for us all to appreciate the significant presence of Dutch academics in British universities across a wide range of disciplines. There seemed much enthusiasm for this new linkage for the Society, as well as the opportunity for networking in person in the inspiring atmosphere of the Reform Club. Your Council hopes further to develop our links with DANinUK and, in some outreach into the Netherlands, to explore the practicality of developing new connexions with British academics operating in universities there.



Two Temple Place

Report by Rutger Beelaerts on our private guided tour

On Monday October 3 a select group of ANS members met for a guided tour of Two Temple Place. It was my second outing with ANS since joining this summer. The first one was Legal London – The Inns of Court guided walk on Thursday 25 August, which finished at the Temple Inns of Court across the street from Two Temple Place. Hence, it felt as a logical continuation of our journey through London.

Two Temple Place was built for the American businessman and politician William Waldorf Astor as his estate office at the end of the 19th century. He was one of the wealthiest people on earth at the time. He made most of his money with real estate in New York. However, he had clearly not felt in love with the city and moved to the UK to avoid it. In his new home country, he needed this estate office to manage several properties in the UK and his business interests in the USA. He had good taste. The result is definitely a gem on the Victoria Embankment.

He picked a secluded location between the Thames, which was recently narrowed to make room for a sewer and the District Line (which we can still appreciate today) and the Strand. I like learning these facts about my new

hometown. The building is on the eastern corner of the Victoria Embankment Gardens. It was built in neo-Gothic style, which is easy to recognise. On top, it has a golden sailing boat as wind vane, which you can see better in a neighbouring office window than from the street.

Indoors, you can admire the woodworks. There is no furniture, because the space is often let for events and used for exhibitions. Downstairs we started in the clerks' office. Even though it was built at the time of Dickens, it felt very different: light and spacious with a beautiful view of the Thames. You get the impression that he treated his staff well.

To get to his own offices upstairs, we used an amazing wooden staircase. Along the stairs there were statues of the Three Musketeers and on top freezes of four Shakespeare plays. Admittedly we needed some help to guess which ones. Upstairs we first viewed his more intimate private office. Through a secret door, which was not made for a Dutchman of 1.98m, we entered his grandiose public office. He had paid a lot of attention to detail. Unfortunately, this room was partly damaged during the war, when the office building next door was



bombed. Luckily most was restored.

During the visit I failed to discover any connection with The Netherlands. Clearly, that is not required for ANS events. I can highly recommend visiting Two Temple Place. You can either book your own private tour or visit one of the exhibitions from January through April see: <https://twotempleplace.org/>

Kensal Green Cemetery

Report by Julie Shelton on our private tour, 5 November

Our tour had originally been scheduled for September 10th, but had been postponed following the death of HM the Queen. A glorious Autumn had followed, but those seemingly endless balmy days had just the previous week given way to wet and dreary weather. Furthermore a national rail strike, although called off at the last minute, had scuppered plans for some hopeful participants and seriously inconvenienced others. So far, so inauspicious, but nothing daunted, and equipped with waterproofs, umbrellas and a spirit of adventure, our plucky band assembled on the steps of the crumbling Grade 1 listed Anglican chapel which stands at the heart of the Cemetery of All Souls at Kensal Green, there to meet our guide.

Henry Vivian-Neal is the Chief Guide of the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, a group of volunteers dedicated to the preservation of this "national Valhalla". Kensal Green is the oldest of the 'magnificent seven' cemeteries created in the 19th century to accommodate the needs of London's rapidly expanding population, the mainly Elizabethan burial grounds in the city having become inadequate, both in terms of capacity and on public health grounds. So it was that Kensal Green welcomed its first resident in 1833 and has been operating uninterrupted ever since.

Once we had absorbed this background history, Henry, accompanied by fellow guide Irina, led us on a tour of just parts of the 72-acre site which boasts some of the most magnificent funerary monuments in the country – 150 listed buildings and monuments – and whose residents include in their number some 650 who are listed in the Dictionary of National Biography. The cemetery first became a fashionable place to be

buried thanks to Royal patronage when the Duke of Sussex, Queen Victoria's favourite uncle, decided that he would be laid to rest there (in 1843) at the top of the central avenue, followed across the way in 1848 by his sister Princess Sophia and then, in 1904, by the Duke of Cambridge, first cousin to Queen Victoria and Commander-in-Chief of the British Army for almost forty years.

With a great passion for his subject and boundless enthusiasm, Henry introduced us to some of the other residents, including many well-known historical figures such as engineers Sir Marc Isambard Brunel and Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the mathematician Charles Babbage, the novelists Wilkie Collins, Anthony Trollope and William Makepeace Thackeray,

Lord Byron's wife, Oscar Wilde's mother, Charles Dickens' in-laws, the surgeon who attended Nelson at Trafalgar, the creator of Pears Soap, the original WH Smith, the tight rope walker Blondin and the Savoyard George Grossmith (brother of Weedon Grossmith and with him co-author of the "Diary of a Nobody"). We also encountered James Barry, a great medical pioneer, found only post mortem to be a woman. One of the better known recent arrivals was the playwright and Nobel Prize winner Harold Pinter.



In our perambulations we learned too of the catacombs beneath the Anglican chapel, able to accommodate 6000 'deposits', and of the coffin lift – one of only three in the country – which enables a smooth transit from the chapel to the catacombs below. Henry also taught us about Egyptomania and the symbolism sported by those mausolea built in the Egyptian style. We witnessed the results and responses to damage caused by vandalism and climate, and heard about efforts to thwart body-snatchers.

As dusk descended and the rain started to fall, the gloom and the tranquillity were pierced by the sudden flight of a flock of parakeets, a reminder that life abounds in that place. The overgrown plots and tumble-down monuments not only make for a romantic backdrop but also provide a haven for wildlife: three species of bats have been detected there, and half of all English species of butterfly.

Retreating indoors, our final stop was in the Dissenters' Chapel before we enjoyed warming and welcome refreshments in the Friends' Room. By then darkness had fallen. We left through the imposing entrance, returning to ordinary life after an afternoon walking through history.

Anglo-Netherlands Society Financial Review

by the Honorary Treasurer, David Glassman

The Society's Council Members' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2022 have been posted on the website and were approved by members at the annual general meeting on December 8.

The accounts portray a picture of a thriving membership organisation with a firm financial foundation, a rising membership number and stable subscription rates.

There was a healthy surplus of over £7,000 on continuing activities – about £1,000 less than the previous year in which we received a £1,000 legacy. Out of that surplus, Council allocated a final £1,600 to the Centenary Designated Reserve to cover the remaining costs of the Centenary celebrations. This left over £92,000 in our General Reserve.

The total net cost of the Centenary activities was £21,000: £7,000 on the Book, North Sea Neighbours (of which we still have stock available to purchase – as many are still doing – and further income will accrue from those future sales) and £14,000 on the reception. Both projects benefited from the generosity of members, individual and corporate, and the manner in which the reception suppliers honoured their commitments, some interpreting contractual terms in our favour.

The Society maintained the low subscription rates for the year and Council intends to hold these at the same

level for the sixteenth consecutive year in 2023. We prefer to keep our basic subscription levels as low as possible to keep the (financial) barrier to join as low as possible; Members pay extra when participating in our events though we offer some free of charge.

Subscription income generated £10,600 in the year ended April 30 2022 and continues the pleasingly-rising trend of recent years as more Members join. Once again, the numbers of joiners exceeded the number of Members resigning for various understandable reasons.

Subscriptions fund our basic administration costs, the cost of communication with members and the ANS awards to winners of the prizes on the Dutch programmes at University College London and Sheffield University.

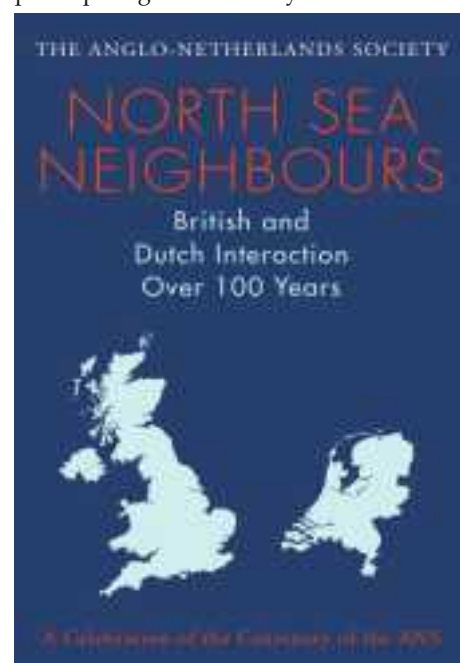
The income from events was considerably higher than in the previous year because of the centenary reception but the other offerings in a diverse and full programme almost broke even. The Unilever Lecture, with its financial advantage, has been deferred until Spring 2023 and Council is grateful to Members who allowed the sums they paid for the postponed lecture in 2020 to remain with the Society.

Our administration costs were cut back immediately Covid-19 caused activities to be curtailed and have continued at a much-reduced level. Throughout, we

have been supported by our most willing Administrator and much voluntary input from Members. We remain hugely grateful to HE the Ambassador for our use of accommodation at the Embassy and his warm hospitality.

The income from investments was lower, reflecting market rates, but should be higher in 2023 as the volatile financial markets seem to be moving in our favour. We have a higher proportion of our free funds invested though always covered under the government's guarantee scheme.

With the finances secure, Council is delighted to be able to offer another full programme to Members over the coming year and it hopes that they will enjoy participating in the Society's activities.



Subscriptions 2023

by the Honorary Treasurer, David Glassman

Council is pleased to announce that subscription rates for 2023 will remain unchanged, for the 16th year running. Our subscription year is based on a calendar year and we would be most grateful for payments early in 2023 from those Members who do not pay by standing order. That is the most used method of payment and our preferred method for economic reasons and administrative ease.

An annual standing order mandate can be set up easily through your bank account with the due date of 2 January, 2023 and each subsequent year. The account number of the Anglo-Netherlands Society is 05409845 and the NatWest branch sort code is 50-41-02.

Alternatively, we would appreciate an interbank transfer (details above) rather than a cheque mailed to the office address, although the latter remains an option.

Invoices are not routinely sent to individual Members, but if you need one or if you have a query, please email to administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk and we will try to help.

Our membership numbers continue to increase and Council would like to see that trend grow further. Family members and friends with interest in Anglo-Dutch matters who can identify themselves in the Aims and Objectives of the Society (see back page) are most welcome. Just provide the Administrator with names and addresses and we will send them a sample copy of our Newsletter.

Subscription rates for 2023:

| | Greater London area* | Country* |
|---|----------------------|----------|
| Joint membership ** | £30 | £25 |
| Single membership | £23 | £20 |
| Members under 35, irrespective of location: | | |
| Single | £10 | |
| Joint | £15 | |

We offer a reduced subscription for those who join during the course of a subscription year.

* The Country rate is available for Members whose address is outside a circle with radius of 50 miles from Hyde Park Corner.

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

Dutch Merchants in King's Lynn 1660 - 1760

Dr Paul Richards, author of 'the History of King's Lynn', published 1990, and a former Mayor of King's Lynn

A unique and fascinating insight into the Dutch presence in King's Lynn in the 17th century is provided by The Journal of William Schellinks' Travels in England (1661 -1663). This Netherlandish artist was accompanied by a merchant called Jaques Thierry and his teenage son Jacobi. They arrived in England two years after the Restoration of Charles II when optimism prevailed for good Anglo-Dutch relations, despite the recent war between the two nations (1652 -54).

Schellinks and his two companions arrived in King's Lynn on horseback from Cambridge on 7 October 1662; the next day (Sunday) they attended the morning



service at St Margaret's Priory Church. In the afternoon the trio were given a town tour and walked to one of the local sawmills where "the Dutchman there was very ill and we visited him at his bedside".

On 9 October in the morning William and his friends called on Mr de Jongh of Rotterdam who was "a Dutch merchant who lives in King's Lynn and met there also a Mr Kruyt from Rotterdam" and were "treated" to drinks by de Jongh. It is probable that Messrs de Jongh and Kruyt resided in King Street which had the grandest merchant houses.

Later on 9 October Schellinks and his companions were guests at the Town Hall for the annual mayor making which civic ceremony the artist describes in some detail. The new mayor was John Burd. This 15th century building had been the home of the Holy Trinity Guild until 1548 and today remains the hub of the town's civic life.

Still later the same day William was at the King's Head in Tuesday Market Place which great inn sadly no longer exists. Here he visited Mr de Jongh. They were joined by Mr Kruyt and Mr Anthony Slade with Mr Blauw "who had come over with us from Holland on the packet boat and we drank their health". The King's Head was the principal hub for the

business and social life of the merchant community.

On 10 October Schellinks and his friends accompanied Dirck de Jongh and Mr Kruyt to the new mayor's house across the river Great Ouse at West Lynn. They were fascinated to see the King John Cup and King John Sword which remain the town's most famous civic treasures. It should be noted that the former was made circa 1440 and the latter circa 1540 so they had no direct connection to King John who died in 1216!

After their midday meal William tells us that they climbed up the lantern on the crossing of St Margaret's Priory Church to view the town and harbour no doubt guided by the mayor. Unfortunately, the lantern had to be demolished

after the Great Gale of 8 September 1741, which caused the steeple on the south-west tower to crash into the nave. The present nave was constructed in the 1740s using recycled stone and other materials.

William Schellinks and companions departed King's Lynn at 1 o'clock on 10 October to ride to Norwich.

The riverside streets with their impressive merchant houses and warehouses tell the visitor that the Wash port has a rich maritime past. King Street was called Chequer Street until 1809 and is the town's grandest historic thoroughfare. St George's Chambers or 27 King Street was described by The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in 1945 as "quite outstanding" and as good as many Georgian mansions in London and Bath.

During the 16th and 17th centuries the property was a timber framed building with a large hall open to the roof running back from the road and probably with a shop in the shorter street range. Behind the hall range or main living space were warehouses, maltings, yards and gardens abutting on the riverside quay where ships moored. Then two Dutch merchants from Rotterdam successively transformed the house.

Hubert Vinckesteijn (1638 - 1708) was a distiller from Rotterdam who rebuilt the rear range of 27 King Street in classical style circa 1700. This two-storey brick building with fine sash windows replaced the medieval hall. Both Hubert and his

wife Martha are buried in St Nicholas Chapel which is England's largest parochial chapel just to the north-east of the nearby Tuesday Market Place.

Jacob Flierden (1660 - 1722) resided at 9 King Street from 1703 until his death when his daughter Martha and her husband Richard Kett inherited the house and the maltings behind. Jacob was another distiller and banker as well as a Quaker. His Quaker son Hubert carried on the family business from 27 King Street. He owned three ships which would have taken cargoes from Lynn to Rotterdam and back (rapeseed or linseed for its oil and glass bottles were exported to Holland).

It was Hubert Flierden who rebuilt the front or street range of 27 King Street in



the 1730s. It is two and a half storeys of five bays and the fine limestone skin was added in 1739. The door has a segmental pediment on corinthian columns and the pedimented windows have 18th century sashes. The property had become an exceptional house whose modern classical architecture contrasted with the vernacular or timber framed building which had previously occupied the site. The original balustrade visible from the street disappeared around 1900 but was remade from photographs by the Borough Council in 1995.

Hubert Flierden died in 1755 and his wife Susannah in 1762 when the house was sold for £1390 to a wine merchant and banker named Benjamin Nuthall. The whole property still included warehouses, maltings, cellars, coal yards and gardens with a wharf on the river Great Ouse. Today 27 King Street is listed grade II* and accommodates small businesses and flats.

*Dr Paul Richards, DL, FSA©
King's Lynn*

ANS Awards 2022

by Susanne Lap, Chair of the Adjudication panel

These Awards, which were created by the Society “to further the promotion of interests in common between the United Kingdom and The Netherlands”, have been going for more than 10 year and will continue to support Universities which offer degree courses In Dutch Studies. If any member of the ANS would like to join the Adjudication Board or has any suggestions they can write to me at Susanne.Lap@gmail.com.

Earlier this year we announced the contributions by Sheffield second year students; the winning essay is by Poppy Mainwaring: “From Fortuyn to Wilders”. The Sheffield Podcast team consisting of Beth Speakman, Emma Halliburton, Natalia Rowe and Alice Willet produced: “Remembering the Past: Visual Representations of Dutch Colonialism”.

The winning podcast is a lively discussion between students who review three artefacts with a colonial past and their context.

The students discuss a map of Africa from the collection ‘*Theatre of the World*’ from the Afrika Museum in Brussels, and two pieces from the Rijksmuseum: a painting by Nicolaas Pieneman, “*The arrest of Diponegoro*”, c. 1830-1835 and the “*Diorama of a Du, Dance Celebration on the Plantation*”, by Gerrit Schouten, 1830.

This podcast was part of a Dutch Module: Remembering the Past: Imagining the Future”, available at <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5c40ptuQBdsQXpLPxwS51A?si=5616153328f44edd> ; we hope you enjoy reading the essays and listening to the podcast!



From Fortuyn to Wilders: The Far-Right of the Tolerant Netherlands

The winning Awards essay from the University of Sheffield, by second year student Poppy Mainwaring

When we think of the Netherlands, what do we picture? A small, flat country; bicycles; windmills; fields of tulips; Anne Frank, maybe; marijuana and the red-light district of Amsterdam; and probably we imagine a very tolerant people. What many of us do not associate with this little country, which sits on the fringes of Europe, is a growing right-wing faction. Dutch politics, despite the country’s self-image as tolerant and welcoming, has taken a turn toward the right since the early 2000s, starting with the breakthrough of Pim Fortuyn’s anti-immigration party Lijst Pim Fortuyn in the 2002 elections.

This essay is going to examine the emerging radical (far) right of the Netherlands, discussing the Dutch relationship with multiculturalism, the political upheaval of the early part of this century, and then identifying specific key players within Dutch right-wing politics, with the intention of bringing to light some of its fascinating peculiarities.

Across the occident, the buzzword of the 1990s and early 2000s was ‘multiculturalism’, defined in the encyclopaedia Britannica as being “the view that cultures, races, and ethnicities, particularly those of minority groups, deserve special acknowledgment of their differences within a dominant political culture. Multiculturalism as a political philosophy became popular as a challenge to liberal democracy’s idea of the ‘melting pot’; in other words, multiculturalism challenged the idea that immigrants should all be expected to assimilate into the dominant culture of the country in which they live, rather their specificities should be embraced and they should be able to maintain their collective identities and practices.

Nowadays, the negative connotations of multiculturalism have become many, and the policy has faced significant challenges. The primary objection to multiculturalism is that it compromises the common good for the benefit of minority interest; some people also believe that it undermines the idea of equal individual rights, thereby it devalues the principle of equality. It also raises other questions, such as whether it may lead to competition between minority groups, thus further reinforcing the dominant culture. In the Netherlands, multiculturalism policies have been fluid over the past four decades, and there have existed multiculturalism discourses, as well as counter-discourses, throughout this period. It seems that it is this complicated relationship with multiculturalism from

which the Dutch radical right has emerged.

It began to grow clear towards the end of the 1990s that something had “upset Dutch collective wellbeing.” Issues began to arise during increased migration of asylum seekers to the Netherlands, and while they were facing problems with ‘guest-workers’ who had lost their jobs and now lived on welfare from the Dutch government. It was because of this unemployment among migrant workers that an underclass of (primarily Moroccan) youths who became involved in petty crimes began to grow and started to give immigrants a reputation for being criminals. In a 2004 survey, researchers found that 60% of autochthonous Dutch people felt anxious about the presence of ethnic minorities, with as many as 75% perceiving Muslim fundamentalism as a threat to Dutch society. This perceived threat of Islam had, of course, been amplified by the events of 9/11 three years prior to this survey, which had caused a wave of Islamophobia not just in the Netherlands, but all around the globe. Anti-Islamic ideas are not a recent phenomenon, however, as they have long existed in Western civilisation, fuelled by orientalist images of a barbarous, anti-Christian enemy. In early 2000s Netherlands, along with this wave of Islamophobia triggered by acts of terrorism across the Atlantic, Dutch society was feeling a great deal of fear for the future of their nation, and this became a major driving force in Dutch politics by the turn of the century. A section of the Dutch electorate felt threatened by globalisation, as they feared it would disturb their society.

The multiculturalism debate and the feeling of threat on Dutch society go some way in explaining the almost overnight success of Pim Fortuyn – one of the most infamous Dutch politicians – and his party Lijst Pim Fortuyn (hereafter known as LPF), which are a striking example of the rise of the far right in the Netherlands.

Pim Fortuyn became increasingly involved in politics – both local and national – throughout his career as an academic, and though he had been a Marxist while studying at university, he “followed a very common trajectory from the radical left to



neoconservative”, eventually joining the populist Leefbaar Nederland in 2001, leaving later the same year and subsequently setting up his own political party (LPF). Many political scientists classify Fortuyn and LPF as being on the far-right of the political spectrum, a faction that had previously represented only a marginal, though stable, amount of Dutch political society: Fortuyn exhibited a number of ideologies that can lead to this conclusion, with several quotes of his becoming infamous, for example, calling Islam “backward” and claiming that the Netherlands is “full” – ideas that many of us would associate with the politics of the far right. There are also arguments, however, that Fortuyn and his party were not actually on the far right, rather they filled (or exploited) a political vacuum that fell somewhere between the far right (who openly and vehemently opposed immigration), and the mainstream centre-right parties who declined to politicise immigration. So, some political scientists prefer to refer to them as the radical right, rather than the extreme right.

No matter how we refer to the LPF – as the radical right, or the far right – it is clear that Fortuyn was successful in his attempts to dispel concerns, felt by the public, that he made up part of the extreme right, using his charisma to do so. Fortuyn was able to be openly gay throughout his career, thanks to the famous Dutch tolerance, which was helpful when it came to his campaign. He was able to exploit his sexuality and use it to present his politics as simply common sense, using it as a kind of proof that he was tolerant, claiming his ‘intolerant’ views were born of a failure of multiculturalism in the Netherlands. The kind of racism and anti-Semitism which he fostered through his policies worked well in a country whose national identity is based off tolerance as it used the notion that certain immigrants (particularly Muslims) should be kept out, not because we are against them, but because they are too intolerant to be here. In other words, he used his identity as a gay man, an ‘outsider’ to present his ideologies as a defence of progressive Dutch politics against Islamic (and other) traditions, for example, using “I don’t hate Arabs, I sleep with them” as a response to an accusation of racism. This ability to dispel concerns of affiliation with the extreme right was important for Fortuyn’s success, as it seems to be for any right-wing party, as popularity for these parties is significantly higher for those who distance themselves from the fascist legacy in a post-holocaust world.

The success of Fortuyn and LPF was almost overnight: with its anti-crime and anti-immigrant policies, LPF gained a victory in local elections in Rotterdam in March 2002, ending the 80-year rule of the Dutch labour party. However, not long after this, Fortuyn was assassinated by Dutch man Volkert van der Graaf in a car park in Hilversum, on 6 May 2002. The Dutch public were divided by his death, and some of his followers attended van der Graaf’s trial in order to heckle him, though he was reported as appearing “relaxed and confident” in court. Van der Graaf admitted to the shooting claiming he did so to protect the Muslim communities in the Netherlands, who he felt were already being used as scapegoats, and who were facing higher and higher levels of islamophobia as a result of Fortuyn’s politics. Despite this assassination, the 2002 Dutch parliamentary elections went ahead on 15 May with a 79% turnout: LPF gained 17% of the vote and 26 seats in the Tweede Kamer, falling behind only the Christian Democratic Appeal (who won the elections that year). The party did not continue to enjoy victory for very long, however, as it collapsed within a year of the elections,

having failed to consolidate its place in Dutch politics.

No matter what your opinions of Fortuyn and his party may be, and no matter how short-lived their success, it has been made clear ever since 2002 that they “undoubtedly changed the Dutch political landscape.”

In part thanks to Fortuyn and his political agenda, the right-wing in the Netherlands remains prevalent in the Dutch political arena, and it is unified on the basis of anti-Islamic, anti-immigration, and anti-EU sentiments. Though the key players of the radical right are different from those of 2002, many of their characteristics remain the same: The Partij voor Vrijheid (hereafter known as PVV), led by Geert Wilders, is the leading force of the Dutch radical right, and arguably has been since its creation. Seemingly not as successful in elections compared to LPF (with only 15.5% of the vote in 2010), suggesting the support for radical right-wing politics in the Netherlands has not increased since the early 2000s, the party has been successful in consolidating itself into the Dutch political system, unlike Fortuyn’s party before it. Wilders himself has admitted that he was able to take many lessons from the failure of LPF and use them to his advantage when building the PVV. In doing this, he was able to develop a tightly organised party within four years. Even now, the PVV is showing a slow but steady increase in support in electoral polls in the Netherlands.

There is further evidence to suggest that right-wing politics in the Netherlands have been growing since Pim Fortuyn laid the groundwork in 2002. The current Dutch Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, despite belonging to the Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (a generally liberal party), has adopted some of the sentiments of the radical right: pleading in an open letter against *hufertigheid* (which loosely translates to obnoxious behaviour, with ‘of immigrants’ implied) which he claims “screws up” the Netherlands. The letter was focused mainly on outsiders, and he goes so far as to say, “people who refuse to adapt, and criticise our values, should behave normally or go away. This is a clear echoing of the values of Fortuyn, Wilders, and their respective parties, and it seems to be an attempt by Rutte to win back some of the vote from the PVV, appealing to these ever increasingly popular sentiments.

Dutch right-wing politics is unlike the political right elsewhere, with radical right parties led by charismatic personalities who appeal to the Dutch people with their radical points of view. Pim Fortuyn led the movement towards the right, ushering the tolerant Dutch people closer and closer towards his anti-immigration politics, luring them in with the illusion that his sexuality, and the status that it afforded him as an outsider capable of empathising with minorities, allowed them all to elide the reality of their anti-immigrant, Islamophobic policies. The ground was laid, and the status of the radical right as a legitimate political opponent was confirmed. Following the assassination of Fortuyn and the subsequent collapse of his short-lived party, Wilders took the opportunity to build off the back of its success, building the Partij voor Vrijheid in just a few years, gaining relative success in Dutch parliamentary elections. Right-wing sentiments remain pervasive in Dutch society and are no longer limited to just Wilders and his adherents but are seeping into the mainstream liberalist groups as well, with even Mark Rutte demonstrating such ideas. The prevalent ideas, those which are anti-immigration and largely xenophobic, continue to be obscured by a persistent assertion of tolerance, excusing their ideas as a defence of Dutch liberalism.

Analysing Dutch 1950s Memory Culture through its Monuments: the Case of Andriessen's Dokwerker

The winning Awards essay from University College London, by fourth year student Lucile Crumpton

Overstating the influence of Pierre Nora's *Lieux de Mémoire* (1984) on Amsterdam's negotiation with its past would be a challenging endeavour. Despite weak traditions in memory site-building, the Netherlands has adopted memory sites, both in the physical and abstract sense, as an integral component of its post-war commemoration of related events. In particular, the proliferation of memory sites dedicated to the Holocaust has continuously moulded Dutch collective imaginaries thereof. Examples abound. The present paper focuses its analysis on the City of Amsterdam's Dokwerker, created by sculptor Mari Andriessen in 1952 in memory of the February 1941 dock worker strikes. Specifically, it critically assesses the Dokwerker's controversial, partial representation of the Dutch resistance and the political, social, and discursive Zeitgeist in which the sculpture was erected.

Mari Andriessen's Dokwerker was mandated by the Council of the City of Amsterdam to commemorate the February 1941 strikes against Nazi violence towards Jews. The strikes occurred as a response to the deportation of 452 Amsterdam-based Jews on February 22nd, 1941, towards the German concentration camps of Buchenwald and Mauthausen, which was allegedly warranted by the "unrestrained attack" on German officials upon their arrival in a Jewish-owned ice-cream parlour on February 19th. In protest, Dutch dockworkers initiated a general strike on February 25th, which spread to the entire city within a day. While the strike was short-lived, coming to an end on February 27th at the request of Amsterdam's Jewish Council, this act of resistance vis-à-vis the Nazi regime remained unmatched in occupied Europe. In fact, historian Louis De Jong posits it as the only anti-pogrom protest that ever occurred during the Second World War in Europe. As such, the Dokwerker crystallises the post-war memory of Dutchmen's bravery and solidarity towards their Jewish counterparts, acting out of concern for human rights, equality and tolerance – in sum, "fulfilling their duty as human beings".

However, the Dokwerker undeniably presents a hyperbolic, politically-motivated picture of Dutch resistance. While it duly acknowledges the resistance's approximate 50,000 members' role in protecting Jewish citizens, it is also arguably the reflection of a top-down political goal to create a new, moral, dignified collective image of the Nederlander and, most importantly, restore national pride. To this end, the post-war government sought to nationalise the resistance movement, equating it with "the spirit of freedom [and morality] that supposedly characterised the entire Dutch nation. Exemplified by, and under the impulse of, Queen Wilhelmina's 1946 address to the nation, the idea that the entire city of Amsterdam had resisted Nazi policies pervaded the realms of art and memory. In this sense, Andriessen's sculpture mirrors a self-congratulating political objective. In line with James Young's stipulation that "official agencies are in the position to shape memory explicitly as they see fit, serving national interest", Deborah Dwork and Robert Jan Van Pelt argue that the Dokwerker acts above all as a tribute to Nederlandschap, effectively transferring the resistance spirit "from particular, subversive groups to the community as a whole". Conversely, failure to save 75% of the Netherlands' Jewish population, Dutch officials' involvement in violence against Jews and citizen collaboration are conveniently overlooked – again, reflecting the prevailing 1950s political narrative.

Another prominent and problematic feature of the Dokwerker is its Calvinist aesthetic. Indeed, the dock worker's proud pose is strongly evocative of Calvinist principles, namely that of the defence of human dignity, the duty to protect a fellow man and resistance to evil. On one hand, this may be interpreted as a tribute to



the Catholic and Protestant Churches' role in resisting Nazi oppression, notably that of grassroots organisations', individual priests' and local parishes' numerous, courageous initiatives to protect Jewish citizens. However, here again, the Dokwerker presents a very partial truth of the resistance: while some Christian structures indeed did demonstrate solidarity towards their fellow citizens, "postwar reports on the Hervormde Kerk show that in many parishes there was total silence over the attempts to deport Jews and that many pastors refused to take risks out of fear of German punishment" – a fear that, ironically, the valiant Dokwerker conceals, contradicts and even refutes. In short, Andriessen's Dokwerker provides a partial picture only of Calvinist values' role in the resistance.

Standing in stark contrast with this Calvinist aesthetic, the absence of Jewish imagery in the proud Dokwerker reflects the general disregard towards Jews' role in the Dutch resistance at the time of its erection. Again, this is politically and historically problematic. Certainly, as rightfully highlighted by Dwork and Van Pelt, the first three years of the war were marked by widespread passivity and accommodation, notably among Jews, as a result of expectations of protection from the Dutch Administration and the Jewish Council. However, while the

ANS Awards 2022 - the second leg

by Susanne Lap, Chair of the Adjudication panel

UCL students from various years entered this year's ANS Essay Competition and the panel read a varied bundle: a piece on the Belgian Revolution, on Politics of Home, another on Secularisation in the Netherlands and a piece on Memory Culture.

"I look forward to following this writer's career" is what one of the judges wrote of the winning essay. "Short, no ambiguity, clear", "Did exactly what it said on the tin", "Care has been taken of the essays' presentation and proofreading" wrote others.

UCL fourth year student Lucile Crumpton entered her essay as part of her module "Contemporary History and Culture of the Low Countries". Lucile graduated from UCL's European Social and Political Studies BA in September with first class honours and is currently enrolled at LSE studying for a MA in International Relations.

Her essay is titled: *Analysing Dutch 1950's Memory Culture through its Monuments: the Case of Andriessen's Dokwerker*.

The winner was announced at a live event kindly hosted by Mr Raoul Huysmans, courtesy of ANS Sponsor ING. All essays have been carefully submitted to the panel by Christine Sas, Associate Professor in Dutch Language and Linguistics, UCL.

February 1941 strikes were indeed mostly led by Dutch gentiles, the Dokwerker's lacking Jewish imagery fails to acknowledge Jews' role in the resistance. It conceals the fact that the proportion of Jews who participated in the broader Dutch resistance movement was "significantly higher" than that of the Christian population, and that "there is not a single form of general Dutch resistance in which the Jews did not play a prominent part". Rather, the Dokwerker mirrors the narrow 1950s definition of the resistance as that of a predominantly male, Christian endeavour. Lastly, it embodies gentiles' and officials' post-war demands that Jews display gratitude towards their predominantly Christian "saviours".

Worse still, for a memory site commemorating Jewish suffering, the Dokwerker shares strikingly little of the victim's perspective on Jewish discrimination. This is revealing of 1950s' memorialisation processes: indeed, until the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem in 1961, Jewish suffering and voices were largely ignored by the vast majority of the Dutch population and received minimal official acknowledgment. Because the entire Dutch population had arguably been made a victim of the Nazi Occupation, Jewish persecution was seldom perceived as unique. Instead, Jewish issues were simply treated as part of a broader discourse on Nazi violence, or used as an example thereof. As stipulated by Dwork and Van Pelt, "the history of the war was [primarily] seen as a battle between German suppression and Dutch resistance" all throughout the 1950s. The Dokwerker is thus merely an official expression of this dichotomy, which was only called into question at the start of the 1970s. National detachment from the Holocaust was such that the latter was even occasionally depicted as separate from Dutch history altogether. This idea is notably reflected in Abel Herzberg's "Kroniek der Jodenvervolgung, 1940-1945":

"The persecution of the Jews in the Netherlands, although it happened on Dutch soil, is not properly Dutch history. It did not arise from Dutch circumstances. One can even say with certainty that it could not have arisen from it."

This detachment is best explained by the government's post-war desire to equalise all members of Dutch society, and thus, break away from Nazi traditions of differentiation between Jews and gentiles. However, this detachment attempt from Jewish discrimination also sheds light on a substantial paradox in national policy: while Dutch resistance to Nazi violence was eagerly assimilated to national memory, the very events against which protests occurred were largely dismissed, and even minimized. As a result, the Dokwerker has become an emblem of the Netherlands' "post-war passion to create parity" and consequential overlooking of Jewish suffering, as well as that of post-war antisemitism.

To conclude, the Dokwerker presents a partial, politically-motivated and somewhat problematic picture of the resistance. The Dokwerker's predominantly Calvinist aesthetic, failure to credit Jewish participation in general resistance movements, its role in nationalising the resistance, and its lacking representation of the victim's perspective are highly revealing of the political, social and discursive Zeitgeist in which it was built; they shed light on the minimal public attention given to violence against Jews throughout the 1950s.



UK-NL North Sea Neighbours conference

by Paul Dimond

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) hosted the 2022 UK-NL North Sea Neighbours Conference in their historic Locarno Rooms on 16 November. The Society was represented by your Chairman, Dick van den Broek, and Hon Secretary, Paul Dimond. Against the background of recent changes in the global energy market, the Conference focused on energy transition and energy security. On the former, a breakout group moderated by Ruth Herbert of the Carbon Capture and Storage Association covered UK-Dutch partnerships on hydrogen and carbon capture and storage; on the latter another group moderated by Professor Michael Bradshaw of the Warwick Business School considered present and future challenges to European energy security and how the two countries could cooperate effectively across national and public/private sector boundaries to meet these challenges together. The afternoon session was a panel discussion on the bilateral relationship, focusing on the opportunities and risks in climate, energy transition and energy security following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, moderated by Antony Froggatt of Chatham House and Rem Korteweg of the Clingendael Institute, with speakers Anita van den Ende, Deputy Minister and Director General of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vijay

Rangarajan, Director-General of the FCDO, Sophie Guelff, Deputy Director of the National Security Secretariat, Cabinet Office of the Netherlands, Aad Correljé, Associate Professor of Politics, Economics and Energy Systems at the Delft University of Technology and Clara Semal, Commercial Director of BritNed Interconnector. In discussion there were references to likely energy supply



pressure in the UK in the winter of 2023/24; UK-NL interconnection; the development of small, modular nuclear reactors; and the geopolitics of energy.

The Conference, attended by some sixty Dutch and British participants, was opened by HE Ms Joanna Roper, HM Ambassador to the Netherlands. Ms Roper and HE Karel van Oosterom, Ambassador of the Netherlands and the Society's Vice-President, made the closing remarks, after which the Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, Foreign Secretary, and HE Wopke Hoekstra, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, gave keynote speeches. These immediately followed their bilateral talks and agreement of a joint statement on foreign, development and security bilateral cooperation that noted the sharing of historic ties of friendship, based on shared values and strong engagement on foreign policy and sustainable development, and focusing on multilateral cooperation, security cooperation, energy security, climate action, emerging security challenges, irregular migration, sustainable development and humanitarian assistance, strengthening diplomatic ties, and structuring our bilateral cooperation. The Conference was described as another milestone in UK-NL relations; overall it seemed that this was quite a week for the relationship.

Our participation in this at the invitation of the FCDO was useful to make a wider group of Anglo-Dutch practitioners aware of the Society and for our networking opportunity in the margins.

Carel Fabritius, online lecture

by Mrs Clare Ford-Wille, on a Thursday in January 7.30pm

Carel Fabritius was born four hundred years ago in February 1622, in Midden-Beemster, and, despite his early death at the age of thirty-two in the devastating gunpowder explosion which destroyed a third of the city of Delft in 1654, he is better known and admired than other painters who lived twice as long. There are less than twelve paintings attributed to Fabritius, but one above all has contributed to his reputation, which has gathered momentum since the later 19th century. It is of course The Goldfinch, which has gleamed from its prominent position on the wall in The Mauritshuis in The Hague since its acquisition in 1896 at a Paris sale by Abraham Bredius, the then director of the museum.

Despite much art historical detective work, two monographs, and an exhibition in 2005, little more has been discovered to explain the admiration of 'the many connoisseurs' described by Dirck van Bleyswijck above. What can be discovered about this artist and his small body of work, that undoubtedly shows his innovative and outstandingly fresh approach?

What are the possible connections with Vermeer? Certainly, the inventory of Vermeer's estate listed two works by Fabritius. Perhaps Fabritius most obvious influence upon Vermeer lies in his light and luminous colour. Although Fabritius does not seem

to have been known outside Delft, within the city he was much praised posthumously in the 1660s as being, together with Vermeer, the most outstanding painter of his time. In 1667 a poem by Arnold Bon, published by Van Bleyswijck, likens Vermeer to a phoenix, rising from the ashes of the fire that had consumed the renowned Fabritius. This gave rise to the misunderstanding that Fabritius was Vermeer's teacher. It was not until the 19th century when Theophile Thore (Wilhelm Burger) rediscovered Fabritius whose Goldfinch he owned.

The presentation will last about 60 minutes with Q&A. Cost £10 per screen. Please register by email via events@anglo-netherlands.org.uk

Clare Ford-Wille is an independent art historian and lecturer, who has lectured on European art, architecture, and sculpture for more than thirty years, primarily for the University of London, Morley College, The City Literary Institute, the V&A and other museums and art galleries. She leads study tours to Europe. Clare is an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck and Vice-President of The London Art History Society.



A Special (one-hundredth) Birthday for Selma van de Perre

by Heleen Mendl-Schrama

Introduction by Paul Dimond

At the AGM on 8 December, the Society announced that in recognition of her long-standing Membership of the Society and ongoing furtherance of the Anglo-Dutch relationship, even after her personal Centenary, the Society awarded Mrs Selma van de Perre an Honorary Membership of the Society. We have pleasure in including the tribute below by Mrs Heleen Mendl-Schrama.

One of our oldest and still active members, Selma van de Perre, celebrated her 100th birthday on 7 June 2022. Many of you will already know her personally or from a Zoom interview the Society arranged a while ago, as well as her life story from her book "My name is Selma", which has been translated in six languages and is a bestseller worldwide.

I met her first when we were both members of the Foreign Press Association many years ago. I did the proof reading on the first version of her book and I accompanied her for many years on her annual trip to Ravensbrück, her former concentration camp in Germany, where she lectured at an international forum of students, with three other survivors, two living in Israel and one in Hungary.

On her birthday itself her son Jocelyne had organized a reception for family and friends in Roehampton Golf Club. She played golf till she was 98 when her sight started to deteriorate and she has since been made an Honorary member of her Club.

I laid on a special lunch in my own Club, The Lansdowne, for Selma's fan-club the following day. The big moment

came when the waiters carried in the birthday cake with the name Selma and the figure 100 and a few candles. The staff sang "Happy Birthday", she blew out the candles, one of the waiters cut the cake, so that we all had a slice and it was delicious.

The many presents she was given at both those events were piled up in her room, and there was the telegram from The Queen of happy memory, which her son had framed and is now on the wall in her sitting room.

On 22 June I had invited Selma to Garsington Opera, to attend Dvorak's Rusalka, where I had booked seats on the stage platform, so that she could see as much as possible of what happened on stage and she could also watch the conductor, Douglas Boyd. She had already met him during a pre-performance drink's party. This fairy-tale opera was much to Selma's liking. During the long interval we joined the table of friends for dinner in the restaurant. At around midnight we delivered her back home.

On the occasion of her 100th birthday Selma had decided to sell her artwork. She is not only a best-selling writer, but also a wonderful painter and let three of her chosen charities benefit from the proceeds. So, together with Bertjan van de Lagemaat, Predikant at the Dutch Church, who arranged the Church as a venue for the exhibition and sale, and Suzanne Lap who helped with transportation of the paintings, we held an evening reception on 28 June. The Dutch Ambassador, H.E. Karel van Oosterom, and Bertjan welcomed the guests and I held a Q&A with Selma about her artworks.

I had initiated a second Exhibition and

Sale at the Lansdowne, which took the form of an Arts Talk Lunch where Selma Van de Perre was the subject, organized by Arts Director Stephen Taylor on 21 September. Some 40 members and guests attended. I introduced Selma's activities as a resistance worker in occupied Holland during World War II and her subsequent incarceration in Ravensbrück, a concentration camp for women, east of Berlin. After a delicious lunch the Arts Director interviewed Selma on her paintings and the reasons she took it up. Many members had had a chance to talk to her afterwards. She had enjoyed the occasion enormously. In the evening I had an e-mail from Stephen Taylor, saying what a fabulous day it had been and he thanked me for introducing Selma to the Club. Everybody seemed to love meeting Selma and the remainder of her paintings were all sold.

More recently Selma took part in the Chiswick Book Festival, where she was interviewed and answered questions and then signed copies of her book that had been sold. No doubt there will be more such events before long. Her birthday celebration was memorable and we hope there will be many more to come ...



from right to left: Selma, Heleen and Judith

Tour of Harrow School

from 2-4pm, on a Thursday in February

Founded in 1572 by Royal Charter under Elizabeth I, Harrow School counts amongst its Old Harrovians many notables including Benedict Cumberbatch, James Blunt, Nehru, King Hussein of Jordan and, of course, most notable of all, Sir Winston Churchill. Perched atop the hill, the spreading estate of some 300 acres is term-time home to 830 boys aged 13-18 from all over the world. From its prominent vantage point the site offers commanding views towards the city of London and yet, just 20 minutes on the Metropolitan Line from Baker Street, stands aloof from the sprawling metroland below. Miep, our guide, will conduct us on



a fascinating tour which will take in buildings representative of the oldest in the school as well as those from the expansion of the 19th century and modern developments. Our tour will conclude with tea/coffee and biscuits and an opportunity for conversation with our guide. Guests are welcome to join us as we glimpse into a youthful world where the past meets the future.

Cost: £17 per person, to include guided tour, refreshments and administration fee. Please register at events@anglo-netherlands.org.uk, background information at : <https://www.harrowschool.org.uk>

photo: Harrow Old Schools credit (c) HarrowSchoolEnterprises.

SIGNPOSTS

Janine Jansen, All-Stradivari Gala Concert, Cadogan Hall, 19 December 7.30pm.

Celebrated Dutch violin virtuoso Janine Jansen directs an ensemble of world-class musicians, performing on stringed instruments made by the greatest Italian luthier, Antonio Stradivari, in the inaugural concert of the Beare's International Chamber Music Festival.



Liza Ferschtman, Dutch violinist plays Bach, Wigmore Hall, 5 January 7.30pm & 6 January 7.30pm.

Unpublished until more than 50 years after Bach's death, his two sets of works for solo violin have challenged players ever since and indeed continue to serve as exemplars for subsequent composers attempting the medium.

Lucas Jussen piano and Arthur Jussen piano, Wigmore Hall, 23 January 7.30pm.

After directing a performance by the two Dutch brothers, conductor Michael Schönwandt described the experience as 'like driving a pair of BMWs'



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 objectives 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

The Rt Hon. Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE

VICE-PRESIDENT

H.E. the Netherlands Ambassador

COUNCIL

Dick van den Broek (Chairman)

Paul Dimond (Hon. Secretary)

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EVENTS COMMITTEE

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Marianne Denney Marietta Freeman Evelien Hurst - Buist

Marina Mathon - Clark Julie Shelton

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Carpenters' Company

This form of membership can be tailored to your requirements.

Members' page at www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk

username: removed password: removed

Members can download duplicate event registration forms and various other papers as follows: surf to the Members' Page, click the link for the required document, then enter the username and password in the relevant boxes in the pop-up window.

Alternatively, please request a paper copy from the Administrator.

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