

# 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](mailto:administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk)

Winter 2023 - 2024

*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*



Chelsea Pensioners waving in a New Year and welcoming us for our visit in February - Photo by Stefan Rousseau @ Alamy Stock Photo

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### New Members:

Mr Keith A.	Mrs Eileen M.	Dr Edward S. and
Ms Sara B.	Mrs Jennifer M.	Dr Fran S.
Mr David G. and	Mr Michael P. and	Mrs Priscilla S.
Mrs Christine G.	Mrs Jeannette P.-K.	Mr Vincent S.
Mr Neil H.	Lord (Aeneas) R. and	Mr Roy van R.
Mr Eric H. and	Lady (Mia) R.	Mr Michael W. and
Mrs Hannah H.	Mr Henk R.	Mrs Carol W.
Mr Rudolph M. and	Mr Michiel R.	

### Forthcoming events

The following events are confirmed, with approximate times. Please register now via [events@anglo-netherlands.org.uk](mailto:events@anglo-netherlands.org.uk)

**on a Wednesday in January around noon:**  
Private Guided tour of Freemasons' Hall

**Date in February to be determined:**  
Private Guided tour, Royal Hospital, Chelsea

# Chairman's message: some successes with our outreach programme !

We hope that this extended 16-page Winter newsletter will reach you just before Christmas. It contains a large variety of articles which you can read at your leisure. The contributions look back at some of the activities the Society organised for our Members during 2023, the AGM with some financial data, some describing events for the coming months and a few of a more general nature which we hope you may find interesting.

Our main event was the re-staged Unilever lecture in March after a gap of four years caused by Covid. In our hard copy Summer newsletter you will have seen some colourful photos which reflected the atmosphere and conviviality at this longstanding, annual highlight. We were also delighted to re-instate our regular, somewhat more extensive, visits to interesting places in the Netherlands or the United Kingdom. This year we focussed on the province of Gelderland in the more eastern part of the Netherlands. We started off with the tranquillity of the Oosterbeek Airborne War Cemetery and War Museum, followed by visits to other places of great interest in that province. Some memorable photos were published in our hard copy Summer newsletter.

During the second half of 2023 we offered some major events such as the private visit to the House of Lords, enjoyed the hospitality of our longstanding Patron Shell where Shell Director Huibert Vigeveno gave a stimulating update to us on energy transition, preceded and followed by drinks, and recently our annual Members' dinner at the Reform Club where Professor Geraldine Brodie was our Guest Speaker on the fascinating and important theme for us of "Dutch Crossings : an Anglophone meets Dutch language and culture." Reports on all these events in this newsletter, and more.

This newsletter also includes some of the financial data that was and discussed at our recent AGM. I would just like to mention that our membership continued to show some growth during 2023 although we experienced an unusual number of resignations. Our stall at King's Day celebrations outside the Dutch Church in the City of London in April stimulated substantial interest in membership of the Society and over the year we have been able to welcome more than 50 new members. There is always a natural attrition in membership, but the Society has in recent years been successful in making up for this. However, there is more potential, both within our existing membership through family and friends with interests in Anglo-Netherlands matters, and beyond. So, please spread the word about our Society; we shall be pleased to send some initial reading material.

Council itself has been working on a number of new initiatives within its Project Outreach which will hopefully not only lead to an even larger and broader membership, but also widen the activities of the Society in line with its Aims and Objects. We have established two new contacts with parties in the Netherlands. One of these is Maastricht University where we will establish an essay Award prize along lines similar to the arrangements already in place for quite some

years in the United Kingdom at Sheffield University and University College London (UCL - about which you will read more later on). Additionally, we have now developed a contact with a group of people in the Greater Amsterdam region with strong NL - UK interests. This collaboration will require further development, but certainly it has potential after the demise of Genootschap Nederland-Engeland, a sort of Dutch equivalent of the ANS, probably known to some of the older members of our Society.

Another new initiative this year has been the agreement with UCL whereby an ANS bursary will be set up within that university to support postgraduates in their Dutch Studies. You will have read more about this in the E-mail which we sent in October. The Society has committed itself to contribute £1250 p.a. for five years and in this E-mail we expressed the hope that our Members would match that figure through voluntary donations, in whatever form, either directly to a special ANS Bursary account at UCL or via the ANS office/accounts. Council is very pleased and thankful for the generous donations already received and hopes more Members will support this initiative.

We have started with a plan to update and modernise our website which would also include some new features. A small working group has been set up for and we are grateful for the suggestions already made by a few of our Members. If you have any suggestions, please let us know,

For a number of reasons we could only hold one meeting with the Advisory Committee during 2023, but at least a live one. We much value the experience and wisdom at the Committee, helping us to find new ways and means to further strengthen and widen the base of the Society. At our recent AGM we said farewell to Mrs Sylvia Knight in her role as member of this Committee, who has served the Society over many years and for which she was already made an Honorary Member last year.

Council met formally almost every month, either live or via Zoom, and the many events offered and other activities required regular contacts in-between. It was therefore with great regret that at the recent AGM we had to say farewell to Mrs Connie Sangster who for some twelve years had been a member of our Events Committee of which the last eight as Chair, and some six years as a member of Council. Her enthusiasm to come up with new ideas for events, implementing these in exemplary detail, has been much appreciated by Council and by many ANS members. She has been instrumental in our lively events programme and has supported Council in many other ways such as her monthly electronic e-News which has made communications with our Members much more regular and effective. This has all been tremendous for which the Society is most grateful. We are glad that Connie has agreed to stay on the Events Committee as a member for a while.

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 continued to focus his attention on the detail and with

professionalism on the two special hard copy newsletters issued this year. Our Events Committee has again done a wonderful job. Finally, a deeply felt thank you to my colleagues in Council. Their time and input into keeping the Society thriving in challenging circumstances, and coming up with new ideas, has been beyond duty. I am honoured to be a member of such a strong team. A final word if not a request: if you feel you would like to make a contribution to the activities of the Society as a volunteer, in whatever format, please let us know and I shall be very happy to discuss this further. We would welcome Members' suggestions to us in confidence on others who might be prepared to help us at Council or other voluntary roles.

I hope you will enjoy reading this extended Winter newsletter. May I wish you all a peaceful Christmas. We look forward to meeting you during 2024, either at our many live events or online.

Dick van den Broek, Chairman



## Instagram

Part of the Society's move on-line

The Society's Instagram account continued with its organic growth during 2023 and now has well over 300 followers and some 85 posts. It is a digital gallery full of experiences, events and achievements and more will follow next year. It also reminds Members of upcoming events. We hope more Members will join us on @anglonetherlandsociety on Instagram or mention the account to friends and family members who might be interested in Anglo-Netherlands relationships.

*Marina Mathon-Clark  
(member Events Committee)*



# The year in retrospect and looking into the future

Report by Connie Sangster on the year's events

As we reach the end of another year, we hope that despite the many uncertainties and troubles in the world, you are looking forward to a festive season in which you can enjoy some of the traditional pleasures and mark them with friends and family. With the ending of a year it is time to reflect on moments that have challenged or changed us. They are the backbone of the fresh page that starts tomorrow. Life moves on and so should we and think of new possibilities in the future.

Over the last year we have held a wide range of interesting events. We hope you were able to enjoy some of these. They included lectures and tours on art, architecture, the Unilever Lecture, a trip to the Netherlands, a visit to the House of Lords, a drinks reception at Shell and our popular Members' dinner at the Reform Club.

We welcomed some 400 members and guests to our in-person and online events this year.

In addition, we were able to recruit around 50 new members.

We started this year with an online history talk on Dutch painter Carel Fabritius, painter of the Goldfinch, by art historian and ANS Member Clare Ford-Wille. Fabritius was born four hundred years ago and, despite his tragic death, he is better known and admired than many other painters who lived twice as long.

In February Harrow School, a famous public school in northwest London, opened its doors for a group of our Members for a historical guided tour. The tour offered a chance to get a behind-the-scenes look and learn about its history, including its use as a film location for some very well-known films and TV series including Harry Potter and the Crown.

After a four-year absence it was wonderful to see many of our Members and guests at our 30th Unilever Lecture in March. Despite a train strike, the auditorium was almost fully packed with Members and guests enjoying Dr Imogen Tedburys presentation on the fascinating exhibition The van de Veldes Greenwich and the Sea at the Queen's House in Greenwich. The reception and lecture were followed by a lovely buffet supper with stunning views over the River Thames and Tower Bridge. A huge thank you to Unilever for their generous hospitality and their efforts turning this lecture into a delightful and memorable evening.

After this inspiring lecture we set sail for Greenwich and experienced the world's largest collection of two leading Golden Age marine artists. The exhibition marked 350 years since father and son van de Velde moved from the Netherlands to England and were granted a studio at the Queen's House by Charles II. A fascinating private tour by Mr Eri Heilijgers, expert on Dutch and English naval and military history, was very much appreciated by our group.

In glorious weather, a very large gathering of people, convened in and around the Dutch Church in London to celebrate "Kingsday",

(King Willem Alexander's birthday). The stall of our Society was visited by many with positive results since a large number of new applications for membership were received.

In May, an intrepid group of Members enjoyed a tailor-made tour to the eastern part of the Netherlands, organised and led by our Chairman. The location of the most pivotal moments of the Battle of Arnhem and other highlights of the Veluwe in the Province of Gelderland were visited.

In June Chiswick House and Gardens, one of the most glorious examples of 18th century British architecture and landscaped gardens was visited.

In Augustus a select group was treated to a perfect mid-summer visit to the world-famous Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. A highlight of the day was a guided tour through the gardens where knowledgeable guide Patricia Connor explained 260 years of history and horticulture.

September provided a much-appreciated visit to the House of Lords, kindly hosted and sponsored by our President Lord Taylor of Holbeach. A group of 45 Members was invited to step into the heart of British democracy and discovered the history and traditions of the



Dinner at the Reform Club in November. This annual event is a firm favourite in our calendar. Our guest speaker this year was Professor Geraldine Brodie, Vice-Dean (Advancement) for the UCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities and Professor of Translation Theory and Theatre Translation who talked about Dutch Crossings: an anglophone meets Dutch language and culture

Later in November Members were kindly invited to a private evening view at Bonhams, one of the world's largest and most renowned auctioneers of fine art and antiques. Specialists introduced the single-owner collection by Cornelis Paulus van Pauwvliet while enjoying a glass of champagne.

Our final event for 2023 was our Annual General Meeting which was held at the offices of Heineken, a corporate patron of the Society. The formal meeting was followed by a drinks reception generously hosted by Heineken. The AGM was preceded by an optional visit and talk at the nearby Cartoon Museum. The only museum of its kind in the UK dedicating to collection and displaying original British cartoons and comics.

Our events programme will continue to be vibrant. We have some 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 visit to the Freemasons' Hall. A good opportunity to explore more than 300 years of masonic history. In February we are planning a guided tour at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, an impressive 330-year old home, founded by King Charles II and designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It is the retirement home for British Army veterans (men and women) from all corners of the United Kingdom, who are recognisable by their red coats and black caps.

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 ongoing support, positive feedback, interesting ideas and suggestions. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2024.

Marianne Denney Marietta Freeman  
Evelien Hurst Marina Mathon-Clark  
Connie Sangster Julie Shelton

Events Committee



Selection of impressions from past year's events

House of Lords during an informative guided tour. After a private lunch in one of the Committee rooms, there was a unique opportunity to attend Question Time in the Lords. It was a truly memorable day and an exceptional experience.

We continued our programme with a drinks reception and presentation at the iconic Shell Centre on the South Bank, kindly hosted by Shell, a corporate patron of the Society. Guest speaker was Shell Director Mr Huibert Vigeveno, director for Downstream, renewables and Energy solutions, who talked about The Energy Transition.

In October we were fortunate to be introduced to the first major Frans Hals exhibition in thirty years at the National Gallery by curator Bart Cornelis. The retrospective included 50 paintings by the 17th-century Dutch artist who was a master of loose brushwork and lively portraits. We were reminded that Haarlem's famous son was one of the most sought-after painters of his generation.

We look back on a successful Members'

# The meeting of languages and cultures can help to make the world a better place

Report on the annual Members' Dinner at the Reform Club on Friday 17 November

A large number of our Members gathered again at the Reform Club on Pall Mall on this dark November night to enjoy another lovely dinner in the beautiful surroundings of this illustrious Club. Having been welcomed by our Council Chairman, Dick van den Broek, we enjoyed our first drink, "bitterballen" and spring rolls, meeting old friends and new ones, some of whom had only joined the Society recently. Having enjoyed this first part of the evening, we were led upstairs to the gold-leafed Library where the tables were waiting for us, laid out in the usual impeccable way, almost a familiar sight for quite a few of those present.

After a few words of welcome by our Chairman and the Grace by former Chairman Robert Brooke, the two courses were placed in front of us in an efficient and imperceptible way. When coffee and typical Dutch chocolates had been served, the Chairman invited our guest speaker to deliver her address, the title of which you will have seen in the heading of this report. For the interest and benefit of all our members, present at this dinner or not, we obtained Professor Brodie's approval to publish her address in full- see below.

**After-dinner address by Professor Geraldine Brodie at the Anglo Netherlands Society's annual Members' Dinner at the Reform Club on Friday 17 November 2023.**

"It is my pleasure to be invited to this congenial gathering in the wonderful surroundings of the Reform Club this evening. As your Chairman mentioned, I am Vice-Dean for Advancement in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities, and a member of the Faculty Executive Team. UCL is committed to working with external stakeholders and communities, so I am delighted to have the opportunity to tell you something about what we do this evening. I have been asked to speak about the teaching and study of Arts & Humanities in British Universities, Language and Area Studies at UCL, and the future of Dutch Studies at UCL.

But before I do that, I want to emphasize UCL's gratitude to the Anglo-Netherlands Society for its wonderful gift in the form of the ANS Bursary at UCL. This is the first major gift to Dutch Studies at UCL, so very much a cause for celebration on our part, especially in view of the long and parallel relationship between UCL Dutch and the Anglo-Netherlands Society, both of whom recently celebrated centennial anniversaries.

We were already very grateful for the essay prizes awarded by the Society for Dutch topics. I know from first-hand experience the added value that such a prize provides for students: not only recognition of work which sheds light on Anglo-Dutch interactions but also seeing it in print gives the recipients confidence and reassurance to take their ideas further; plus, valuable support for their resumés when applying for future jobs or study, and funding. Undergraduate and graduate students have both benefitted from the prize. Even the awards ceremonies have given them a taste of the world outside the academy. I've heard that it is a wonderful occasion with amazing views of London, so thank you for that, also.

Now we are even more excited that the Society has pledged to support a Bursary in Dutch Studies for five years and is asking the membership to match this funding. This generosity will make a huge difference to students studying Dutch topics at postgraduate level, and thus to future research in Dutch. I know everyone here is keen to support the future of Dutch Studies and that you will give generously. Thank you so much on behalf of UCL, and for myself and my Dutch students.



Photos of the Members' Dinner were kindly contributed by various Members present

You might be asking yourselves why I am here representing Dutch at UCL when – much to my regret – I am not a Dutch-speaker. I have entitled this talk 'Dutch Crossings', borrowing from the title of the academic journal *Dutch Crossing: Journal of Low Countries Studies*, to which my Dutch colleagues contribute, and which publishes the work of the winners of your essay prize. It has been my pleasure for the nearly 20 years I have spent at UCL to be an honorary member of the Dutch Department. This is because my first Director of Studies when I joined UCL was Professor Theo Hermans, Emeritus Professor of Dutch and Comparative Literature, who many of you may also know as the editor of the *Literary History of the Low Countries*. And so my own journey in Dutch crossings began.

As Professor of Translation Theory and Theatre Translation, my research specialism is translation for performance on stage which, thanks to the excellence and vibrancy of contemporary Dutch theatre, has introduced me to the world of Dutch theatre-making. I am particularly interested in what happens when a play in one language is translated for audiences in other cultures and languages – not just the translation choices that are made in transposing between languages, but also how the material is adapted for new audiences. What does the translated play look like on stage? How does it preserve its original form while communicating its relevance in new environments? And what does this tell us about language and communication in the modern world?

Internationaal Theater Amsterdam (formerly Toneelgroep Amsterdam) provides wonderful examples of translated theatre, from a range of aspects. I've written in detail about their celebrated production *Romeinse Tragedies*, director Ivo van Hove's six-hour amalgamation of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, *Julius Caesar* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. For me, this was probably the most exciting twelve hours I've ever spent in a theatre – I have seen it twice, both times at the Barbican Theatre in London. For those of you who haven't seen this production, its set, designed by Jan Versweyveld, resembles a contemporary airport departure lounge, containing sofas, bars, a body scanner, and dominated by screens, small and large, including a moving electronic ticker tape which issues instructions. The audience is invited to go on stage and mingle with the actors while the three plays are performed, moving seamlessly from one to the next, without a break. The interest of this production for me lay in the many types of translation on display. Shakespeare's English translated into contemporary Dutch allowed me to hear those familiar lines with new cadences, but there were also the very innovatively placed surtitles, translating the new Dutch back into new English, thus providing a fresh perspective on an old text. Furthermore, van Hove and his company translated the text into strikingly original performances, reshaping our understanding of how Shakespeare developed themes throughout his work. This is only one example of how my Dutch crossings have shown me how to look at my own language and culture from a new perspective.

This is why I believe the study of translation and languages is so important: it opens spaces for new communications and new understandings. I don't need to tell this Society that **the meeting of languages and cultures can help to make the world a better place**. I'd like to think that the work we do at UCL contributes to finding solutions for some of the problems in society, especially around language and communication. This is one of the many reasons we are so proud of the depth

and breadth of our languages and area studies at UCL. UCL Dutch is deeply integrated into, and a much-valued participant in, the wider mission of the School of European Languages, Culture and Society - connecting Dutch language and culture to Comparative Literature, Translation Studies and Linguistics, and also leading the way in the School on projects that bring our expertise and passion for languages not just to embassies and businesses, but also to schools and life-long learners through our Widening Participation work led by Christine Sas, who is here tonight.

The students in our Dutch Department represent a substantial percentage of the students studying Dutch in the UK, with the University of Sheffield also making a strong contribution. And at UCL, our numbers are increasing exponentially! We give students the knowledge of Dutch language and culture that provides much needed soft power in the new European reality after Brexit. Dutch is of importance for the multiple historical, commercial and financial bilateral relations between UK and the Low Countries. Through our ongoing conversations with governments and institutions in the Netherlands and Belgium, and with the activities organized by our Centre of Low Countries Studies, we showcase the Dutch language and Dutch Studies worldwide. UCL Dutch holds an important position in Dutch studies internationally. This is reflected in our past, current and future research, which focuses on the history of UK-Dutch relations; on Dutch literature in a global context; in studies of Dutch in translation; and of Dutch sociolinguistics in multicultural and/or superdiverse societies. In this sense, we are a guiding light for outward-facing Dutch studies that present Dutch in a wider, non-national context that is highly relevant for the contemporary world.

My Dutch colleagues sincerely believe that in times of ongoing crisis and widening conflict, the study of other cultures through language is indispensable and crucial in fostering transnational and cross-cultural understanding, historical analysis and critical scrutiny - as well as in developing expertise in intellectual, emotional and aesthetic practices. This is of particular importance in speaking and acting on a transnational scale.

The approach of my Dutch colleagues is mirrored across the languages and area studies departments at UCL. With the School of European Languages, Cultures and Society; Hebrew & Jewish Studies; Greek & Latin; and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies; we believe that the Faculty of Arts & Humanities at UCL is unrivalled in its offering of languages and cultural studies. We can teach you Dutch - but we can also teach you Icelandic or Bulgarian. You can learn to translate medical documents from English into Arabic or Chinese.

We are also committed to the concept of Critical Area Studies. This is not just the traditional study of a particular region based on dominant theoretical principles, but the conviction that knowledge generated from the 'bottom up' can be profoundly significant in contextualizing social, economic, cultural and political phenomena that can lead to deeper understandings of the issues in specific regions, beyond borders and national constructs. This approach is why, when you are listening to current analysis of the news from Ukraine or Israel-Hamas, the voices you hear are more often than not those of UCL colleagues with whom I work on a regular basis. We have the inside knowledge.

As you may have gathered by now, we consider that, at UCL, Arts & Humanities subjects are very strong, while - sadly - in some universities in the UK they are under threat. In many institutions, the range of languages on offer is being decreased or departments closed. The



number of schools students taking arts subjects, especially languages, drops year on year; while the national emphasis on teaching and learning, influenced by the ever-growing presence of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives, seems increasingly to focus on STEM subjects [Science Technology Engineering and Math]. At UCL we are partly responding to this by making languages available ab initio; for example, students who were traditionally expected to have an A-level in German if they wanted to study that language can now join as beginners - although they are expected to learn fast!

But we are also recognizing, and expanding into, our increasingly interdisciplinary world. From 2025, for example, it will be possible to take a BA in Philosophy and Computer Science. At our School for Creative and Cultural Industries in the amazing UCL East campus - do visit next time you are in Stratford - the new cohort of students is already studying for a BA in Creative Arts and Humanities, including practical approaches to performance, creative writing and documentary-making, that will equip them for future employment. Next year a new degree in Information in Society will prepare students for work where they will be using data and information effectively to support, inspire, and improve lives.

I hope I've shown that the Arts & Humanities - and Dutch in particular - are thriving at UCL. My wish for future generations of students is that they may experience their own version of my Dutch crossings.

Your generosity makes that possible.

Thank you."

Lord Taylor of Holbeach, our President, responded briefly to the presentation by Professor Brodie, stressing the strong links and bonds between our two countries, and the various roles that education at different levels has been playing in this. Hopefully this will continue, despite the somewhat more complicated situation with the departure of the UK from the EU. He ended with the Loyal Toasts to "The King" and "The King of the Netherlands". The dinner was formally ended with our Chairman presenting Professor Brodie not with the usual book, but with a new book *Meetings with the Dutch Masters*.

Postscript by our Member Andrew Wood who attended the dinner.

Professor Brodie acknowledged that she is not a Dutch speaker. But her incisive insights into the world of languages and culture indicated where she believed the Society and its Members, through the ANS Awards and the Bursary, would support the importance of her field of study. It would enable linguistic gaps to be bridged through a shared cultural heritage, as with English and Dutch, especially in the year in which we celebrate the birth of Shakespeare. In the English language, Shakespeare created new words which in the 17th century carried a different meaning. She has studied the impact and change of meaning of those words from Shakespearean English through Dutch into a modern English idiom as used on the stage.

Professor Brodie ably answered questions from the Members at this dinner leaving the Society in no doubt that its financial support is well deserved and in safe hands. Above all she emphasized the importance post-Brexit of forging new Higher Education links enabling students to widen their horizons especially through language and job opportunities. Even gaming videos, for example, now play a part in understanding language and culture. As ever a successful dinner at the Reform Club with a keynote speaker giving Members an insight into the academic world where the Society has a role to play.

## Chiswick House and Gardens tour

Report by Susan Nollet on our private guided tour on Tuesday 13 June

In June I visited Chiswick House and Gardens with the Anglo Netherlands Society which was extremely interesting. Our very knowledgeable guide Richard took us round the house telling us interesting stories of the art, design and people in the House's history.

The original house was constructed by the 3rd Earl Burlington and William Kent between 1726 & 29. A villa was built next door to live in, but the Palladian style House was built to house

paintings and sculpture and entertain, but not to live in.

The gardens were also designed by Lord Burlington in collaboration with William Kent and are considered a masterpiece of English landscape design- marking a departure from the formal gardens of the time towards more naturalistic landscape. They include ornamental temples, statues and a picturesque lake, a rose garden, various follies and a wonderful variety of trees and plants from around the world. The



conservatory houses one of Europe's oldest collections of camellias in Europe, brought originally from China.

The 6th Duke of Devonshire inherited the house in 1811, buying more land, rerouting Burlington Lane further from the property and building a lane leading to the property. He had many distinguished guests and had lavish entertainment. Guests entered the building by outside staircase leading to upper floor with

large hall and rooms of different sizes. Chiswick House was a place of entertainment and a showcase of art and design.

From 1860 the Devonshires let the house and moved many items to Chatsworth House. The house is full of wonderful paintings on the walls and ceilings of rooms of very different sizes for offices or bedrooms. After his death it was let to tenants including King Edward VII.

From 1892-1928 Chiswick House was leased and used as



a mental health institution. The private patients used the grounds freely and even had a cricket team.

In 1929 the house and gardens were in decline and were acquired by Middlesex County Council and opened to the public. After major restoration in 2010 ( with £12m support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund) the independent Chiswick House and Gardens Trust was formed.

Now it's a lovely place to visit, entrance to the gardens is free and there are many community projects at work in the House, Gardens and the kitchen gardens as well.

We had lovely weather for our visit and lunch, and a very enjoyable and educational day.

## Tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew

Report by John Hurst on our visit on Wednesday 30 August

A select group of six ANS members was treated to a fascinating tour by our guide, Patricia Connor, who covered historical issues and described little cocoa seeds she put in our hands with equal authority. Even experienced Kew-goers gained new insights, and we were left with a sense of the part the gardens have played during the last five centuries of British history.

Patricia started with the background of Kew being formed by merging two Royal Parks next to the River Thames, and then developed throughout the 17th and 18th centuries (for example the Pagoda and twenty-two other follies being built for Princess Augusta), before being taken over by the Government in 1840. Today it is a charity dedicated to preserving and understanding plants and fungi, and to maintaining biodiversity, with over 50,000 plants on the Kew site.

Patricia informed us about two Dutch aspects of Kew's history: Richmond Lodge, used by William of Orange as his hunting base but later pulled down by King George III, and the existing Kew Palace, which is called the

Dutch House, and has Flemish bond brickwork - but more about that later.

We walked across to the massive glass construction of the Palm House, and found we were lucky to

be able to visit, as it is planned to be closed for five years of renovation in the near future.

And the issue of time was very pertinent: in front of the glasshouse we inspected a row of twelve figures of Royal Houses+ carved from Portland Stone, with shells from over 150 million years ago visible on the surface; whilst in the humid atmosphere inside we saw the oldest potted plant in the world, a now-massive *Encephalartos altensteinii* brought back from South Africa a year before the America Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Out into the cool again we were taken to the base of the Black Walnut tree, which may be late 17th Century, and is one of the oldest trees in Kew. We then gathered under the canopy of the remarkable



Turner's Oak, planted in 1798, and almost lost in the Great Storm of 15th October 1987. That night it lifted its roots out in the wind, but

managed to settle back into its base, from whence it enjoyed a new lease of life, due to the decompaction and aeration of the ground achieved. Kew's arborators studied what had happened, and developed a rejuvenation technique that is now used around the world. Out of adversity comes progress!

Our last stop was at Kew Palace, which was an important retreat for King George III and

Queen Charlotte during the king's illnesses. A painting of their marriage ceremony had an information board revealing that they

only met each other a few hours before their wedding - but it turned out to be a successful Anglo-German liaison, resulting in fifteen children, one of whom married another German princess to produce the future Queen Victoria...an indirect benefit of Kew Gardens!



# Visit to the House of Lords

Report by Saskia Martyn-David on our visit on Tuesday 12 September

Tuesday 12 September provided a much-anticipated visit to the House of Lords, courtesy of an invitation from our President, Lord Taylor of Holbeach.

Our experience spanned over 700 years of history from our entrance via the medieval Westminster Hall, through the Victorian splendour of Charles Barry's Gothic Revival architecture, and culminating in a fascinating opportunity to watch live questions being addressed in the Lords' Chamber.

It was a wonderful introduction for those unfamiliar with the workings of Parliament to experience the vital hum and buzz of daily business activity within surroundings more typical of a hushed ecclesiastical setting. The security process to enter the Palace of Westminster provided a literal and metaphorical reminder that we were leaving the 'everyday' behind and entering a very different realm.

Lord Taylor greeted us in Westminster Hall to set the scene for our visit. Looking around the cavernous space with its ancient hammer-beam

roof and wooden angel carvings, we were reminded by plaques in the stone floor of how many critical events have taken place here since the 12th Century.

It was almost possible to imagine watching the trial of Charles 1st, or to being a 'fly-on-the-wall' during the addresses to Parliament of Nelson Mandela, Barak Obama and more recently Volodymyr Zelensky. Many reading this will no doubt still have fresh in their memory last year's poignant images of the lying-in-state of Her Majesty Elizabeth II surrounded by her grandchildren.

Here we were met by our official guide, who shared centuries of history from the medieval beginnings of a two-chamber Parliamentary structure, to its current workings today. We learned of the terrible fire in 1834 which totally destroyed the original Palace, creating the need for a fresh design. Charles Barry won

the competition to find the best architect, and his work alongside that of Augustus Pugin (sometimes described as the Artistic Director of Parliament) resulted in a creation that is now recognised worldwide. In fact, Barry's iconic Portcullis emblem which accompanied his competition submission is still firmly in

evidence today.

We left Westminster Hall via the stone stairs to St Stephen's Hall, passing under Mary Branson's incredible light sculpture, 'New Dawn'. Erected in 2016 (150 years to the day of the start of the campaign to allow women in the UK the right to vote) the sculpture is a breathtaking reminder of the struggle that was fought by so many determined individuals.

The lights change across a 12-hour timeframe, linked to the timing of the tides of the River Thames, and represent the 'tides of change' that women's suffrage finally brought about. Perhaps most exciting, as the first piece of abstract art commissioned for permanent display in this medieval setting, it proves a dramatic colourful shift as we leave this historic monochrome chamber.

St Stephens Hall (where protests took place in the name of this cause) provided our last chance to take photos. With its impressive sculptures and vast paintings, it leads directly to the famous Central Lobby, created for Members of both Houses to mingle with each other and connect with the public. Decorated with Pugin's

glorious floor tiles, this public area spawned its own verb to describe our right to access our MP on any subject, and at any time (diaries permitting!). The recent lock-down period during Covid-19 provided an opportunity for renovation, and over 60,000 new tiles have now been laid in restoration of the original floor.

Our tour then took a red path towards the Lords' Chamber (as distinct from the green of the Commons) along the Consent corridor where Members queue to vote in favour of motions.

We passed through the Royal Gallery with its vivid portraits of past monarchs, en route to the Robing Room where the reigning monarch dons robes and Crown for their key role in the Opening of Parliament each year. At time of writing, King Charles III will be preparing for 7th November, which will be his first ceremony as King, post his Coronation earlier this year.

Our tour ended with a final look at the Princes' Chamber, resplendent with portraits of Henry VIII surrounded by all six wives, and a final anecdote from our guide of the attempts of Guy Fawkes to blow up Parliament in the 17th century.

Over a light lunch in a Committee Room we relaxed in member seats surrounded by more



incredible Gothic-Revival décor. The deep crimson, green and cream Pugin-designed wallpaper was echoed in the modern carpet, and both provided an atmospheric setting for tales of Dutch ancestry from Lord Reay, a colleague of Lord Taylor, and discussion with our host of proposed constitutional reforms to the Upper Chamber. This led on to the challenges of the more physical reforms needed for the buildings themselves, as renovations to the Victorian structures

continue.

After a brief interlude provided by the retail delights of the House of Lords shop next door, our afternoon concluded with a truly fascinating element that brought us firmly back to the issues of the present.

At 2.30pm we were invited to observe 'business of the day' in the Lords' Chamber, in the form of 40 mins dedicated to 'Questions to His Majesty's Government'.

From the public gallery above we had a birds' eye view of the seated Members, giving the opportunity to spot many familiar faces as they prepared to pose their questions. The clergy were also present: the robed Archbishop of Canterbury sat in his assigned bench, surrounded by fellow-bishops.

A prominent digital clock kept everyone on track, with the four submitted questions each being addressed efficiently in exactly 10 mins each. The issues covered ranged from: progress towards reaching new-home building targets; plans to increase NHS staffing levels; the impact of sugar on children's health; the plight of a citizen currently imprisoned in India. This chance to see a piece of the daily Lords' business was a perfect way to finish an excellent day, and the sight of our President seated in the Chamber in his 'day-job' gave a delightful element of familiarity amidst the formality and importance of the event.

Images credited @ Saskia Martyn-David, Marina Mathon-Clark and House of Lords



# 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 2023 have been posted on the website and were approved by Members at the Annual General Meeting on 6 December.

The accounts portray a picture of a thriving membership organisation with a firm financial foundation, stable subscription rates, steadily rising membership numbers and a programme of activities that members find attractive.

There was a healthy surplus of over £10,000 on continuing activities – some £3,000 more than the previous year. This boosted our General Reserve to over £100,000 and encouraged Council to initiate projects to expand our activities within the framework of the Society's Aim and Objects, as amplified at the annual general meeting and elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Additionally, and during the course of the coming months, we will continue to enhance our means of communication with Members, especially the younger ones who use social media. Our use of Instagram has proved popular and we are about to up-date the Society's website, first to be a more attractive link to our activities for those who prefer that approach and then as a tool to increase our operational effectiveness by enabling Members to book and pay for events, with the back office activity covered automatically.

Our original forecast for the current year – and we are operating within the range we projected – allows for such expenditure. Next year's forecast will include the further required investment outlays for outreach and IT initiatives.

The Society maintained the low subscription rates for the year and Council will hold these at the same level for the seventeenth consecutive year in 2024. We prefer to keep our basic subscription levels as low as possible to minimise the financial barrier to joining. Members pay extra when participating in our events though we offer some free of charge. We do not subsidise events from subscription income.

Income from subscriptions generated £10,500, about the same as the previous year, and donations were gratifyingly high although below the level of the previous year when the centenary celebrations swelled Members' giving. Once again, the number of Members joining exceeded the number resigning. 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 net income from events was higher than in the previous year, reflecting the attractiveness of the programme and the resumption of the Unilever Lecture series. This financial contribution from events supports the running costs of the Society.

Our administration costs grew during the year after the cut-backs of the Covid-19 period as activity levels increased and we issued an additional hard copy of the Newsletter. The investment in outreach and promotional activity has already brought benefit through increased membership and has further enhanced awareness of the Society, particularly in The Netherlands where our links are being strengthened through specific initiatives.

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.

The income from investments was significantly higher, reflecting market rates. We have a higher proportion of our free funds invested, 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 2024

by the Honorary Treasurer, David Glassman

Council is pleased to announce that subscription rates for 2024 will remain unchanged, for the 17th year running. Our subscription year is based on a calendar year and we would be most grateful for payments early in 2024 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, 2024 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](mailto: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 2024:

	Greater London area*	Country*
Joint membership **	£30	£25
Single membership	£23	£20

### Members under 35, irrespective of location:

Single	£10	Joint	£15
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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.

## Shell in a changing world

Report and photos by Alan Denney on our visit to Shell Centre on 28 September

Shell is a longstanding sponsor of our Society and a large group of ANS members were fortunate to attend Shell Centre in London on the evening of 28th of September for an informal drinks reception and address by Huibert Vigeveno, Director for Downstream, Renewables and Energy Solutions. The focus of the address was the challenges of the energy transition.

ANS were welcomed by David Bunch, Chairman of Shell UK. Dick van den Broek, ANS Chairman and himself a veteran of Shell, thanked David for Shell's hospitality and welcomed all members including some who had recently joined the Society. Council member Guus Greve, also a former Shell executive, then introduced Huibert.

Shell operates in approximately 160

countries worldwide and Huibert started with some information about the different Shell business streams and provided general scene-setting of the businesses. He addressed the gender profile in Shell today citing the fact that the Executive Committee is made up of seven people of whom four are female.

Coming to the main theme of the evening Huibert shared Shell's commitment to low carbon fuels (LCF) - sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), renewable diesel, bioethanol and biomethane (in the form of renewable compressed natural gas, (R-CNG, or bioLNG) for example - to help lower carbon emissions from transportation.

In 2022, around 9.5 billion litres of biofuels went into Shell's fuels worldwide, which includes ethanol and sugarcane. Interestingly,



in 2023, Shell produced a new race fuel for the NTT INDYCAR Series. This new product consists of a blend of second-generation ethanol derived from sugarcane waste and other biofuels, to create a fuel that is 100% comprised of feedstocks categorized as "renewable" under the applicable regulatory frameworks

One of Shell's businesses is wind and solar. Huibert explained that Shell has agreed to sell its home energy business in the UK and

Germany to Octopus Energy.

Huibert pointed out the need for energy security within the energy transition. He addressed the structural imbalance in the gas market which came to the fore last winter and which was a challenging time due to the significant shutdown in the available gas supply to Western Europe. Fortunately, the industry overcame the disruption. There was available liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the market due, at least in part, to a mild winter in Asia which reduced demand from China, Taiwan, Japan a.o. which allowed diversion to Europe. There was also increased supply from the USA.

Ongoing challenges include the lack of a clear long-term structural solutions to energy supply for example, the lack of a North-South gas grid in Europe. Finding a balance between energy security, reducing carbon emissions and fuel affordability is key. Achieving that requires infrastructure and Huibert gave the example of the combination of political will and industry capability which resulted in the establishment of an LNG terminal in Germany in sixty days when the pressure was on.

Interestingly, Shell now focus on customer

needs by market sector, for example, aviation, trucks, marine and cars. The transition in each country is likely to follow similar paths but it will proceed at a different speeds depending on the country and the industry sector. In summary:

- i. The demand for sustainable fuels, specifically biofuels is growing in the Aviation market.
- ii. For cars the trend is electric power
- iii. For trucks the optimal long-term solution is considered to be hydrogen power, but that requires the necessary infrastructure to be in place.
- iv. Shell is keen to work in partnership with others across the sector and balance global and local initiatives.
- v. Shell has 32 million customers a day, most of whom wish to decarbonise but need support to understand how this can and will be achieved. This presents both a challenge and opportunity which is unique in our time.

The address was followed by a question and answer session including the following topics: relationships with OPEC countries, artificial intelligence; electric car fast charging points; and hydrogen as a fuel and energy trading.

The answers were comprehensive but some of the points which emerged were:

- i. 90% of the population of Europe are within 15 minutes of Shell facilities. Consequently, Shell are building a network of fast charging stations because the transition presents a significant business opportunity. Since battery charging takes time, the customer is likely to take advantage of other facilities on site such as restaurant and shops.
- ii. Shell is positioning itself in the market for hydrogen and currently they have, in the Netherlands, the largest hydrogen-producing plant in Europe.
- iii. Shell in the UK started as a trading company and energy trading remains a core part of the Shell business.

The meeting was closed by Dick van den Broek



## Champagne Reception and Private View at Bonhams

Report by Chantal Tjon on our visit on Monday 20 November

Thanks to ANS Member, Robin Hereford, Bonhams Director of Private Clients, and also Departmental Director of Valuations, Trusts & Estates in London, we were invited to a special viewing of the unique private Dutch collection of Cornelis Paulus van Pauwvliet, which would be auctioned the following day.

Welcomed by Bonhams with a glass of champagne we were able to have a first glance



at this impressive assembly of elegant art; all collected and belonging to the late Dutch connoisseur-collector. This exceptional collection of silverware, furniture, clocks, paintings, porcelain etc. representing the very best of Dutch and French Fine and Decorative Works of Art, was diligently assembled by Cornelis Paulus van Pauwvliet over a 50-years period.

Robin Hereford welcomed us and started with a short introduction explaining the importance of this collection. Then, he introduced us to, Charlie Thomas, Bonhams

UK Group Director for House Sales and Private and Iconic Collections, Furniture and Works of Art, UK, who were to show and describe some of the highlights of the collection. Firstly, he took us to a commode made by Dutch cabinet maker, Matthijs Horrix. The second piece of furniture, he pointed out was an English-style supper table, which again showed fine craftsmanship and beautiful marquetry.

Lara Playdelle-Bouverie highlighted an impressionist painting of the view of Veere by Theo van Rijsselberghe. She taught us the importance of this painting as it marks the moment of Van Rijsselberghe changing of



technique from strict pointillism to more spontaneous style.

The next specialist was Nette Megens, who discussed the Dutch Delft plaque in this collection. Delftware became popular here when King William and Queen Mary moved their court to England in the 17th Century. These plaques or 'porcelain paintings' were all done by hand and made in small kilns; in all a delicate process with uncertain outcome of the colouring after firing. She recommended to especially look out for the fine details of the paintings.

The final specialist was James Stratton, who took us to the back of the room to show us a beautiful example of an early clock, made in Haarlem by M. van Leeuwarden in the end of

17th Century. "Looking at this clock, is a journey in the past" he explained, as this clock has seen so much history. He continued by explain

ing the special relationship by exchange of knowledge between the clockmakers of Holland

and England and the importance of the invention of the pendulum. Then, he opened the high quality craftsmanship clock to reveal its tandem drive, impressive carpentry, and solid silver mount among others. The clock is still working perfectly, and James finished of his talk by wanted us to enjoy the beautiful sound of its strikes every half and full hour!

Many thanks to Bonhams' Charlie Thomas and Robin Hereford for organising this wonderful reception and informative viewing of this unique collection.



# Frans Hals: Impressionist Inspiration

Report by Ludolph van Hasselt on the Curator's Introduction, 17 October at The National Gallery

How lucky we were, what a privilege it was to be invited by Marianne into the National Gallery, where Curator Bart Cornelis introduced us to his exhibition, the first major Frans Hals show in London in thirty years. It'll travel to the Rijksmuseum and Berlin afterwards. With this exhibition Bart Cornelis reminds us that Hals is one of the Big Three of Dutch Masters, together with Rembrandt and Vermeer.



This review includes substantial elements of the insightful introduction and explanation by Bart. He sensitised us to the essentials and key pictures in the show and he focussed us on what to look for.

The whole exhibition functions as a portrait of seventeenth century Holland, but more than anything it is evidence of a brilliant talent, a prodigious, special painter. Someone who lifted portraiture to a higher level and who, later, inspired the impressionists because of his loose, quick painting style.

Manet loved him; so did Van Gogh, who wrote to Émile Bernard in



1888: "Frans Hals painted portraits; nothing nothing nothing but that. But it is worth as much as Dante's Paradise and the Michelangelos and Raphaels and even the Greeks."

Hals did nothing but portraiture, and he was very successful at it. He was quick, confident, prolific, respected. He turned what was regarded as a boring branch of painting (with inherently commemorative and dynastic functions) into depicting real people, people we feel we are directly interacting with.

The approach and techniques of Hals were radically different from what went before. Artists then adopted these and hence to later viewers Hals was no longer so revolutionary. For a while he was "forgotten" and only "rediscovered" in the early 19th century for what he truly was.

He introduced a fresh, casual-confident pose for an emerging class of men, and imbued their portraits so fully with the breath of life that, throughout this superb exhibition, we connect instantly with these people, stopped and held by their glittering eyes in so many conversations and encounters.

To put it another way, Hals is all about humanity, vivacity, and the ability to bring the people of his era joyfully to life. He elevated his subjects beyond everyday portraiture. Each portrait feels unique, like a real person, with character and charm and personality. And with each Hals succeeds in capturing a moment in time.

They smile and stare right out at you, the images full of ornate detail, luscious fabric, ruddy cheeks, and cultural in-jokes. (The laughter and smiles in the pictures are truly special, because so hard to paint and execute.) There it is, seventeenth century Dutch life, so beautifully painted it's almost alive, all these years later. He paints merchants and diplomats, politicians and soldiers. Dutch art from this period was commissioned, not by royalty, nor by the church, but by the entrepreneurial burghers of the Golden Age showing off their success, wealth and cultural appreciation.

We admire the whole of each, standing back a bit, but feeling in direct contact, the presence of each. And then close up we admire the precision and detail in some parts and, on the other hand, the quick, live, impressionist brush work (often wet on wet). He did not prepare sketches, maybe some rough forms on the canvass in brown paint, and the main composition and image were developed straight onto the canvass.

During the research for the exhibition a picture from the Chatsworth collection was cleaned and analysed. This is one of the portraits of Isaac Abrahamsz Massa, a friend who Hals painted frequently. His business interest in Russia and Sweden, whilst at the same time holding diplomatic roles for the Dutch States General, generated envy and hatred. The stance in the picture suggests defiance, arrogance and

impatience. Painted over, but discovered through X-Ray analysis, are two figures looming over the sitter's left shoulder: a skull and a monstrous creature with snakes as hair. Hals suggest that Massa was fully aware of the emotions he generated and that Envy could only be defeated by Death.

The pendant portraits by Hals, dual images of married couples, are full of nuance, softness and quiet, conservative intimacy.



Isaac Abrahamsz Massa

Take two portraits as example: Marie Larp and Pieter Dircksz Tjarck, painted as a pendant pair by Frans Hals in about 1635, a year after their marriage. And what a couple they make. Pieter Tjarck holds a pink rose, a symbol, perhaps, of his love for his new wife. It's his face that's the main attraction: carefully considering eyes, outstandingly bristly moustache, that long, well-earned groove between his eyebrows. Tipped back in his seat, as if ready to answer any question, his unstudied aspect makes Marie Larp seem almost impossibly formal beside him, her back straight, her embroidered dress without any crease or fold. Look a little harder, though. The scarlet of her cheeks, the way her hand presses lightly against her ribcage, cannot be misread. Her countenance speaks down the centuries of a very particular kind of fulfilment: a contentment that still, we understand, has its excitements. Even if her ruff is stiff and starched, she is the human embodiment of a sigh.

Another special of this exhibition: The two portraits of Tieleman Roosterman and Catharina Brugman are brought together for the first time since, probably, they were in the hands of the commissioning subjects.



Twin portraits as described above

And then there are the Tronies or Genre pictures: these imagined figures are the most free and interesting. There are lute players, drunkards and all sorts, all bellowing with laughter and sniggering into their drinks. They're weird, dark, loose things, free from the constricting limits of commissioned portraiture. This is where Hals could give his ever developing technique free reign.

As well as thematic, the show is chronological; we can follow the development of Hals' style. Two figures face each other down the long enfilade of galleries. Cloth merchant Willem van Heythuysen stands full length, life-size, taut and vital. Each robust visible stroke conveys energy, vigour, wealth: lavish black black satin doublet, cascading purple curtain; the perfect swagger portrait, imposing, unnerving.



Portrait of a Lute Player

"Portrait of a Man in a Slouch Hat" has no such grandeur. Nevertheless the anonymous character, whose mischievous eyes and smile shine from under the curved sweep of a colossal floppy hat, mesmerises. Painted very broadly, white collar, cuff, strands of gold hair abbreviated in a few dashing strokes, the picture looks like a Manet.

Although the exhibition is substantial at some 50 works, the hanging, presentation and lighting are such that it doesn't feel overwhelming. One gently moves through the space and smiles back at all this good humour, this uplifting show. If you could not join the tour and if you have not yet seen this exhibition, you definitely should. If you have seen it you'll agree it is worth another visit.

# Your chance to make a difference

The Anglo-Netherlands Society's gift agreement with UCL : our initial target is to raise £12,500.

Members will be aware of the Society's intention to increase our relevance to the next generation. For over ten years our outreach in this context has been in support of Dutch Studies at UCL and Sheffield in our annual essay competitions for undergraduates. The Universities have appreciated this outreach, albeit in its modest form.

Meanwhile, it is an unfortunate reality that the number of students applying for degrees in Dutch Studies in the UK has dropped to a historical low. There are fewer universities

where Dutch is taught and the two remaining are under pressure affecting their staffing structure. This in turn has led to a reduction in the offer and take-up of postgraduate programmes. Over the last year, Council has considered ways in which the Society might extend our support to these remaining universities to help encourage the next generation of students to study Dutch language, both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. We concluded that a form of support to postgraduate students moving on to undertake a Master's or other postgraduate research should be examined. We have done this in close collaboration with the Faculty involved at the UCL School of European Languages, Culture and Society, to ensure that whatever we did would be seen as meaningful. Members will recall that we have worked with the UCL team for many years. We are now pleased to share news of a deepening in this partnership.

We have reached an agreement with UCL for a bursary in Dutch Studies there under which the Society has committed itself to donate £1,250 a year for five years from 31 December 2023, to provide five successive Awards to five students undertaking postgraduate Dutch Studies at the School, or on another Master's programme that includes a

substantive component of Dutch Studies. The bursary will be named as the Dutch Studies Bursary, supported by the Anglo-Netherlands Society. UCL Associate Professor Christine Sas, whom many of you will know and is also the highly accomplished Chair of the Association of Low Countries Studies, will lead on the award of the bursary.

## Support from Members

While we have been ready to commit the total of £6,250 over the five years from the Society's funds, we have structured the agreement in a way that will enable individual Society Members to make their own contributions to this bursary fund at UCL, ring-fenced for the purpose. As UCL is an Exempt Charity under the terms of the Charities Act 2011, gifts are eligible for Gift Aid if the donor also is.

We now invite Members to make additional personal

contributions, which we hope would in total at least match the £1,250 pa we have committed. With more thus contributed we could double the value of each individual award we make to an even more meaningful £2,500 pa, or extend the Society's support to cover more postgraduate students each year. Our initial target for the fund is therefore £12,500. Members will be well aware of the background of problems confronting students as a result of the pandemic and increasing costs. So please think as generously as you can about this proposal. The fund at UCL will represent a step up for us as a Society in boosting meaningful investment in Dutch Studies in the UK and helping to sustain the UK network of Dutch scholars. A single Member's donation of £1,250 would for

example support one additional postgraduate. But all donations would be gratefully received.

Please visit our new donation page on the UCL website via: <https://bit.ly/ANS-UCL> to facilitate donations. When you make a donation through this route it would be helpful if you could inform us that you had done so. If you are an eligible UK taxpayer, you will have the opportunity to add Gift Aid, further enhancing the value of your support. Your donations will maximise the impact of the award and enable outstanding students to commit to Dutch Studies, regardless of financial need, helping to broaden the landscape of the field in the UK.

Any Member who would prefer to make a non-Gift Aid contribution to the Society, where it would be ring-fenced only for transmission to the UCL fund, is also welcome to do so and in that case please inform the Administrator when they do this. We suggest a minimum of £50.00 for such donations.

For reference, you should know that we have kept the University of Sheffield informed of the agreement, and they strongly welcome



our initiative. Their own graduates will be encouraged themselves to apply for the ANS bursary at UCL.

Council thanks all Members for your support to this important new

programme of ANS outreach to the younger generation. Your Council sees this initiative as potentially leading to others in the Netherlands to present our profile, not least with a view to our developing a branch of the membership there among people of all generations interested and engaged in the bilateral links as North Sea Neighbours.

ANS Council, October 2023

## Our Society's Outreach

A further update by the Hon Secretary, Paul Dimond

We have made quite some progress over this year in our membership's outreach, building on the programme of annual ANS Awards to undergraduates at UCL and Sheffield first introduced by Robert Brooke in 2011. While these Awards continue, loyally supported by our panel of volunteer adjudicators, we have now developed our support to students in two different directions. Our ANS Bursary has been warmly welcomed by UCL, whose Vice-Dean for Advancement in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Professor Geraldine Brodie, was our Guest Speaker at the recent Members' Dinner (her talk is covered elsewhere in this issue). Professor Brodie noted that this is the first major gift to Dutch Studies at UCL and reflects the long relationship between the UCL Dutch Studies team and our Society, both now in our respective second centuries.

Your Council have been ready to commit to this outreach by the Society, as the leading, representative non-governmental body promoting our bilateral relations as close North Sea Neighbours. Our primary duty remains to continue with our regular events programme for Members, the essence of our existence, but we believe that we should also look outwards in this way to support the next generation of individuals who may come to share our respect for the unique value of relations between the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. We have therefore asked our

Members in all categories to consider adding their own contribution to this very special ANS Bursary Fund at UCL, with a view to doubling the total funding for these postgraduate students. We hope that all Members will want to be generous over this; any donation will be welcome to broaden the base of support for this initiative. Any Member wishing to discuss it is welcome to contact the Chairman or me at any time via [administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk](mailto:administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk)

Our eyes have also moved to new forms of outreach into the Netherlands, where sadly we have no direct counterpart. Through the initial introduction of one of our Members, we have developed contacts at Maastricht University and now agreed with their Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences an experimental Essay Competition along the same lines of what we do here. Recently we were invited to a regular lunch in Amsterdam of CADS (Commercial Anglo-Dutch Society), a Society based in the Greater Amsterdam region with a strong social base with quite a few Dutch and British members. Some of its members have already joined the ANS since. Finally, we have initiated contact with the British School in the Netherlands at The Hague-Voorschoten, where we plan to engage with their School community and look at ways in which we can work together.

# The ANS Awards for 2023 : Podcasts at The University of Sheffield

Report by Susanne Lap, Chair Adjudication Panel

This year's Awards went to a team of 2nd year students at Sheffield University who produced a podcast titled "Don't shy away from difficult topics", as part of their "Storying History" project, and a 4th year student at University College London who submitted a critical essay on "The Dutch nitrogen emissions policy". You can read more about these Awards below, but my great thanks to our ANS volunteer team who spent a lot of time viewing, reading and judging these entries: Graham Brack, Ferdinand Hooft Graafland, Marja Kingma and Meritha Paul-van Voorden.

Three teams of 2nd year students produced lively discussions on three Dutch texts such as "Hoe mooi wil ik ben" (D.Veroen), "Als slavin geboren" (M. Hoefnagel) en "Quaco. Leven in slavernij" (I. Mok). The

winning team talked about how we can engage in tricky conversations surrounding colonial history and the significance of the texts for teaching. The judges in our Panel commented "the winning podcast convincingly invites you to do more research in general, a good choice of language with a stimulating description of the issues around the word "slavin". "Confident, natural, professional and no overuse of complicated academic language. All podcasts can be accessed via short codes: <https://bit.ly/unishef-podcasts23> (which opens [www.duckduckgo.com/?q=reflections+on+Dutch+and+Flemish+Cultures+podcasts&t=osx&ia=web](http://www.duckduckgo.com/?q=reflections+on+Dutch+and+Flemish+Cultures+podcasts&t=osx&ia=web)), further information can be found via <https://bit.ly/unishef-dontshyaway> (which opens [www.sheffield.ac.uk/dutch/news/dont-shy-away-difficult-topics](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dutch/news/dont-shy-away-difficult-topics))

## ANS Awards Essay, winner at UCL: Matthew Gibbons (fourth year student)

on "A critical assessment of the Dutch government's nitrogen emissions reduction policy, submitted mid-May 2023"

Following a landmark legal result in 2019, the Dutch authorities were forced to completely re-examine their environmental policies. It transpired that the country's sensitive nature areas had been exposed to the excessive accumulation of nitrogen compounds for years, and radical action was needed to significantly reduce nitrogen emissions to prevent further degradation of and loss of biodiversity in these areas, obligations the country must fulfil pursuant to the European Union's Bird and Habitats Directive. The judgment also had an immediate severe impact on the national economy, stripping the government of its permit-issuing scheme for polluting industrial and agricultural activities.

The purpose of this assignment is to examine the coherence of the government's approach to tackling this emissions problem. I will focus on the aims themselves alongside the proposed methods of achieving the aims. Regarding the aims themselves, I was looking for evidence of consistency and clarity: whether the same aims have been maintained over time, and understood and communicated the same way by the government. Regarding the methods to reach the goal, I was looking for achievability or realism: whether the methods are in themselves effective, and whether the parties have the capability, means and will to achieve them. Though I believe this distinction is worth keeping in mind, it is true that, in this instance, aims and methods are closely related and often overlap.

In various published documents, the governing coalition makes clear and frequent reference to its central aim of ensuring that, in 2030, 74% of nitrogen-sensitive habitats within the country's Natura-2000 areas should fall below the kritische depositiewaarde, or KDW. This is more ambitious than the 2035 date stipulated in the Wet natuurbescherming. It also duly explains the KDW: as the amount of nitrogen deposition, specifically reactive nitrogen, which an ecosystem can tolerate over the long term without sustaining significant damage. Independent scientists also recently reaffirmed the robustness of, and lack of a viable alternative to, the KDW as a measure of nitrogen's effects on nature, and therefore its suitability for underpinning government conservation policy. However, while detailed maps have been drawn up of the emissions reductions which the ultimate aim translates to per province and sub-provincial area, so far no greater level of specificity has been provided. As scientist Wim de Vries has stated, it remains unclear what reductions individual farmers must make.

Separately, the way in which government publications combine the reduction of nitrogen emissions with aims in other areas, for example water quality and CO2 emissions, so that the former becomes a mere constituent of a much broader environment policy, can be confusing. In the landmark 2019 case, with its ensuing crippling halt imposed on infrastructure projects, the Raad van State judged that the mechanism of the Programma Aanpak Stikstof (PAS) pursuant to which permits for activity were issued was invalid. In other words, the decision was a rejection of the government's policy of managing nitrogen emissions specifically. Therefore, I believe these warrant a narrower focus in the government literature, and that merely placing them on a level footing alongside other ecological targets risks stakeholder confusion and frustration, and thence potentially hindered progress.

Still more confusing is the apparently disproportionate effect on the industrial and construction sectors given the nature of their emissions. As explained in the introduction, the concern in this crisis is squarely the threat to nature and biodiversity posed by nitrogen emissions -- principally ammonia, NH3, and NOx -- collective shorthand for nitric oxide, NO, and nitrogen dioxide, NO2. However, NH3 and NOx differ

regarding both their effects on nature and their sources. NH3 harms nature more than NOx, with the latter primarily detrimental to human health. Additionally, NH3 emissions overwhelmingly come from animal farming, whereas NOx emissions originate from road transport, construction, heavy industry, shipping, aviation and elsewhere. With these elements of effect and source taken together, the complete stoppage of construction activity following the court judgment, although essential for the government to achieve legal compliance, appears ill-conceived and ineffective. In other words, the PAS regulated multiple types of nitrogen-emitting activity, namely animal farming and construction projects, in fundamentally the same way, even though these activities' effects on the nature and biodiversity that the PAS was conceived to protect were, and are, demonstrably uneven. The government literature does acknowledge that NH3 contributes more than NOx to peak load on Natura-2000 areas -- the same load measured by the KDW, the measurement underpinning the government's central aim -- and that NOx reduction targets will necessarily be more generic than those for NH3, which are carefully tailored to each province and area. However, in practice, when the government or provinces speak of stikstofruimte -- allocating permits for emitting nitrogen -- the two compounds continue, four years after the onset of the crisis, to be treated as broadly one and the same: little if any distinction is made between NOx-intensive activities, most often construction and aviation, and NH3-intensive animal farming.

Official literature theorises multiple options for farmers for achieving the required emissions reductions, depending on precise circumstances. If, for example, they are close to a Natura-2000 area where the effect of emissions is most acute, they could consider relocating their operations. Alternatively, they could reshape them, either literally by spreading their flock over a larger area (the density of animals in a given area also contributes to emissions intensity), or by reducing the size of the flock itself. There could also be scope for innovation or changes such as modifying animal feed to reduce the emissions intensity of animal excrement, or switching to organic fertilizers. These options appear reasonable, and diverse enough to be able to fit the circumstances of a wide range of farmers. Crucially, however, there is considerable generic information about them in government publications and too few specifics: who will make use of which options and how these individual choices will each contribute to the attainment of the area and provincial targets. Admittedly, this domain is arguably no longer that of central government but rather of the provinces and farmers, who are best placed to liaise with each other to find which methods work best in which places. And the next significant step in the process according to the central government narrative is indeed the publication of the provinces' gebiedsprogramma's on 1st July, which must detail methods for reaching the provincial targets. This assessment as a whole may simply be premature, and a more coherent application of methods at the individual level should have appeared by



Award winner Matthew Gibbons and Susanne Lap, Chair Adjudication Panel

the autumn. But for now, a disconnect persists between The Hague and the provinces. During a recent cabinet debate following the provincial elections, the prime minister asserted the provinces already had “all the frameworks they needed” for forming the gebiedsprogramma’s. The head of the CDA faction in Utrecht countered that regulations regarding farmer relocation were lacking, as was legal clarity surrounding innovative techniques. Beyond these comments, the list of potential shortcomings farmers face with these options is extensive and the government has to yet address them adequately. Another reliable income source following downsizing may not be forthcoming. Emissions-cutting changes or innovations are expensive, calling into question returns on investment. In a similar framework, banks may not be willing to lend the funds required to implement improvements.

And after all, for some companies none of these options will be sufficient to achieve the expected emissions reductions. Indeed, one government publication admits (with unusual clarity and candour) that not all farmers have a future in the plans’ framework. Accordingly, ceasing operations entirely is among the options too, and in fact the one the government seeks to exploit and encourage the most in the shorter term. Specifically, this is the buyout of so-called piekbelasters, individuals whose animal (cattle, pig and poultry) farms burden sensitive nature areas, frequently the Veluwe national parks in the central-eastern Netherlands, the most because of their proximity to said areas and their high NH3 emissions. The plan is to offer piekbelasters up to 120% of their businesses’ market value to entice them to cease operations. If successful, this would remove large and particularly damaging sources of NH3 emissions and provide a degree of stikstofruimte: allowing some infrastructure projects, which generate nitrogen emissions and have been hamstrung since the advent of the crisis, to proceed without breaching emissions limits. This appears quite a compelling proposition, since incentivising approaches, all the more so with incentives this strong, will surely be more effective and less polarising than increased regulatory pressure or outright forceful expropriation, the latter remaining in place as a backstop. Besides being theoretically attractive, this proposition is also legally enforceable and hence realistic. The government recently overcame one of the largest hurdles to its implementation when the European Commission confirmed its compatibility with EU state aid rules against unfair competition.

Despite these positive indicators, there is doubt as to who qualifies as a piekbelaster. Determining who the largest polluters are is not especially difficult, but deciding where to draw the line, contrarily, is: precisely how many will be entitled to the generous buyout offers. It indeed appears that, besides an anticipated ballpark number of companies, there is as yet no confirmed method of calculating a threshold emissions value. Moreover, despite the government’s generous offer, it is very difficult to gauge the extent of support for the measure among piekbelasters themselves, in other words how domestically politically enforceable the plan is. A fair number will likely stop, but a fair number is also likely unwilling. Reluctance often appears fuelled by a whole career’s, even multiple family generations’, personal and emotional investment in a farm, but alternatively it could be distrust of the specifics of the buyout itself: how the farm’s value will be calculated, whether this will have decreased markedly since the implicit “naming and shaming” of piekbelasters, and the amount of tax owed on the amount offered, which may feel punitive. This, too, is a justified concern: the devil is indeed in the detail. But the prospect of buyouts under duress of those who, having pursued the other methods or not, do not achieve the government’s

expected reductions, is not encouraging, and certainly not a sign of socio-political enforceability.

A separate unanticipated recent development which complicated the government’s planned timeline for progress was the success of BoerBurgerBeweging (BBB), a party focused on agricultural affairs and farmers’ interests, in March’s provincial elections, where it became the largest party in every province nationally. This development was momentous because it seemed that, with the provinces under the BBB’s control, a persistent opponent of government policy since the onset of the crisis, the government would no longer be able to rely on them to implement the expected emissions reductions. This in turn would give rise to gridlock, potentially even toppling the central government. The result indeed caused friction in the central cabinet, with coalition partner CDA declining to take further policy steps until results materialise from the negotiations to form provincial governments. As yet, the outcome of these negotiations and their consequences cannot be ascertained. The diversity of BBB’s negotiating partners is somewhat surprising and certainly encouraging, with for example the left-wing Partij van de Arbeid and/or Groenlinks, whom one would expect to have little in common with the agrarian party, participating where they hold significant vote shares, such as in Utrecht, Noord-Holland and Groningen. Nonetheless, a disconnect is growing between the The Hague’s expectations for the 1st July gebiedsprogramma’s and what the provinces feel capable of achieving. Progress is generally slowing, and even the 2030 time frame for the central reduction aim appears in doubt, with talk increasing of, at a minimum, falling back to 2035 as stipulated in the Wet natuurbescherming.

At first, then, the government’s central emission reduction aim is clear enough as far down as the sub-provincial level. However, reduction targets have not yet been tailored to individual farmers and their operations, and until this happens, outright achievability, independent of method, cannot be well assessed. Furthermore, the inclusion into the narrative of a broad array of other ecological targets, pertaining to, for example, soil quality, water quality and greenhouse gas emissions, subsequently compromises the clarity of the central aim. This risks overburdening farmers with bureaucracy, therefore potentially delaying progress at a time when, according to scientists, it is acutely needed with respect to nitrogen. Thirdly, the limited attention paid to the different types of nitrogen emissions remains puzzling. Given that the intensity of effect, at least, differs between the two types, distinguishing insufficiently between them, as the authorities have arguably done so far, has led to sub-optimal, inefficient methods of achieving the central aim. Meanwhile, the options open to farmers, as presented in government publications, which involve continuing operations in some form, appear realistic in isolation. Unfortunately, assertions by numerous farmers suggest the government must still offer significantly more clarity on them, and until this happens they cannot be deemed realistic. The same is true of the buyout method which the government is counting on heavily to make significant short-term impacts, albeit to a slightly lesser extent given greater legal certainty and the attractiveness of robust financial offers. Lastly, the gridlock effect of BBB’s exceptional provincial election performance may not quite materialise as anticipated, given their diverse negotiating partners. However, the indications of slow progress only a few months away from the deadline for the gebiedsprogramma’s dent the prospects of achievability of the central aim, regardless of methods employed.

The entire text -including footnotes and bibliography- is available on the website

## A Narrative of the Late Revolution in Holland, 1814

Review by Paul Dimond of the book by George William Chad

The role of Dutch soldiers at Waterloo will be well known to Society Members, not least through Veronica Baker-Smiths’ work, *Wellington’s Hidden Heroes*. There is also much material about leading figures in close Dutch-British interaction in the following years at The Hague, Brussels and Vienna. The name of George William Chad may however be less familiar.

One of the Society’s Members recently became aware of Chad’s book in the Library of the Travellers Club in Pall Mall, where George William Chad was a founder member. A friend

of the Duke of Wellington, Chad served in British diplomatic roles at The Hague and Brussels for many years. In his early 30s, he had arrived in the Netherlands soon after the return to Scheveningen on 30 November 1813 of William Frederick, the Prince of Orange-Nassau, to become in 1815 King William I of the Netherlands. In an introduction to his book, Chad’s describes the immediate causes of the ‘late happy Revolution’ as the rapid advance of allied armies that autumn and the panic that seized the French authorities, more distant sources found ‘chiefly in the evils which Holland



had endured in the course of the preceding nineteen years’. Chad adds that Holland had been ‘the prey of adverse factions, who had obtained continues on page 14

the general names of Orangemen and Patriots'. He also refers to the 'continental system' whose main object was 'to destroy the resources, and ruin the prosperity of Great Britain, by excluding her from all commercial intercourse with the continent'. He continues

*'Formerly, the Dutch merchants were the great retailers of Europe. They imported colonial produce and English manufactures, and distributed them to the Germans, and to other nations of the continent... when the communication with England and the colonies was cut off, principal and subordinates were involved in commercial ruin.'*

The next section of the 255-page book is Chad's narrative of events as the year progressed and into 1814. He lists those involved in the Orange Party at The Hague who had from the end of 1812 met to plan seizing the first opportunity to shake off the yoke of France. He refers to the disturbances among lower classes who 'rose upon their oppressor...took the town of Leyden, and hoisted the Orange flag, amid incessant cries of 'Oranje Boven!'; translates the 17 November instrument of the assembly of the Old Government leading to the proclamation in the name of the Prince of Orange; and describes the arrival of four English men of war off Schœveningen: 'people were in great alarm, and they were incredulous, as to the arrival of English troops', then on 29 November '200 marines were disembarked. The people were overjoyed at their arrival'; and 'His Most Serene Highness, who had embarked on the 26th at Deal, on board the Warrior, with Lord Clancarty and the English Embassy, arrived on the 30th off Schœveningen'. Chad reports on the entrance of the Prince into Amsterdam: 'he was received there with unanimous applause by all classes and proclaimed Sovereign Prince of the Netherlands'. He then explains the process of the new constitution involving the fourteen-member committee and the acceptance of the constitution by 483 of the 600 members of the assembly, chosen 'from among the most respectable householders in the different towns and provinces in Holland including persons of every religious persuasion, Jews not excepted'. The remainder of the book reprints in full the English text of van Hogendorp's constitution. Chad's work then published should have drawn quite an avid readership in England. The British Library also has a copy of Chad's book.

But Chad's story does not end there. More is to be drawn from his original letters from The Hague and Brussels to the Foreign Office, also held at the British Library, of which some snapshot extracts are below. These are selected not from any depth of scholarship but for the particular interest of Society Members. The story that emerges of Chad is, we might find, no mere byway in Dutch-British history.

To set the scene on the English dramatis personae, in 1813, the Earl of Clancarty (Richard Trench) was appointed to reside 'near the person of His Serene Highness the Prince of Orange' as Ambassador in Holland, on the restoration of the United Provinces to their Independence. The Hon Robert Gordon was selected as Secretary to Clancarty's Embassy.

One minutia about Gordon is that among his detailed expenses incurred from October to 1 December 1814 was 774 Florins and 14 Styvers on travel to Brussels and back, within a total account of 13,422 Fl 11 St, at an exchange rate of 9 Fl 19 St to £1.

Chad was named in a report from The Hague in October 1814, seemingly from Gordon, that explained applications made to Chad over licences to trade with the Dutch colonies, drawing attention to the use of the word 'island' to exclude Dutch merchants from trade with continental possessions of Demerary, Essequibo and Surinam (the last then under British rule). The Embassy had affirmed to the Dutch that in granting a new form of licence the British Government had intended to extend rather than diminish what had already been granted for the convenience of the 'Dutch Proprietor in his trade with the West India Colonies', the Amsterdam merchants' vessels being ready to sail. Thus, Chad was involved in our trade policy interaction at the time.

After Waterloo, there was much detailed correspondence between Chad and Robert Gordon, now back in London. Writing from Cateau Cambrésis on 25 June 1815 and from

Paris on 12 July, Chad expressed his sympathy over Gordon's loss of his elder brother, Lt-Col Sir Alexander Gordon, at Waterloo. The first letter records his brother's particular kindness to Chad: 'I have preserved for you the note he wrote me from the field of battle on the night of the 16th', the second informs Gordon of much detail of his brother's mortal injury, his treatment by Dr John Hume, Wellington's

physician, and his bravery. Chad also refers to Robert Gordon's black horse left in his charge when the Headquarters were transferred from Brussels: 'he also begged me to take care of your black horse'.

On 23 July he wrote again but in different, candid terms: 'I have hardly a moment to write, and begin this letter not knowing when I shall be able to finish it for we live in a continual round of business and pleasure, and really the latter is made almost as much a fatigue as the former'. He goes on to refer to Clancarty's creation as an English Peer and being made by the Netherlands a Dutch Marquis [Marquis van Heusden], and an estate of 10,000 Florins a year. Clancarty's successor Sir Charles Stuart is described as disconcerted: 'he finds himself nobody here' and 'Lord Castlereagh of course does all the business, and all the representation is his, so that Sir C wanders about endeavouring to create business'.

Days later on 28 July Chad wrote Gordon a summary of the assembly in Paris of Ministers

of the Allied Powers (Austria, Russia, England and Prussia) that led to the Treaty of Paris signed on 20 November.

*'The concourse of people of all ages and descriptions here is wonderful – all our Diplomats...have thought it necessary to repair hither and the conferences and protocol go on as at Vienna, except that there appears to be less discussion and more decision – the slave trade seems pretty well disposed of, to the satisfaction of the abolitionists. The Conferences are confined to the Ministers of the 4 Powers, Austria Russia England and Prussia, the Bourbon Court is obliged to receive the law. The plan seems now to be to divide for the moment France into 2 great masses, the one to be dedicated to the support of the Allied Troops as long as they remain in the country and the other to be applied to the support of the French Government... the army is to be disbanded, and it is hoped that the King will be enabled to recompose one of a more loyal spirit...I can't form a judgement of the period of the residence of the Allied Government here – some say 3 months, but as their object seems so very indefinite and that they appear to treat de omnibus uber and de quibusdam alios 3 months is a very inadequate time...Adieu my dear Gordon I shall continue to write occasionally always your very faithful G W Chad'.*

The two seem to have got on well. In August Chad is writing to Gordon candidly from Brussels about his intention to return to London via The Hague with Clancarty. Chad admits to Gordon (as his 'faithful and grateful friend') his focus on his own future career: 'I have talked to all the big wigs about it...Lord Castlereagh has given it as his opinion that there is no secondary appointment in Europe so likely to advance me towards a chieftainship as America'.

In a further letter of 8 September Chad writes to Gordon again about the black horse, the sale of Gordon's china in The Hague and the handling of France's obligation to pay for the Rhine fortresses, adding that 'Russia seems to lean towards the King of the Netherlands and a certain degree of coolness exists between Alexander and the Prussian Government in place of the former strict union'. He signs off with 'Adieu my dear Gordon, Lord Clancarty desires to be remembered and Lady C-y sends her love – you had better write to me under Lord Clancarty's cover by the messengers to Paris'.

In his letter of 18 September from Brussels, Chad reports that 'the King of the Netherlands has entirely acceded to Lord Clancarty's plan of preserving the territorial integrity of France he is to be called in French "Roi de la Ne'erlande" and his subjects "Ne'erlandais"'. He continues 'Brussels is now as full in proportion as Paris was a month ago... all the Dutch are here'.

In October 1815 he wrote chattily but in some apparent frustration from Brussels: 'We are still uncertain as to our future motions...our departure seems however as distant now as on the day of our arrival – if the Treaty which was so near being accomplished at Paris had not been blown to the Devil we might probably have got off by this time ... The real cause of Lord Clancarty's remaining here is as follows. The King of the Netherlands is to gain the Pays de Liege and its enclaves an addition altogether of near a hundred thousand souls, this he expected to have obtained gratis...' Chad ends this letter 'I am to have 3 months' leave in England from the time of my return thither before I start for America. I wonder when and where we shall meet

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# Carpenters' Company's links with the Dutch Community in London

by John Jackson, Liveryman of the Carpenters' Company, a longstanding Corporate Member of the Society

The Worshipful Company of Carpenters (the Company) is one of the ancient livery companies of the City of London. The first recorded date of the Company's existence is 1333 when the 'Boke of Ordinances' (First Company Ordinances or Rules) was written. The Company's first Hall was built on the same site as today in 1429.

The recorded beginning of a Dutch association with the Company was in 1458, when the Hall was let to 'Dutchmen' for 2 shillings. The Company's early accounts show that the 'Brotherhood of Dutchmen' hired the Hall on a fairly regular basis in the middle of the 15th century, until 1469. Unfortunately the Company's accounts add no details, but it can be assumed that it was a large gathering (the Hall was in demand as one of the largest meeting places in the City) and they probably held an impressive banquet. The Brotherhood may have been merchants from the Low Countries who traded in the City.

The establishment in the 16th century of the Dutch Reformed Church in the old Augustinian Friary close to the Hall heralded another stage in the Company's ties with the Dutch community in London. The impact of the Protestant Reformation was felt throughout Europe in the early 16th century. The religious persecution of Protestants in the Spanish Netherlands by the Hapsburg Emperors Charles V and Philip II led to emigration from the Low Countries and the introduction of the Spanish Inquisition intensified the flow of Protestants from the region. Many settled in London, and in 1550 Edward VI granted the church of Austin Friars, standing very close to Carpenters' Hall, for the use of foreign Protestants from Germany and other countries. Initially the congregation was largely German speaking but fairly quickly the Dutch congregation became dominant. The church then became known as the Dutch Reformed Church.

Political relations between Britain and the Netherlands over the centuries occasionally feature in the Company's history. The

Company supported William of Orange (along with the Corporation of London and the livery companies) when he deposed James II and took the throne as William III in 1688, reigning jointly with his wife Mary II.

The Company's relationship with the Netherlands was re-affirmed and strengthened when Her Majesty Queen Juliana accepted the Honorary Freedom (1954) and Livery (1966) of the Company. The casket containing the



Painting of Queen Juliana at Carpenters' Hall

Freedom scroll, made by Freeman William Wheeler, was of wood salvaged from Carpenters' Hall and the old Dutch Church which were both destroyed by enemy action in 1941. In 1972, Carpenters' Hall was the venue for a State Banquet given by Queen Juliana to Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the British Royal Family. The Prime Minister Edward Heath and members of the Cabinet and the Master and Wardens of the Company were also in attendance. The Company owns a Dutch silver cigar box presented by Queen Juliana and the Prince of the Netherlands in 1972 on the holding of the State Banquet.

The Company was actively involved with the Dutch Church in offering assistance in building the new church in Austin Friars and donating a window when it was rebuilt after the Second World War. The Minister of the Dutch Church is invited to participate in the Company's annual Election Day service in All Hallows Church. When it has not been possible for the Company to hold such service at this church the Minister of the Dutch Church has very kindly offered his Church for this service. This year's service took place at the Dutch Church in July and was conducted by the Reverend Bertjan van de Lagemaat.

Some of the readers of this article may well have visited Carpenters' Hall and reminders of the close association of the Company and the Netherlands there include a portrait of Queen Juliana by Sierck Schroder which hangs in the Reception area on the first floor of the Hall. In the entrance hall is a series of thirteen roundels depicting events from the history of the Company: one of these is entitled 'Dutchmen 1458'. The design shows the Dutch being made welcome by the Master of the Carpenters' Company in 1458 and the colours of the background are those of the Dutch Flag. There is also a framed facsimile page from the Company's Visitors' Book recording signatures of guests at Queen Juliana of the Netherlands' State Banquet in the Hall in 1972.

When Queen Juliana was made an Honorary Freeman of the Company in 1954 the Master, Mr Kenneth M Robert's, said:

"We desire to offer to Your Majesty a most cordial welcome as an Honorary Freeman of this Guild and we affirm our earnest desire that the neighbourly relations that existed between the Brotherhood of Dutchmen and the Carpenters of London in the 15th Century may continue for ever."

I am indebted to the Company's Archivist, Julie Tancell, for providing me with information about the Company's links with the Dutch community in London which I have found most useful in writing this article.

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continued from page 14: "A Narrative of the Late Revolution in Holland, 1814"

*again, it must be the lot of a man in this Profession to be separated from his friends but then they are brought frequently together again and must meet if they keep in the course. Adieu my dear Gordon. "Where'er I go, whatever realms I see my heart untravell'd turns my friend to thee".*

The following month however he again wrote colourfully describing the atmosphere in Brussels:

*'...Brussels is full of very vulgar English – it is decided that the Court will remain here until next September...The Prince of Orange is as popular here as it is possible to be, and he has quite gained the hearts of the people of Brussels by giving small private balls of about 100 persons, succeeded by most excellent supper, where the Belgian Dandies are overjoyed at finding sitting room and eating room and drinking room even for the gentlemen – and still more surprised at certain Patés de Périgueux, iced champagne, fruit out of season, clean plates knives and forks and servants who give you bread when you ask for it...the fêtes in general*

*in Belgium have been much inferior to those given in Holland...the ball given by the King at Amsterdam was the best thing of the kind I ever saw...'*

Clancarty went on to be Embassy Secretary at Vienna, Sir Charles Stuart appointed to The Hague. Chad was Minister there ad interim from 1816, in 1817 was Acting British Plenipotentiary before Clancarty returned as Ambassador in 1817, Chad standing in as Minister ad interim in various years. Gordon later became Envoy to Brazil and then Ambassador at Constantinople and finally Ambassador to Vienna.

In a limited-edition booklet published in 1956, the 7th Duke of Wellington edited a series of conversations between the 1st Duke and Chad in the 1820s-1830s. In his forward, the 7th Duke made it clear that while the 1st Duke and Chad had been friends, if the former had known that Chad was writing down his remarks in these conversations, he would have taken amiss their

repetition. The 7th Duke writes that Chad's career itself was at least honourable if not distinguished but that he appeared to be a man of 'the utmost insignificance'. As recorded by the 7th Duke, Chad was assigned to Saxony in 1824, to the Diet at Frankfort in 1829, to Prussia in 1830 and retired in 1832.

What we might safely conclude is that Chad lived through interesting times and in key places, irrespective of his progress as a senior English diplomat, and left a legacy of much value in his reports and correspondence with colleagues and friends. We may imagine that if alive today he might have readily engaged in social media, with some temptation on the edge of mischief.

All quotations above are from the original documents held by the British Library, to whose helpful team I record my appreciation. All graphological and textual misinterpretations are mine.

## Forthcoming Events

### Private guided tour of Freemasons' Hall

around Noon on a Wednesday in January 2024

Situated in Great Queen Street in the heart of London's West End, a few minutes from Covent Garden and Holborn tube stations, this magnificent Art Deco hall was built as a memorial to those 3000 members who died on active service in the First World War. In 2019 HRH The Duke of Kent, Grand Master, unveiled



View over London with Freemasons' Hall;  
photo credit :Anglo-Netherlands Society

the unique Victoria Cross Remembrance Stone honouring all those who won the highest award for bravery. The site on which the hall stands has been the centre of freemasonry in London for nearly 300 years, the first having been built in 1775. The current building now houses some 22 Lodge, board and committee rooms and has been fully open to the public since 1985. It boasts a café and bar and is a popular venue for concerts.

Join us for a fascinating private group tour to uncover further the mysteries of what lies within! Limited availability. Cost £22.50 pp to include tea/coffee and biscuits, private guided tour (approx. 55 minutes) and admin. fee.



### Private guided tour, Royal Hospital Chelsea

Date in February 2024 to be determined



Join us for a private guided tour of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, an impressive 330-year old home, founded by King Charles II and designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It is the retirement and nursing home for about 300 British Army veterans (men and women) from all corners of the United Kingdom, who are recognisable by their red coats and black caps. One of these pensioners will give us a guided tour of the Royal Hospital. Come and explore Wren's stunning building and learn all about the stories of its inhabitants, their traditions and lifestyle. More information will be available soon.

An expression of interest would be appreciated at [events@anglo-netherlands.org.uk](mailto:events@anglo-netherlands.org.uk) Photo credit: Royal Hospital Chelsea.

## Anglo-Netherlands Society

Established 1920, incorporated 2002

Company limited by guarantee, number 4322131

Registered Office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DY

Postal address : c/o Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,  
38 Hyde Park Gate, London SW7 5DP

Mobile phone (and SMS): 07401 660 615 (Wednesdays 11 – 3 pm)

Website: [www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk](http://www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk)

e-mail: [administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk](mailto:administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk)

### AIMS and OBJECTS

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

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Any person or organisation desirous of promoting the 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.

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

Royal Netherlands Embassy

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### CORPORATE MEMBERS

Carpenters' Company

This form of membership can be tailored to your requirements.

**Members' page at [www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk](http://www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk)**

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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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