

ANGLO - NETHERLANDS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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TEL: 020-7767 6959 (Wednesdays 10.30-2.30pm)

www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk

Winter 2011-12

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Sir Keith Mills, who will talk on "Inspiring the Youth of the World", during a visit to an International Inspiration project in India

Unilever Lecture

Some background on our speaker, Sir Keith Mills

The subject of Sir Keith's talk and presentation is "Inspiring the Youth of the World" a subject which he believes vital for the future. Sir Keith is a very committed and inspiring individual who has had a highly successful career most notably through creating both the Air Miles and the Nectar businesses. He has a passion for sailing and was the sponsor of Team Origin, the UK sailing team which challenged for the Americas Cup. He is also the owner of the Ocean yacht which races globally under the name and sponsorship of Hugo Boss. His thoughts on how to inspire and develop the talents of the youth of today will be very interesting.

In September 2003 Sir Keith was appointed International President and CEO of London 2012, the company established to bid for the 2012 Olympic Games. Sir Keith led the team and along with Lord Coe was responsible for developing the bid strategy and persuading the 115 IOC members that London should be granted the rights to host the Olympic and

Paralympic Games in 2012. On 6 July 2005, in Singapore, London beat off competition from New York, Paris, Madrid and Moscow.

Having established the London 2012 organisation which will plan and organise the Games (LOCOG), Sir Keith remains as Deputy Chairman alongside Lord Coe to oversee operations.

In 2005 Sir Keith received a number of awards including: Master Entrepreneur of the Year, Chief Executive of the Year and the Sports Industry Businessman of the Year. In addition, Sir Keith owns two yacht racing teams: TEAMORIGIN, which was established to compete as Britain's entry in the America's Cup, and AT Racing, which competes in ocean races with Hugo Boss sponsorship. Sir Keith chairs two charitable sport-for-development foundations: the Olympic International Inspiration programme and the UK Sported programme. He is also a non executive director of Tottenham Hotspur.

Robert Brooke

Forthcoming Events

Unilever Lecture Our speaker will be Sir Keith Mills, Deputy Chairman of the London Organising Committee Olympic Games. **Wednesday 15 February 6pm Drinks, Lecture 6.30pm**

Charles Dickens Museum Private Evening View. **Thursday 29 March 6 - 8pm.**

Highclere Castle ("Downton Abbey") near Newbury, **Saturday 14 April 11am**

Diamond Jubilee Concert, presented by the UK-EU Societies. Britten Theatre. Guests will be welcome. **Thursday 19 April, 7.00pm** to approx 9.15pm.

Three day visit to Wales Please note that the dates have changed, by a week. A few more places are available - see page 2. **Thursday 24 May until Sunday a.m. 27 May.**

New Members

We welcome as members:

Mr Jogchum Brinksma and
Mrs Marielle Brinksma
Mr Christopher Freeman and
Mrs Marietta Freeman
Mrs Nicole Lebon
Mrs Christel Mooney-Raaijmakers
Mr Hugo Ruys and
Mrs Pauline Ruys
Mr Robert Stassen and
Mrs Chantal Stassen
Mr Hans van de Velde and
Mrs Marjolijn van de Velde
Mr Robin Voogd and
Mrs Lorna Voogd
Mrs Marie-Claire Wilson-van den Broek
Mr Peter de Wit and
Mrs Sue de Wit

Society trip to Wales in 2012

A few more places have now been made available

As already announced in previous Newsletters another trip to a cathedral city in the UK is being organised. Unfortunately the dates initially announced have had to be deferred by a week, so we will now be meeting up at noon on Thursday 24th May in the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff and ending the formal part of the programme with breakfast on Sunday 27th May in the cathedral city of St. Davids in S.-W. Wales. An optional visit can possibly be arranged to attend the opening concert of the well-known St. Davids Cathedral Music Festival on the evening of that Sunday (requiring another night's stay in that smallest City in the UK).

The programme as indicated in the previous Newsletters has not been changed. We will start with a private visit to the National Museum of Wales, located in Cardiff's historic civic centre just opposite the Hilton hotel, with an opportunity to view the largest collection of Impressionists in the UK. This will be followed by a move by water-taxi to Cardiff Bay where we will visit the dramatic Wales Millennium Centre, home to the world famous Welsh National Opera. The day will finish with a private tour of the striking Welsh Assembly Hall (the Senedd),

followed by drinks and dinner in the members' section of the Hall, by special arrangement.

The following day we will travel westwards via various places, including the open air museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagans (recently been named the top tourist attraction in the UK by Which?) and the National Botanic Gardens, into Pembrokeshire where St. Davids will become our staging post. We will have a guided tour around the 13th century Cathedral, a boat ride around the bird and seal-watchers paradise of Ramsey Island (weather permitting!) and possibly a visit to Tregwynt Woollen Mill. The visit will end with dinner on Saturday evening in or around St. Davids and participants will be free to depart after breakfast on Sunday for whatever their next destination is, unless they opt for attending the concert in the Cathedral on that Sunday evening (see above).

Fifteen rooms have now been firmly reserved in both cities as reasonable accommodation during that part of the year is rather limited, particularly in St. Davids. Those members that have already expressed a serious interest in participating will receive a formal application form by early-January and be asked for an initial



deposit to firm up their hotel bookings. A few places for this visit are still available, but applications will have to be received soon (see below). As an indication of costs for this event one should count on around £325 p.p., somewhat higher for those staying in a hotel in St. Davids and for those requesting single occupancy rooms, all dependent on type of accommodation requested or available. This cost estimate includes three nights accommodation, one lunch, three dinners, guides, entrance fees where applicable. Those members interested in participating in the Cardiff part of the visit only can apply, subject to places available.

A detailed programme and application form can be provided upon request, by post or preferably e-mail: wales2012@anglo-netherlands.org.uk.

Dick & Victoria van den Broek

Charles Dickens Museum

Private Evening View of his surviving London home

2012 will be the year that London leads a world-wide celebration of the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens, who was born on 7 February 1812. Many organisations are planning festivals, exhibitions and much more in honour of the most internationally acclaimed British novelist.

The Charles Dickens Museum in London holds the world's most important Dickens collection with over 100,000 items including manuscripts, rare editions, personal items, paintings and other visual sources.

Join us for a unique Private Evening View at the Dickens House Museum in 48, Doughty Street. Although Dickens had many London homes throughout his lifetime, this early-19th century terraced house is the only one to have survived. The popular works of Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby were entirely written here and Pickwick Papers was finished.

A guide will take us for an exclusive tour around the museum after which we can explore the museum at our leisure and enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink in the cafe.

Connie Sangster

The Museum of London runs an exhibition "Dickens and London" until 10 June, recreating the atmosphere of Victorian London through sound and projections, where you will be taken on a haunting journey to discover the city that inspired his writings. Additional information can be found on their website: www.museumoflondon.org, on the special www.dickens2012.org website, and of course on www.dickensmuseum.com.

Nederlands Dans Theater 2 - NDT2

"Mixed Bill" at Sadler's Wells, 6, 7, 8 and 9 March at 7.30pm Please note: No live music!

Founded in 1978 for dancers between the ages of 17 and 23, Nederlands Dans Theater 2 is one of the world's most popular contemporary dance groups. After wowing Sadler's Wells audiences with their performances here in 2010 to celebrate the company's 50th anniversary, they are back to present an exciting mixed bill including Jirí Kylián's award-winning Gods and Dogs, and NDT2 Associate Artist Alexander Ekman's Cacti.

Gods and Dogs is Jirí Kylián's 100th choreography for Nederlands Dans Theater. First performed in 2008 it has been described as "a work of rare beauty" (Dance Europe) which explores the border between sanity and insanity.

At just 26 years old, **Alexander Ekman** is a big name on the European dance scene – his works are known for their clever ideas, fast-paced choreography and dry wit. A former dancer with NDT2 and Cullberg Ballet, he is now a highly-regarded choreographer.

The final work in the triple bill will be **Paul Lightfoot's Passe-Partout**.

A group of NDT Friends will attend the Friday performance.

Members of the Anglo-Netherlands Society are cordially invited to join the Friends, at their own expense.

Furthermore a small sightseeing programme is being organized for

the visiting NDT friends. In the morning of Friday 9 March they will visit the Courtauld Gallery, well known for its superb impressionists. At the time of the visit the temporary exhibition: "Mondrian and Nicholson: In Parallel" is on show.

The NDT Friends extend a warm welcome to members of the Anglo-Netherlands Society to join them in this part of their touring programme as well (admission price as part of the group will be approximately £5.-).

It is hoped that Dr Ernst Vegelin, Head of The Courtauld Gallery, will be able to join the group.

Please contact marianne.denney@hotmail.co.uk, or Tel.: 0208 748 0636 if you are interested in joining one or both parts of the Friends'visit.

The photo is from Alexander Ekman's "Cacti"



Highclere Castle

Visit to the setting of "Downton Abbey"

On April 14 the Anglo-Netherlands Society will be visiting Highclere Castle in Berkshire. Set amidst 1,000 acres of spectacular parkland designed by the renowned landscape gardener Lancelot "Capability" Brown, it has become more widely known for being the iconic film location for the much acclaimed television series Downton Abbey.

The original Elizabethan building was acquired by the Herbert family, the Earls of Carnarvon, in 1679. It later took on Georgian characteristics before, in 1842, the third Earl commissioned Sir Charles Barry, designer of the Houses of Parliament, to undertake considerable external and internal improvements; these were completed in 1878, resulting in the creation of what is generally acknowledged to be one of England's most beautiful Victorian residences, much admired by the political class of that period.

The Discovery Gallery in the cellars records the extraordinary life and interests of the fifth Earl who died in 1923. He was famed, together with his friend Howard Carter, for his excavations in Egypt over a

sixteen year period. His discoveries near Luxor, in the Valleys of the Kings, the Queens, and the Nobles and in the Nile Delta near Alexandria, became one of the most extraordinary collections of Egyptian antiquities in the world. Upon his death, the collection was sold by his widow to the Metropolitan Museum of New York in order to pay the death duties.

Fortunately for the visitor, not all the works of art were sent to New York and a number which had been tucked away in cupboards were re-discovered by the family in 1987 and can now be seen. The British and Newbury Musea respectively have kindly lent-back further statues and antiquities, originally lent to them by the



family. Visitors can also observe the jewelry, the faces and figures, the beautifully crafted jars and a coffin of a noble woman from 3500 years ago as well as learn of the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb by the fifth Earl. There is a special commemorative exhibition of the discovery.

Still inhabited by the Carnarvon family, Highclere saw different uses during the two World Wars. During the First, it was a hospital, and during the Second, it became a home for evacuee children. Visitors can see what happened to the Castle and the family during the First World War.

Sylvia Knight

The photos show Highclere Castle from the East Lawn, and part of the Egyptian Exhibition.

Chairman's New Year Message

I trust you all had a welcome break over the holiday period and are all as refreshed and relaxed as I am.

Our 90th Year is now well and truly over but 2011 was a year in the Society's history which will go down as yet another success. We held many and varied events which pleased members but disappointed some because there was no room for everyone who wanted to attend. I am sorry about that but at least it was through success. Disappointment for one reason or another gives us all a chance to stop and reflect. I ask you all " Can we do things differently to improve our offering to our members ? " Please let me know so that in 2012 we can do better still.

Two really positive and encouraging outcomes of our efforts to build membership are that Rabobank have joined us as a Corporate Patron and there is a recent and positive trend of new members. Both of these developments bode well for 2012 and the future.

Our system of willing volunteers is something on which we all depend. I want to thank you all, those who have helped know how much we appreciate your input and I gave special thanks for this at our recent Annual General Meeting. Needless to say we are always looking for yet more helpers so, if you

are willing and able to offer your help, please contact the office or me so we can act.

In one area at least we have change in that, through family health reasons, our Administrator Julie Stanyer has been forced to retire . However we now have in place a new Administrator Corenza Roele who takes over fully in 2012 so we wish her well as she starts her duties very soon.

2012 is another year with lovely events planned already, flagged in advance in the wonderful Newsletter which is always a quality production organised by our indefatigable Hon. Editor Hans Neher. Upcoming trips to Highclere Castle and to Wales stand out to me.

We are also fortunate in this Olympics year to have as our Speaker, at the annual Unilever Lecture in February, Sir Keith Mills who was instrumental with others in successfully pitching for and winning the 2012 Olympics bid.

In addition we have a variety of other social, musical, theatrical and cultural events during the year so we should be busy and active. All ideas for events are most welcome.

Finally I want to say thank you to you all for your support and interest. Long may this continue. May I wish you all a very happy and healthy year ahead.

Robert Brooke

Diamond Jubilee Concert

Presented by the UK-EU Societies

Once again, the Anglo-Netherlands Society and other UK-EU Societies are delighted to present a concert with musicians and singers, selected by the Royal College of Music.

These outstanding young musicians will perform a mainly classical programme to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen.

The programme is still being finalised, but as before we also hope to include a little jazz, which proved so popular.

Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music, on Thursday 19 April, at 7pm

The Spring Newsletter is expected to be sent out on Wednesday 28 March; the deadline for contributions would be Monday 19 March.

Membership dues can now also be paid electronically - details appear on your renewal form

The Vermeer Exhibition in Cambridge

Report of our visit, on 8 October, by Tina Wilson

What a rare treat to be able to arrive Dutch Fashion by bike to an Anglo-Netherlands Society outing on one's own home patch! Rineke's sharp eyes had spotted that the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge was mounting an exhibition on "Vermeer's Women: Secrets and Silence", curated by Marjorie E Wieseman, curator of Dutch Paintings at The National Gallery, London and herself a member of the Society.

So in true Dutch style 36 of us assembled on 8 October for a midmorning cup of coffee in the museum café and to meet Catherine and Mary who were to guide us round the exhibition. Catherine explained the genesis of the exhibition was a "quid pro quo" following the approach by the Louvre Museum to the Fitzwilliam for the loan of Tarquin's Rape of Lucretia for a major exhibition on Titian's work being planned in Paris. The Syndics (the University Governing Body of the museum) had initially refused this request but eventually relented on condition that the Louvre lend them in return Vermeer's painting of The Lacemaker which has never before been seen in the United Kingdom!

Johnes Vermeer excelled in the mid-seventeenth century in portraying tranquil domestic scenes, featuring mainly women engaged in simple activities in which his treatment of light and fabrics convey an enigmatic world of harmony and serenity. Four of his canvases are hung alongside over thirty other masterpieces by contemporaries such as Gerrit Dou, Gerard ter Borch, Pieter de Hooch and Jan Steen and Nicolaes Maes on loan from galleries in the UK, Europe and the USA.

The theme of the exhibition is to show the private interior world of the middle-class home in seventeenth-century Holland, where women ruled supreme whilst their menfolk pursued their business interests in the outside world, often an idealised view portrayed by male artists. The gallery has been divided into three sections: Invitation (to the viewer to enter this space), Threshold (demarcating the boundary between the external world and the home life), and Sanctum (the private heart of the home). However despite the exhortations of the Household Manuals by writers such as Jacob "Vader" Cats that women lead virtuous, thrifty, ordered lives within their homes, several artists, such as Jan Steen and Gerrit Dou, hint that in this inner sanctum everything is perhaps not always as innocent as it may at first seem - hence the Secrets of the title of the exhibition.

At the start of the exhibition there are two paintings by Vermeer, each of a young woman sitting at a virginal, as if inviting the viewer to join her in playing a duet. One is from the National Gallery, the other from a private collection in New York. Although some doubted whether this latter was a genuine Vermeer, recent technical analysis has proved that its canvas was cut from the same bolt of coarsely woven cloth as that of The Lacemaker! At the end of the gallery are two more scenes by the artist, The Music Lesson, on loan from the Queen's Gallery, and The Lacemaker, the highlight of the whole exhibition. The young woman bent over her intricate work in intense concentration seems oblivious of the viewer, and indeed of the artist painting her, being totally absorbed in her own private world. This painting has such serenity and calm that one would never tire of gazing at it, and I think I could well choose it as my one "luxury" if I was ever marooned on Roy Plumley's mythical desert island!



We emerged out of the darkened gallery to relax over a convivial lunch in Brown's restaurant across the road. Afterwards we were rejoined by Catherine and Mary, who took us on a guided walking tour through the town and some of the colleges. From them we learnt that our lunch venue was

housed in the former pharmacy of the Old Addenbrooke's Hospital, founded in 1766 on Trumpington Street from a bequest left by Dr John Addenbrooke.

In 1976 the hospital moved to a new site and the old building's much-loved façade was retained in the University's new Judge Business School. There is so much history in Cambridge that one always discovers something new. Catherine took my group into Pembroke College which has the oldest gatehouse in the city, dating from 1347; its foundress, the Countess of Pembroke, "was maid, wife and widow" all in one day - her husband died in a jousting tournament following the wedding! Its most famous alumnus was William Pitt the Younger, Prime Minister at 24, who introduced Income Tax "as a temporary measure" (!) in 1798 to help fund the war against Napoleon!

Our next stop was Queens' College, founded by two queens (hence the placing of the apostrophe), first by Margaret of Anjou, the French wife of Henry IV, in 1448 as The Queen's College of St Margaret and St Bernard, and then re-founded in 1465 by Elizabeth Woodville, the wife of Edward IV. Not only is it one of the most picturesque of the Cambridge



colleges, but it also has several links with the Low Countries. Since there is no natural stone in Cambridgeshire, the gatehouse and old courts were built by Flemish bricklayers in what was then a revolutionary medium, and the gatehouse is reminiscent of monastic foundations in Bruges. The great humanist, Erasmus of Rotterdam, the foremost classical scholar of his day, taught at Queens' College for five years from 1510, though a local butcher was very dubious as to whether his son could learn much from this teacher with a foreign accent! Apparently too Erasmus had quite an eye for the ladies!

Continuing along King's Parade, we paused briefly at Cambridge's latest landmark, the Chronophage, a rather gaudy clock plated in 24-carat gold, featuring a hideous locust devouring Time, built much to my husband's disgust in what used to be the doorway of our local bank, before that was transformed into a new college library. It was a gift to Corpus Christi College by a benefactor who made his fortune through the invention of the thermostat switch now used in 600 million kettles worldwide!

For our group the tour ended at the Senate House, the heart of the university where degrees are awarded and university elections are held, though Mary's group made it to Trinity College, where Henry VIII's statue over the gatehouse still proudly brandishes, instead of a sceptre, a wooden chairleg, substituted by undergraduates long ago.

All in all it was a memorable day, leaving lots of mind pictures to savour in the weeks ahead. It also gave me some little insight into the thought, work and meticulous planning that goes into these outings. Rineke may have called me "her legs" but she was very firmly the "brains" behind the whole enterprise. We are fortunate indeed to have such dedicated members on the Events Committee.

The photos show: Lunch at Brown's; the Old Hall at Queens' College, and the Cloister Court at Queens'.



Talk by H.E. Paul Arkwright, British Ambassador at The Hague

Report by Paul Dimond

At the Reform Club on 11 November, some forty members of the Society enjoyed a unique occasion when the British Ambassador to the Netherlands, His Excellency Paul Arkwright, talked to us on the theme of 'Unspoken Allies: Anglo-Dutch Relations in a Turbulent World'. The event was happily timed just ahead of the visit to London by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte for talks with the British Prime Minister David Cameron, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and for visits to Birmingham and Manchester. The dinner was attended by the Society's President and Lady Perry, Vice-President His Excellency Ambassador Pim Waldeck, Chairman Robert Brooke and Mrs Brooke and other Members of the Council. We are indebted to Council Member Dick van den Broek for facilitating the dinner in these atmospheric and historical surroundings.

It was especially pleasing that we were able to welcome on this occasion both longer-standing Members and some younger supporters of

our own 'special relationship'. The Ambassador's talk, reproduced below, rewarded us handsomely, in its perceptive judgements on the contemporary relationship and in the topicality of our debate on the dominant current issue of European economic and political affairs against the background of crisis.

It was clear from the Ambassador's remarks that, like his predecessors, he was much enjoying his Mission to the Netherlands, working with Dutch colleagues across the spectrum of present-day issues, both bilateral and international. Following his presentation, the Ambassador answered a range of questions on topics ranging from the theme of fiscal integration in Europe and the nature of Dutch pro-Europeanism to European relations with China and with the US.

All participants will have agreed with the President's comment in his vote of thanks to Paul Arkwright that this event was one of the most remarkably frank evenings the Society had enjoyed for a long time.

"UNSPOKEN ALLIES: ANGLO-DUTCH RELATIONS IN A TURBULENT WORLD"

FROM THE TALK BY HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL ARKWRIGHT AT THE REFORM CLUB, 11 NOVEMBER 2011

Thank you to the President, the Chairman and all members of the Society for inviting me to speak this evening.

I've chosen a rather challenging topic for my talk this evening. The title was prompted by the excellent collection of essays on the Anglo-Dutch relationship edited by Nigel Ashton and Duco Hellema, published in 2001. 10 years on, I thought it might be interesting to put to the test a concluding remark which appears in the Postscript to the book:

"... in spite of their differences, in

both size and influence, the two countries still seem to have much in common. They are still linked by substantial common economic interests, symbolised by the two huge multinationals Shell and Unilever. This affinity is a matter of style, culture and outlook, and of specific, concrete and readily discernible political interests. The two countries indeed share common values, such as their long democratic tradition, and their liberal view on international relations. In a world, and within a EU, characterised by unexpected changes and volatile coalitions, this political and cultural affinity can be, and will continue to be, a factor of great value and much practical importance."

I know that many talks of this nature begin with a historical overview of the relationship. I won't do too much of that - Lisa Jardine and Simon Schama have done a far better job than I ever could. But I might start with a picture - a portrait of a rather solemn nine year old girl with an aquiline nose in a splendid dress which hangs on the wall of the dining room in my Residence in The Hague. Many of you who know the Residence will know the picture. It is of Mary Stuart, daughter of Charles I, sister of Charles II and James II, shortly after her marriage to the 14 year old Prince William of Orange. Their son, who married his first cousin, James II's eldest

daughter Mary, became, of course William III of England. Mary Stuart had a remarkable, but sadly brief role in history, which was brought to life by a splendid theatrical performance at the Residence a week ago - part of a series of plays called *Het Portret Spreek* - the portrait speaks. Her marriage was of course political - aimed at strengthening ties between Holland and England at a time when both were threatened by other European powers.

Those days of revolution and turmoil in the 17th century were also days of "unexpected changes and volatile coalitions". At a time when Europe seemed ready to tear itself apart, two great trading nations came together to protect their national interests and to provide some stability in a turbulent world.

Fast forward to 2011. In three days' time Mark Rutte will visit the UK for talks with David Cameron and Nick Clegg about a different crisis afflicting Europe. They will focus on developing the trade relationship between us, already in good health but with plenty of potential for expansion. They will agree, I am sure, on the need for the Eurozone to take quick and decisive action to tackle the debt crisis in Greece and Italy. They will also agree that there should be a renewed focus on growth and competitiveness in the EU - and that export-led growth is the best way to address the economic malaise of the Union. They will no doubt make joint statements on the importance of completing the single market, and keeping the EU budget within reasonable limits. And on many other issues they will see eye to eye - from combating piracy to the way ahead on Afghanistan and Libya.

But for all the chemistry and the agreement on the importance of stimulating

growth in Europe there is a key difference. The Netherlands is in the Eurozone, the UK is not. I have lost count of how many people in the Dutch political establishment, and beyond, have said to me how much they regret that the UK is not, as they see it, alongside them fighting for the survival of the Euro. The country that worked so hard to persuade their British friends to join the European Community, as it then was, feels British absence from the 17 at this time of need more keenly than ever. They tell me that that "natural affinity" of "readily discernible political interests" isn't operating as it should. Now is the time, they say, for the UK to join the Euro.

Living in the UK, you know as well as I do that joining the Euro is simply not on the British political agenda. Yet we have a fundamental national interest in the health and stability of the Euro. Over 40% of our exports, those exports which are supposed to be the engine for growth, go to countries in the Eurozone. The Netherlands is our third largest market for exports and Dutch companies our second largest investor. That's why the Eurozone crisis will be at the very top of the agenda when the two Prime Ministers meet on Monday. And that's why David Cameron wants to make common cause with Mark Rutte on promoting growth. As a senior figure put it to me the other day, there is a growing risk that the Eurozone countries will be so intent on managing economic decline that they fail to take action to reverse that decline. And that's where the UK can help the Dutch agenda, and vice versa.

On Wednesday evening at the Residence I hosted what has become known as the Political Party - an informal evening giving Dutch politicians, journalists, academics and

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business people the opportunity to come together and discuss issues of the day. We had a brief talk by Tom de Bruijn, whom many of you will know, and whose last job was Permanent Representative at the Dutch delegation to the EU.

It was a lively evening. Conversations I had moved from the Euro to the concerns of many that the current crisis is accelerating a worrying trend in the Netherlands of people, fearful of the future, distrusting institutions, and averse to the political elite, turning inward, retreating "*achter de dijken*", behind the dikes. Many I spoke to feared that The Netherlands, with its deserved reputation for tolerance and openness to the world, seems to be turning its back on the world. A country which was considered reliable and predictable becoming less reliable, less predictable, less sure of its place in the world, less ready to shoulder its responsibilities in NATO and the UN....

The dissatisfaction with the political establishment is plain for all to see: the terrible polling figures for the CDA and PvdA tell their own tale - as do the strong figures for the Freedom Party and the Socialist Party. The centre is losing ground rapidly to radical parties deeply hostile to the EU. As an astute observer of the political scene said to me recently - people wanting to punish the estab-

lishment is nothing new in the Netherlands, but the scale and size of the phenomenon today is new.

I don't think the picture is as black and white as this: there are plenty of recent examples of the Dutch acting on the international stage, from Afghanistan to countering piracy. The Netherlands is still a good place to visit or to do business. But I can see the economic risk of a country, where 75% of its GNI is provided by exports, being seen to bring down the shutters: it's a point made frequently by Bernard Wientjes, Chair of the Dutch equivalent of the CBI. A recent article in the NRC quoted Ambassadors from eight countries, including me, making a similar argument.

This talk is not the place for me, after only two years of living in The Netherlands, to psycho-analyse the Dutch people or prescribe solutions. And, as Dutch friends have pointed out to me in that charmingly frank way of theirs, the UK is not exactly perfect either. But it is perhaps worth reflecting on whether those accepted values described in the quotation at the beginning of my talk are as prevalent today as they were ten years ago - in either of our countries.

There is a risk that this talk might tail off in a cloud of gloom and despair. But the weekend is starting, we are in good company, sharing good food and wine and the Christmas lights have arrived. So let me end with three

other reasons to be cheerful.

Firstly, whatever the strains of the current crisis, that Anglo-Dutch instinct for cooperation, rolling up our collective sleeves and finding practical solutions together is still alive and kicking. We'll see it in action during Mark Rutte's visit next week. And I doubt that junior Ministers from many other countries would get the same level of attention as David Lidington, our Minister for Europe, did in a 12 hour visit to The Hague this week: he saw four Ministers, three of them at Cabinet level.

Secondly, despite the economic malaise, Dutch companies are doing well in the UK market, continuing to invest, and making money. And British companies are also finding the Netherlands a profitable place to do business. Trade between the two countries was up by 17 % last year.

Thirdly, and this is for the football fans like me, the joy of watching Dutch masters like Robin van Persie and Rafael van der Vaart creating their art in English football stadia has put a smile on millions of British - and Dutch - faces.

I will conclude by returning to that quotation from the book "*Unspoken Allies*". I for one am convinced that our political and cultural affinity can be, and will continue to be, a factor of great value and much practical importance. And I am proud and privileged to be able to play a small part in keeping it that way. Thank you.

British Library - Dutch Books and Maps

Report of our visit on 23 November, by John Boldero

A group of members recently had the privilege of a private view of the extensive collection of Dutch maps and books held at the British Library in London. The Library itself has the third largest collection of books in the world and its Dutch material spans 500 years, from 1500 to the present day and covers a wide range of subjects including Arts & Humanities, Philosophy, Theology and History, with an emphasis on 17th Century Dutch history and colonial times. The selections cover printed books published in the Benelux, in both English and Dutch. Members are encouraged to view the frequently-changing exhibitions and visit events that take place at the Library; details on the website www.bl.uk

Our first speaker, Marja Kingma, Curator of the Dutch Collection, introduced the various works on display, starting with a Proclamation of 1568, issued by the Duke of Alva in Brussels, on behalf of Philip II of Spain, authorising the use of force against the 'English pirates' of Elizabeth I, thus encouraging the 'cleansing of the sea of such wicked and hinderful people', while all trade with England was embargoed. The copy held by the Library is the only one known in Britain and it also holds the counter-proclamation, issued by Elizabeth I on 27 April 1569 against 'piracies and depredations upon the Seas'. Next was an example of a work by the famous Flemish botanist Rembert Dodoens, the '*Pemptades*', published in Antwerp in 1583, containing a wide assortment of illustra-

tions of plants and, curiously, four plant specimens, randomly inserted, when and by whom being unknown.

Also on display was a first edition of Spinoza's highly controversial work, '*Tractatus theologico-politicus*', issued in Amsterdam in 1670. He published it anonymously and gave a false place of publication, expecting strong reactions from both clerical and secular authorities. In this work, Spinoza sets out ideas that would form part of the core of

the Enlightenment, emphasising reason as the source of knowledge and the separation of faith and science.

Accompanying this was the '*Journal of the voyage of the Sparrowhawk*', which was a popular work both at the time of publication, 1670 and since, because it gives the very first account of Korea known in the West. The *Sperwer*, a VOC ship, was sailing for Japan from Batavia, but was shipwrecked off the coast of Korea in 1653. At the time Korea had virtually no contact with the outside world and anyone entering the country was not allowed to leave again. Thus the surviving 32 crew members were kept in slavery for 13 years, until eight of

them managed to escape back to Holland in 1668. Amongst them was Hendrik Hamel, who had kept the log book of the ship and published the journal, which contains engravings of scenes of life in Korea and exotic animals in the East Indies.

Following on, we examined '*Waarde van Lennep*' (Brieven van De



Proclamation by Philip II, from 1568, displayed during our visit to the Library. Photo by Mr Michael Laird, from Michael Laird Rare Books, Lockhart, Texas, through whom it was obtained.

Schoolmeester) by Jacob Van Lennep, a collection of the correspondence between Gerrit van der Linde (1808-1858), a.k.a. De Schoolmeester and his friend, benefactor and publisher Jacob van Lennep (1802-1868). Van Lennep kept all his correspondence with Van der Linde, but feared that publication would harm people still alive, because the correspondence shows the hidden, darker side of Dutch and English society in Victorian times, so it wasn't until 1977 that the correspondence was eventually published. Interestingly, a direct descendant of Van Lennep was among members present on the visit.

Moving to contemporary times, we looked at a copy of 'Mevrouw Bentinck; of, Onverenigbaarheid van karakter: een ware geschiedenis'. Amsterdam, 1978 by Hella Haasse. The Bentincks were Dutch/Danish/German nobles who were very close to Stadholder William III and William IV. Hans Willem Bentinck is one of the ancestors of Queen Elizabeth II. He was made Earl of Portland by William III, who lavished lands on him, mostly in Wales, earning him the nickname 'The Dutch Prince of Wales'. However, the story revolves mainly around Charlotte Sophie Bentinck Von Aldenburg, a fiercely independent woman who fascinated Haasse.

Finally, we were shown the splendidly-titled work, 'Pig 05049' by Christien Meindertsma, published 2007. This is both a book and the object of an exhibition, held in the Kunsthal in Rotterdam in 2008 and contains research into what sort of products are made from a pig. The artist (rather than author) followed the processing of one pig, Pig 05049 and photographed all finished products, numbering some 185 items, on a 1:1 scale, winning a prestigious Danish design prize in the process.

Turning to the maps on display, Peter Barber, Head of Maps, gave us a fascinating survey of some of the varied and significant items that the British Library has in its collections. Among these was a world map by Jodocus Hondius, around 1597, one of the earliest created by the Mercator projection, unusually combining a map of the world as then known with a political message to the Protestant powers of Europe, in support of Henri IV of France in his struggle against the Catholic nations.

From a similar period came a marvellous hand-made Atlas of Europe, thought to be the creation of Gerardus Mercator, which was discovered in a Brussels bookshop in the 1960's. Mercator had, around 1572, as a gift for a patron, literally carved up several examples of his wall-maps to create book-sized maps, supplementing them with maps published by Ortelius and hand-drawn originals, to fill in any missing areas.

Alongside these, we saw a work by Christoffel Beudeker of 1718, which combined maps with finely-detailed views of country houses and gardens of the Netherlands, (for example, 't Slot, Zeist, shown on the front cover of the Autumn 2011 Newsletter) which were coloured by the best colourists (*Afsetters*) of the day.

King George III owned an enormous collection of maps from around the world as part of his prodigious library and the final exhibit was a volume containing maps, plans and views of Den Haag, dating from the early 17th century to the closing years of the 18th.

On our way to the next exhibit, we passed the central book tower of the Library, a massive glass-sided bookcase rising through the floors of the building, containing many examples from George III's collection and, in compliance with the terms of his bequest, being visible and accessible to any member of the public.

We then came to the glass-fronted case containing the largest (to-date) Atlas in the World, a gift to the newly-restored King Charles II from an Amsterdam merchant, seeking to find favour with the new king and receiving it in due course in the form of a knighthood.

We concluded our visit with tea and enormous cakes in the Library's fine restaurant, having had a most enjoyable and informative afternoon. The event had particular poignancy for the members present, having been arranged through the kind generosity of Helena Frost, a very long-standing member of the Society and a Patron of the Library. It was the last of many Society events with which she had been associated, before her recent death. We are most grateful to her for all her efforts and to the lecturers and staff of the British Library for making this special visit such a success.

Helena Frost

An appreciation, by John Boldero

It is with great sadness that we have to record the recent death of one of our most energetic and supportive members, Helena Frost, nee Hendriksen. Her mother was British and her father Dutch. He had been a founder member of the Anglo-Netherlands Society and had requested that all the 'male' members of the family should join, along the line, so to speak. Helena, of course, had been a member from that time and another long-standing family member is the current Hon. Secretary. So the tradition and wish has carried forward to today.

She had a varied and active early life, attending secretarial college and working with various magazines, including *Country Life*. During the war, she worked for Radio Holland, being involved in broadcasts to merchant shipping. She was also employed at the Savoy Hotel and met many famous people, including Charlie Chaplin in the hotel lift!

After meeting her husband, Pat, she shared his love of sailing and became an accomplished water-colourist. As a Trustee of her husband's charitable organisation, the Patrick Frost Foundation, she touched the lives of

many, with her support of a wide variety of organisations, including Ocean Youth Trust South, Toynbee Hall and, Chance for Children. She also independently supported her own charities and professional bodies, including the Brighton Philharmonic, the Dulwich Picture Gallery, Glyndebourne, the Royal Academy and the British Library, often as a Patron.

Her involvement with activities for the Society was equally substantial, frequently benefitting from her association with the above organisations. Thus, in 2008, she helped arrange the Society's visit to the 'Chinese Whispers' exhibition in the Brighton Pavilion, in 2010, the private view for the Society of the van Gogh letters at the Royal Academy, and, as a fitting last example of her energy, the private view of Dutch maps and books at the British Library which took place in late November.

She was a marvellously fun-loving person, as seen when she accompanied members on the "Off the Beaten Track" visit to Friesland, Groningen and the islands in 2007 but the main beneficiaries of her generous and cheerful character were the members

of the Society's Sussex Branch. Every year for many years she hosted a lunch at her home for the group, at which the year's activities in the area were planned, many of which she herself then undertook to arrange, the highlight being the annual visit to Glyndebourne, made possible only through her efforts.

Representatives, totalling more than 100, of her family, of the Society, the Sussex Branch and the many other people and organisations that she had helped, paid tribute to her at a memorial service in Brighton recently. The style was simple, at her request, because she always worked hard to stay out of the limelight, being as modest as she was generous. We shall miss her greatly.

The photo shows Helena and her brother Derek in a beachchair on Ameland.



Harold Sebag-Montefiori

An appreciation, by Patrick Acheson-Gray

Harold Sebag-Montefiori, who died at the age of 86 on 5 October 2011, was a member of the then Council of the Anglo-Netherlands Society from 1988 to 2001. By profession a barrister and later a deputy circuit judge, his obituary in The Times (18.11.11) was testimony to the immense range of his other interests - from hunting and riding as an amateur in steeplechases, to local government and the arts in London. He stood as the Conservative candidate for North Paddington in 1959, but was unsuccessful - even though part of his campaigning was on horseback.

Notwithstanding his many involvements, he always showed a lively concern for the affairs of the Society and contributed particularly to its being able to build up links with other organisations. He was always able to open a window on the world, as it were, and enlarge any discussion that threatened to become too narrow. The later 1990s were a time of change for the Society, culminating in its adoption of a new legal structure. With the new structure the Council came to an end and Harold took the opportunity to retire from the Society's administration after thirteen years' of generous contribution to its affairs.

Harold and his wife Harriet were long term members of the Anglo Netherlands Society and frequent participants in the events held both in the UK and occasionally abroad. Among the latter was one of the first 'Holland off the Beaten Track' tours in September 1995. Based in Amsterdam, the tour visited Haarlem, Almere (a town newly created from scratch by a combination of local and national government action), Enkhuizen, Hoorn, Laag-Keppel and finally Paleis het Loo.

From Our Cricket Correspondent

The Dutch Team in 2011, by Denis Doble

The Netherlands Team had a good international season in 2011. In English Cricket, after beating Yorkshire and Worcestershire, amongst others, they finished in the top half of the Clydesdale Bank 40 over competition. For the first time they beat my own county Kent, by 40 runs in Rotterdam, with Dorren, the Captain, making 71 not out in their score of 206/8. I was present at the return match in Canterbury when, after a poor start, the Dutch made 199/6, their resident Pakistani, Bukhari, making 78 not out. Kent, having been 51/4, eventually reached 200/6, with Stevens making 70, and Sam North-east, aged 21, a former Harrow schoolboy (who made 100 against Eton at Lords) making 58 not out. Dorren told me that he did not consider the Dutch had made enough, but it was still a close finish, with the Dutch using 7 bowlers.

I also met van Nierop, the manager, who remembered me from my days as a member of the VRA, the main Amsterdam Team. It was a pleasing reunion and I hope for more in 2012.

Anglo-Netherlands Society

Established 1920, incorporated 2002

Company limited by guarantee, number 4322131

Registered office: P.O.Box 68, London EC4P 4BQ

AIMS and OBJECTS

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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This form of membership can be tailored to your requirements. We recently welcomed

The Carpenters' Company

as The Anglo-Netherlands Society's first Corporate Member.

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