

B U L L E T I N

GENOOTSCHAP
NEDERLAND-ENGELAND

www.nederlandengeland.nl



UTRECHT BRANCH VOL.19 No.2 DEC.2009-JAN.2010

Venue: Noorderlicht Church, 92B Bergweg, Zeist

Dear Members of GNE,

Time goes fast; the end of 2009 is already visible. Don't you think that time goes much faster during the second half of one's life? I do! Anyway on December 18th we will have the annual Christmas Party. The Committee is very busy with the preparations. Apart from the Annual Buffet and Raffle we will have Christmas carols sung and played by a singer/guitar player, community singing with Mrs. Mol's leading voice, a quiz and a short -typically English- story.

We hope that these ingredients are appealing to you.

We will start our next year's programme on January 22nd by a talk on Plant hunting in China, the presentation originally planned for January 2009 by Carla Teune, former Hortulana of the Hortus Botanicus Leiden.

The lecturer for April cancelled her lecture so we will have to find a replacement. You will be informed as soon as a new arrangement has been made.

The Committee wishes you a healthy and happy New Year.

My warmest regards,
Herman Steeneken.

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER, Friday 18th in the Conference Room of the Noorderlicht Church at 8.00 p.m.

THE GREAT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY with our notoriously huge and sumptuous Christmas Buffet lovingly provided by our members. For those of the gambling classes there is the unbeatable Gala Prize Raffle. There will be music, Christmas Carols will be sung - --*God rest you merry, gentlemen/Let nothing you dismay* - -- there will be laughter, there is the opportunity to meet everyone. This would be an excellent evening to invite friends to join in. There will be a charge: to members € 4,- , to non-members € 10,-.

JANUARY, Friday 22nd in the Conference Room of the Noorderlicht Church at 8.00 p.m.

PLANTHUNTING in CHINA - a slide illustrated talk by Carla Teune

After finishing Montessori Lyceum in Amsterdam, Carla Teune was educated at Huis te Lande, Horticultural Training School. From there she went to work for 18 months in the famous Arboretum at Kalmthout where Madame de Belder gave her a broad finishing touch in horticulture and where she was allowed to read all the precious books in their extensive library.



In 1967 she came to Leiden where she started as a botanical secretary and here she still is as a retired odd-jobs volunteer. The biggest step in her Hortus career was when she became curator in 1984 and she enjoyed that job fully.

Hobbies have much to do with plants: walking in the mountains and woodlands of Kashmir, China, Japan, Kazakhstan or in the wild heathers and suikerbossies in South Africa.

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS and CAROLS

The HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Van Hogendorpstraat 26

Utrecht

Sunday 13 December 18.00

Sunday 20 December 20.00

*Infant holy,
Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging
Angels singing,*

*Nowells ringing,
Tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.*



RECENT EVENTS

OCTOBER 2009, Friday 16th

John Sutton – Rob Roy McGregor

John started by asking us all what we knew about Rob Roy. We proved to be all incredibly ignorant about the real man! Daniel Defoe was responsible for making Rob Roy famous by writing a pamphlet “The Highland Rogue”. Sir Walter Scott furthered the romantic legend and in modern days of course the Hollywood film made him into a super hero! The real story John explained is somewhat different! Born in a time of great change and political turmoil Rob Roy McGregor was a Jacobite, a follower of James II and the Roman Catholic religion. The Clan (Family) McGregor were noted cattle thieves and had a notorious criminal reputation. Indeed members of the Clan were banned by James IV from using the surname McGregor as he deemed it a threat to the public peace.

The Clan were settled on the east shore of Loch Lomond. Here they led a partially legal life as cattle breeders but were also clandestine cattle thieves and into protection rackets like the modern day mafia. Rob Roy had a reputation for being a great warrior and was considered the best swordsman at the end of the 17th century beginning of the 18th century. He was described by people who knew him as having red hair with freckles, a short but very muscular body, very broad shoulders and exceptionally long arms. He was at one time almost respectable and bought properties but he fell on hard times and was on the edge of bankruptcy. He passed his properties over to family members so that if he went bankrupt he would not lose a thing! He received cash for droving cattle but didn't keep his contracts and absconded with the money into the Highlands. He did however get a Robin Hood reputation by helping a widow who couldn't pay her dues to the Duke of Montrose and there



were other such incidents. He was caught and nearly hung but he managed a spectacular escape when the rope was around his neck! Later in his life he even became a double agent giving information to both the Jacobites and the government. Was he trying to protect himself? This all culminated in him becoming a super grass selling the names of all Jacobite conspirators in the final rebellion of 1726-7 for £100.-; of which there is proof that he received at least £50,-.

Rob Roy McGregor had a Royal pardon in his pocket but at what cost? He died in his 60's following a duel he lost in 1734; his grave can still be seen. John gave a very fascinating talk explaining also the complicated historical background to these turbulent times in Scotland. Who was the real Rob Roy McGregor a crook, a Scottish Robin Hood one thing for certain whatever he was he was certainly a fascinating and colourful figure of his times.

C.B.

NOVEMBER 2009, Friday 20th

Heather Woodward – Nelson, The Myths and the Truths

Who was Nelson? Heather told something of the background of this fascinating man, who rose to be the most well known British Admiral ever. Born in 1758, a man of humble origins, the son of the Rector, in Burnham in Norfolk. As a child he was not known to have robust health, he often suffered from headaches and was sometimes depressed. He was a bright child but lazy, not really academic, an unremarkable child until he opened his mouth. He constantly sought attention and approval, he had impulsive emotions, was a devout Christian with a strong sense of duty and no sense of fear. When Nelson was only 12 he went to sea. His first 4 years at sea he spent in the Thames estuary learning all the currents and the basics of seamanship which held him in good stead later in his career. During the next 5 years he travelled the world and before he was 21 he was promoted to Post Captain and commanded his first ship The Lowestoft. He now spent 8 years gaining experience and showing himself a superb seaman on various frigates. Half way through his career he was put on half pay and spent 6 years ashore. In those days it was a case of no wars...no navy! During this enforced leave he went back to Burnham and married Mrs. Fannie Nesbit a widow with a son Josiah. Then talk of war with France, he was now given charge of a First line ship (one with ammunition) HMS Agamemnon. Nelson proved to be a good captain caring and worrying about the welfare and health of his crew. He was the first in the Navy to ensure they all had daily lime or orange juice thus eradicating scurvy eventually throughout the entire British Navy. He was an inspiring leader and had an excellent relationship with his crew. His men knew he would ask nothing of them that he wouldn't do himself. He was also the man who would take the blame if they made mistakes but who always gave the credit where it was due. He fought fiercely for them and

his crew felt he was a man they could trust. He could be cruel but always fair. He was brave and sometimes fool hardy as in the Battle of Cape St Vincent where his ship became entangled with one of the enemy. He personally led the boarding party taking two enemy ships, this was the beginning of his amazing reputation. Rapidly he was promoted to Rear Admiral. In a fated action he was shot in his right arm, and with a tourniquet on his arm he refused to be treated until all his men had been seen to. By then there was nothing to do but amputate his arm. He had already lost the sight in one of his eyes when the optic nerve had been damaged during a naval skirmish. After the Battle of the Nile where the British fleet annihilated the French fleet instead of returning to England he went to Naples where he became involved with Lady Emma Hamilton the wife of a friend Sir William Hamilton, the British Consul and an eminent Scientist and vulcanologist. This affair between two attractive and very emotional people raised many eyebrows. Public opinion was on the side of Nelsons wife who conducted herself with great dignity especially when attacked by Emma who was at that time pregnant with Nelson's daughter Horatia. However, although people found his affair and the treatment of his wife despicable, his career was not affected by this personal conduct and he was called back to sea. In 1803 he was sent to the Mediterranean to stop the French and Spanish Fleets from escaping through the Straits of Gibraltar and in March 1805 he returned for a short while to England before returning for the battle of Trafalgar in which the British were triumphant. Sadly Nelson fell during this battle to a snipers bullet at the age of 47. The battle took place in October and news of the triumph arrived in England in November. The Nation was jubilant but a week later when the news of Nelsons death arrived the Nation went into mourning. His funeral took place in 1806. His body was brought up the Thames and he was buried in Westminster Abbey. Heather gave us another fascinating talk with so much information I have not had room to do justice to her portrayal of an excellent seaman, a human man who could make mistakes, a vain man but a leader and motivator of men, a hero with the common touch.

C.B.

GNE Utrecht Branch Bulletin

published four times a year

Editors: Marga Waterborg (coordinating)
mwaterb@xs4all.nl
Carol Brettschneider
carol.brettschneider@hetnet.nl

Bookshop: inquiries and contributions of books
Cor van Duuren
030-6889337

Secretary: Irene Kleyn-van Barneveld
Lageweg 30
3703 CA Zeist
030-6991618
irene.kleyn@planet.nl

Annual subscription

couples: € 50,-
singles: 32,50
Bulletin only: € 9,-
non-members € 5,- per event
students: € 15,-

Members interested in a digital edition, please inform the secretary

Postrekening 389412 t.n.v. afd.Utrecht
Genootschap Nederland-Engeland
Nederhorst den Berg