

B U L L E T I N

GENOOTSCHAP
NEDERLAND-ENGELAND

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UTRECHT BRANCH VOL.19 No.3 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

Venue: Noorderlicht Church, 92B Bergweg, 3707 AE Zeist

FROM THE COMMITTEE

First of all a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Last year our GNE activities ended with the Annual Christmas Party. Forty two members attended this event. There were three new members who were warmly welcomed. The Christmas Party started with a musical performance by our guest guitarist-singer Anja van den Ham who encouraged us to join her in singing various Christmas carols.

This year we organized a Quiz related to typical English and local GNE subjects such as: “Mention at least three airports close to London” (*Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and City*), or “Who is the eldest Grandchild of Queen Elisabeth?” (*Mr. Peter Phillips the son of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, he is no. 11 in the order of succession*).

Each table was supposed to deliver responses on a sheet so that it was a team effort. We were not surprised that the winning and next best table both had a native English among the participants. The prize was the honour and a free drink.



We continued with the buffet. As in every year a rich variety of goodies were prepared by our members. Jan Willem Boer (the concierge of the Noorderlicht Church) had made Glühwein which was "a topper". Guided by the piano play of Carl Schweig and the leading voice of Mrs Mol we had a singing intermezzo.



The Party ended with our annual Raffle which is also, especially for our Treasurer, a way to cover a bit of the expenses.

Herman Steeneken and
Irene Kleyn-van Barneveld

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY, Friday 12th in the Conference Room of the Noorderlicht Church at 8.00 p.m.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: EMPHASISING ITS DEBT TO DUTCH – a slide illustrated talk by Roy Skan

The history of language and how language works is fascinating. When you start to learn a little of how English has come about you realise how much more there is to discover. This talk will explore the English Language making particular reference to the influence of Dutch over the centuries. The talk is both informative and entertaining.

Roy Skan graduated from Nottingham University, served in the army and then worked for General Motors (Vauxhall) for 5 years. He was a principal Lecturer of languages at Brighton University for 25 years. Roy also has an M.A. from Sussex University and a M.Sc. from the London School of Economics. He speaks four languages and has some knowledge of three others. Since retiring he still acts part time as a tour manager on SAGA Holidays escorted trips to Switzerland for his 50's clientèle.

MARCH, Friday 12th in the Conference Room of the Noorderlicht Church at 8.00 p.m.

LIVING WITH JANE AUSTEN'S LEGACY AT CHAWTON - a slide illustrated talk by Louise West

The talk covers how we work to pass on Jane Austen's legacy at the museum and will include the work we do with educational groups, particular schools. It will also include how we use the museum displays and the objects that we have. The talk will touch on interesting, and sometimes famous visitors and include a couple of readings from the novels.

Louise West was educated in Cheshire, then went to college in London and took a degree in English Literature. After that she began her career in museums, first as a volunteer in Chester and Manchester, then as a paid employee for Hampshire Museums. There she was employed with making an archaeological and biological record of the county of Hampshire. Louise then had four children and returned slowly to work doing adult education courses in English Literature. When she was forty-one Louise took a Masters degree in Museum and General Education. Following that she worked freelance for several years before coming to Jane Austen's House in 2002.

RECENT EVENTS

JANUARY 2010, Friday 22nd

Planthunting in China – Carla Teune

After her interesting lecture last year on the Leiden Botanical Gardens, Carla Teune gave us an equally fascinating talk about her various trips to find plants in China. After having informed us about the isolated region in the Chinese mountains on the borders of China and Tibet where most of her plant hunting took place and in which region is incidentally also situated the World famous Panda Research Centre, our Speaker went on to explain the heights between sea level and 4500 meters where various species could be found and the various soils and climatic needs of the plants. Most of us knew that Rhododendrons and Azaleas came from the old world but what most of us didn't know was that they originated in China where you can find them growing with profuse

colours in the wild. Indeed China is the land where most of the plants which adorn our gardens in the western world today originated. What do you think of peonies, roses, hostas, primulas, irises, anemones, poppies, lilies, orchids and many, many more? Ferns, shrubs such as cotoneaster and trees of many species including Hamamelis (witch hazel), of course magnolia and the tree with great longevity the Ginkgo. The Chinese who love plants, have been cultivating them for over 4000 years. As always with the Chinese there is much symbolism associated with plants for example the Peony which because of its large profuse and beautiful flowers is considered to be symbolic of a long and healthy life with great riches. If you look at a peony bloom you can see why! Potted plants can be found everywhere along with bonsai trees which I had always thought to be Japanese. However, these and even the famous “Japanese gardens” all appear to have been exported to Japan, they originated in China where people were inspired by the mountainous terrain and the way the plants grew there, sometimes even seemingly defying the laws of gravity. Illustrating her talk with slides of fascinating plants and anecdotes of things she encountered on her trips and observations of the Chinese people and their traditions, their markets and their way of life Carla Teune gave us a glimpse not only of new plants discovered but also an insight into the history and culture of China.
C.B.

Lecture programme 2009-2010

Roy Skan	Friday 12 th February 2010	The English Language, emphasising its debt to Dutch
Louise West	Friday 12 th March 2010	Living with Jane Austen's Legacy at Chawton
?	Friday 16 th April 2010	still to be decided
Michael Daley	Wednesday 19 th May 2010	Holkham Hall

MISCELLANEOUS

We have received the sad news of the death, at the age of 95, of **Professor A.G.H. Bachrach**. He was for many years National Chairman of GNE, and honorary member of our Society.



THE BBC AWARDS 2010 HAVE STARTED

In the Public speaking Competition students of Dutch secondary schools give short speeches on one of a set of themes. Their level of performance is often very high. This year's topics are:

- 1 - Social networking: keeping in touch or losing touch with reality?**
- 2 - How has the internet changed your world?**

3 - How have changes in the media landscape changed the world of entertainment?

4 - Real cities. How can you ensure you see the 'Real' side of a city when travelling?

5 - Travel: broadening the mind or destroying the planet?

Alternatively, speakers may opt for the topic for the ESU competition in London:

Speculation on our future.

Preliminary rounds will be held at various places in this country.

February 27th (Eindhoven, Lorentz Casimir Lyceum),

March 6th (Nieuwegein, Cals College; Zwolle, Gymnasium Ceeleum; Wassenaar, Het Rijnlands Lyceum,)

March 13th (Doorn, Revis Lyceum).

The semi-final will be held on Saturday March 20th at the Boswell Instituut – Utrecht University.

The preliminary rounds as well as the semi-final start at 1:30 pm.

Volunteers from the GNE branches help in receiving competitors and visitors, as time keepers and as judges. Volunteers from our branch would also be very welcome. If you are interested, please hasten to mail or phone our Secretary Irene Kleyn-van Barneveld. Volunteers are expected to serve from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Instructions will be given on the spot; travel expenses will be reimbursed. For more details consult www.bbcawards.com.

NATIONAL DAY

Saturday 24th April it will be 90 years ago that GNE was founded. Currently the National Committee is organizing a NATIONAL DAY to celebrate this event on this day. More about this in our next Bulletin.

GNE Utrecht Branch Bulletin

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