

B U L L E T I N

GENOOTSCHAP NEDERLAND-ENGELAND



Deventer Branch
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Dear members,

With spring on our doorstep, we are lucky to have a lecture on botany on 14 April.

As stated before, *Jill Collinge*, who was to speak on *Pub Signs* could **not** make it this time owing to family circumstances.

We are very pleased to have found a very good replacement in **Carla Teune**, former curator of the **Hortus Botanicus in Leiden**.

THE SUBJECT

The Hortus Botanicus of Leiden was founded 420 years ago and it has a wide history. This does not mean the garden is no longer alive; on the contrary! Just as was the case in 1594 when the Medicinal Herb Garden was laid out, many exciting events take place every year: From a huge facelift of the Orangery dating from 1744 to the restoration of a large part of the Hortus called “de Systeemtuin”.

The renewal of this garden took place because over the years research had resulted in important new insights in plant *taxonomy* by applying DNA-methods. (i.e. the naming and classifying into groups within a larger system, according to their similarities and differences)

Another important change was the relocation of the Clusius Garden in 2009, going back to the original site of 1594, behind the main

entrance. Going back to the original situation is what is generally aimed for.

At a good pace Carla Teune will talk us through the history of the Hortus and the plants that were introduced there. This will provide us with a good number of beautiful photographs and stories. The talk will be in English.

THE SPEAKER

Carla Teune trained as a horticulturalist and has travelled widely on plant hunting expeditions and has lectured on subjects ranging from the history of tulips to the art of Japanese gardens. She talked on the latter subject to our Deventer Branch some 10 years ago. She also takes visitors around the Hortus.

Carla took retirement as Curator of the Hortus (*Hortulana is the official title*) in 2004 but this did not mean she stopped being involved with the Hortus. She set up a volunteer group of “weeders” and with her phenomenal plant knowledge and enthusiasm she is an inspiring force there. For this and other work she was awarded *Ridder in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau* in 2007.

Carla was also awarded the prestigious *Tokunai Award* by the Municipal Council of Murayama (Japan) for her expertise in the field of Japanese plant cultivation and botany.

Date: Wednesday, 14 April
**Subject: the Hortus Botanicus,
Leiden**
Speaker: Carla Teune
**Venue: De Horst, Kerkstr. 5
Deventer**
Admission: members free
guests € 7.00
students € 3.00

WARM WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Annelies Droge and Mrs Lisanne Spanbroek, both of Olst who recently joined our branch. We hope they will enjoy their membership and will soon feel at home with us.

LOOKING BACK

On 11 March Louise West talked to us about Jane Austen's life, her works and Chawton, her home which is now a museum. Owing to her recent eye surgery Louise West was only able to do part of her lecturing tour and Deventer was very lucky to be one of those branches she could visit. This lively talk was very well received by the audience.

READING GROUP

Recently we discussed *The Rain before it falls* by Jonathan Coe.(1961)

This is a moving and compelling story about three generations of one family. A good story, packed with secrets and lies and behaviour that repeats itself through the generations. The narrative is quite remarkable: Rosamond, who has come to the end of her life, records her life story on tape by describing twenty family photographs dating from the 1930s to the present day. (Particularly those of the 1940s and 50s give an accurate description of life in Britain at the time!) Rosamond hopes this recording will reach Imogen a long lost relative. In this way the reader becomes witness to Rosamond's sad life. The description of the photos makes good reading although you sometimes wonder if all the details could be interesting for a girl last seen when she was seven.

But for the reader these details are of great interest.

In spite of its flaws most of our group really enjoyed reading this novel, which is rather different from Coe's previous work.

BBC-GNE AWARDS

On 6 March one of the preliminary rounds of the Public Speaking Awards for schools was held at the Gymnasium Celeanum in Zwolle.

In three heats each seven candidates bravely faced a small audience and a jury of three persons, at least one of them a native speaker. In 5 minutes the young speaker gives her/his view on a set topic and answers three questions from the jury and audience.

Having had the honour of being a member of the jury for some years now, it always strikes me that these young participants show remarkable pluck in giving a speech. The attitude of the organization has always been one of admiration and encouragement however disappointing the performance may be.

As was the case with one of our participants who lost track and her notes as well. The clock was stopped (Timekeepers from GNE Deventer) and time was given to retrace her steps.

After the prize-giving all participants got positive advice on their performance, in private of course. Each heat had two winners who went on to the semi final in Utrecht. It was endearing to notice the odd parent wiping away a small tear when hearing the results..

This was again a challenging and inspiring afternoon for all concerned. If you'd like to be present at the final on 10 April in Amsterdam, please contact me, Els Vorenkamp. Your presence must be known to the organization. www.bbcawards.com

**We hope to see many of you at De Horst
on 14 April!**

THE COMMITTEE

