

B U L L E T I N

G E N O O T S C H A P N E D E R L A N D - E N G E L A N D



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SEASON 2009-2010 **BULLETIN No. 3 – December 2009**

Dear members,

The month of December is around the corner and of course GNE Deventer is doing its best to organize a Christmas Event for you in great atmosphere on **Wednesday, 9 December**.

The Committee is happy to announce that **Peter Galinsky** will be speaking to us as well as perform once again. This time his subject will be: **Scottish Folk Music**.

THE SUBJECT

In a talk about Scottish folk music, Peter says, the music is bound to be more important than the words. Peter will aim to give nearly as much time to the tunes as to the speaking. You will hear the various kinds of tunes played on either the clarinet or the treble recorder and Peter will discuss the history, traditions and origins of Scottish folk music (in which it is quite impossible to exclude or even separate the Irish!) as well as the instruments that have helped to give it such a unique quality.

Vital, in Peter's understanding, is the essential difference in approach between folk musicians and those who play classical (art) music or pop music. These latter perform actively to a passive audience who generally pay for the privilege of listening. This idea of

performance is foreign to the folk music tradition. Folk music retains the idea of sharing and intimacy and in this frame of mind Peter hopes to share some of this beautiful music with you.

THE SPEAKER

Peter Galinsky was born in England in 1955 from English-Dutch parents. He went to school and art college in Holland but later returned to Edinburgh where he took over a second-hand/antiquarian bookshop and enjoyed a life among books and literature for 25 years.

In 2005 he changed his career and became a teacher of English as a foreign language. He is married and has two Scottish children. His hobbies remain books, languages, literature and music among many other things. He has previously spoken to GNE Deventer on several other subjects such as *Carolan, the blind Irish Harper and composer* and *Life in a second-hand bookshop*.

<p>Date: Wednesday, 9 December Subject: Scottish Folk Music Speaker: Peter Galinsky Venue: De Horst, Kerkstr. 5, Deventer Admission: members and guests € 12.00</p>

If you would like to attend this evening please fill in the form below or let us know by mail: gneventer@hetnet.nl

Also this year Daphne Dijkers will be baking her famous **Christmas Cake** and the admission fee of € 12.00 will include a soft drink or tea/ coffee. The fee is to be paid at the hall.

We hope that many members will join us again this year!

WARM WELCOME

The committee would like to extend a warm welcome to *Mrs Karen van Munster-Meakin*, *Mr Bob Stegeman* and *Mr Fred Santing* who recently joined our branch. We hope they will soon feel at home with us and will enjoy their memberships.

LOOKING BACK

On 12 October we welcomed *John Sutton* who spoke to us on the **Portraits of Oliver Cromwell** and what can be seen in them.

When the troubles between King Charles I and parliament began, Oliver Cromwell was still an unimportant Member of Parliament. A fellow MP once described him as uncared-for in appearance. This can be seen in the first portraits.

His puritanical fervour and passionate speeches quickly led him to a position of power. Although not from a military background Cromwell quickly made career in the army. After he had become Lord General of the Commonwealth and then Lord Protector in 1653 we see a man without vanity, indeed with a prominent wart. Then the paraphernalia of power started to appear in portraits such as a general's baton and drapes and in the background seascapes with several warships.

Interesting to hear but not obvious in his portraits is Cromwell's periodical indecisiveness (according to him these were periods in which he was consulting the Lord) alternated by periods of over-activity and zeal. This could have been a form of manic depression.

All in all it was a very interesting talk about this turbulent period in English history.

LOOKING BACK - NOVEMBER TALK

On Wednesday, 18 November **Heather Woodward** talked to us on *Rudyard Kipling and Bateman's*, his home for 35 years. His was an eventful and dramatic life. After an idyllic early childhood in Bombay, India, he was sent, together with his sister to foster parents in Southsea, England. Seven miserable years followed of Dickensian cruelty and bullying.

Although very successful as an author and poet, the memory of these early years never left him. However, he never blamed his parents for having abandoned him. It was just usual for parents living abroad to send their children "home". Kipling returned to India as a young man where he worked for two newspapers as a journalist.

Kipling's life was overshadowed by the death of two of his children. Especially the death of his eldest son John on his first day in action in Flanders in the Great War took its toll on Kipling, especially as he had pushed his son to join the war. After this personal disaster Kipling was very much involved in setting up War Memorials and several poems by him are read out at commemorative gatherings to this day.

As a friend of Baden Powell, Kipling played an important role in the setting up of the Scouting organization; the manifesto was written by him as well.

As the first Englishman Kipling was awarded the Nobel Prize of Literature in 1907.

Heather Woodward especially mentioned **Plain Tales from the Hills** and **Kim** as works that are worth reading.

In spite of his reactionary political views, his views on the Boer War for instance, Rudyard Kipling remains one of the most-loved writers in Britain. Heather Woodward captivated her audience with this talk with many interesting facts about Kipling's life.

For further reading:

Rudyard Kipling's autobiography *Something of Myself* ISBN 9 781840 225679

The following poem by Rudyard Kipling was read out to us by Heather Woodward:

If...

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt
you,
But make allowance for their doubting too,
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too
wise.*

*If you can dream-and not make dreams your
master;
If you can think-and not make thoughts your
aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've
spoken
Twisted by knaves, to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to
broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out
tools.*

*If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it in one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and
sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will that says to them: "Hold on!"*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your
virtue
Or walk with Kings- nor lose the common
touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And-which is more-you'll be a Man, my son!*

NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Recently the new British Ambassador *Mr Paul Arkwright* received a small delegation from the GNE National Committee: chairman Mr Abel Rasterhoff, national secretary Mrs Ingrid de Beer and the chairman of the Awards Working Group Mr Hans Kräwinkel. The meeting took place at the Embassy in The Hague.

Mr Arkwright was pleased to accept the invitation to become Patron of the GNE, following in the footsteps of his predecessor Mr Lyn Parker. If his busy schedule allows Mr Arkwright would very much like to visit all branches in the future. He has already made a note of the 90th anniversary of our society on Saturday, 24 April 2010. Mr Arkwright will play an important part in the Awards, as chairman of the jury in the National final.

QUESTIONNAIRE

In September we asked you to fill in a questionnaire to find out what our members think of the Bulletin.

This resulted in the following:

- All respondents use the Bulletin for information on GNE Deventer's activities.
- Two of the thirteen respondents look for information on GNE's website once in a while.
- All of the respondents always read the bulletin.
- They read all of it.
- Positive about it was thought to be the amount of information given.
- One member thought a negative point was the lack of photos.
- An average rating of 8.6 was given.

We would like to thank those members who took the trouble of returning the questionnaire.

READING GROUP

Recently our group discussed **The Stepmother's Diary by Fay Weldon**. "A fiendish modern morality tale" the Sunday Times said of this novel. As is usual with Weldon's books (remember *Life and Times of a She-Devil?*) there is a lot of hilarity which

showed in our lively discussion as well. However, light-footed at first sight, it has very serious undertones. (“Look what a free life-style does to our children.”)

This is the story of Sappho, a young and successful writer who marries Gavin – a widower 19 years her senior – and becomes stepmother to his two children, with disastrous consequences. Her mother Emily, who is a Freudian psychoanalyst, comments on her daughter’s life. Guilt plays a significant part in both their lives.

We all enjoyed this latest novel by a writer who, now in her late seventies shows that she is still surprisingly up-to-date on modern times.

CANCELLATION SPEAKER

Unfortunately our speaker for the talk in April 2010 on Pub Signs, *Jill Collinge* has had to cancel her lecturing tour for GNE due to family circumstances. We are looking for an alternative speaker and will inform you in due course.

POSH AND OTHER LANGUAGE MYTHS

Having explained in our previous bulletin the word *posh* from the above-mentioned book by Michael Quinion, I would now like to quote the expression *Humble Pie* from it.

Eating Humble Pie is an example of a shift in spelling of a word under the influence of another. (umble – humble)

The *umbles* were the innards of a deer: the liver, the heart, entrails and other third-class bits. It was common practice in mediaeval times to serve a meat pie made of these parts of the animal to the servants. Though this was definitely lower-class food at the time, it seems to have gone up in the world later, to judge from *Samuel Pepys*, who mentions it in his diary for 8 July 1663: “Mrs Turner came in and did bring us an umble pie hot out of her oven, extraordinarily good”.

The word *humble* was frequently spelled and pronounced *umble* from medieval times right down to the nineteenth century. So the figurative sense of *umble pie* could have

appeared at almost any time since the Middle Ages.

It was not until the nineteenth century that *eating humble pie* appeared in the sense we know now, of apologizing humbly, of humiliation as a result of error. It first appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1830. Charles Dickens turned it back to the older spelling in *David Copperfield* in 1850 as an indication of uneducated speech when he put these words into the mouth of Uriah Heep: “When I was quite a young boy... I got to know what umbleness did and I took to it. I ate umble pie with an appetite.”

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GNE DEVENTER AT DICKENS FESTIJN

At the time of writing this bulletin it was not yet clear if GNE Deventer will be involved in the Dickens Festijn on 19 and 20 December.

However, if we get the go-ahead from the organization, GNE will be present in historical costume in order to attract new members for all branches.

The committee wishes you a Merry Christmas and hopes you will enjoy the Festive Season.

**We hope to see large numbers of you
on Wednesday, 9 December
at our Christmas lecture with
Peter Galinsky
who will be speaking on and playing
Scottish Folk Music**

There will be a bring and buy sale of books

THE COMMITTEE