

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. 2 – October 2009**

Dear members,

After our Annual General Meeting and a documentary on Nature and the Environment with a rather youngish David Attenborough on 14 September, there are two talks coming up now. The first is going to be on **Monday, 12 October** when we will welcome *John Sutton*. His subject will be “*Paint me Warts and all*”: *The Portraits of Oliver Cromwell*. The second you can read about on page two.

THE SUBJECT

Some of you may be familiar with the famous anecdote about Oliver Cromwell’s advice to the artist *Peter Lely*, when commissioning him to paint his portrait in 1654: “Mr Lilly, I desire you would use all your skill to paint my picture truly like me and not flatter me at all. But (pointing to his own face) observe all these roughages, pimples, warts and everything as you see me. Otherwise I will not pay a farthing for it.” So, were the portraits of Oliver Cromwell truly like him? While one or two of the contemporary representations of Cromwell conform to his desire for modesty and simplicity like *Edward Mascal’s in 1657*, they often elevate the subject through the use of armorial trappings and elegant clothing. The gaudy manifestations of power become even more apparent after Cromwell’s installation as Lord Protector in December 1653 when there is an

increasing deployment of royal iconography – especially that associated with Charles I – in his public image. As the only commoner to obtain the position of head of state in British history, a study of Cromwellian portraiture thus furnishes a unique insight into the turbulent life and times of a dynamically charismatic but ultimately enigmatic figure.

THE SPEAKER

John Sutton was a Senior Lecturer in History at Anglia Polytechnic University. He specialises in the history of Early Modern England and the English Renaissance, 1558 – 1640; the English Civil War; and the Jacobite Cause.

In 1983-84 he made a television series on Eastern England in the 1640s, entitled “A War in the Kingdom” which was screened on Anglia TV.

He regularly hosts historical special interest gatherings on a wide range of subjects. He has previously talked to GNE Deventer on Elizabeth I and on Bonnie Prince Charlie.

<p>Date: Monday, 12 October 8 pm Subject: Portraits of Oliver Cromwell Speaker: John Sutton Venue: De Horst, Kerkstr. 5, Deventer Admission: members free guests €7, students €3</p>

THE NOVEMBER LECTURE

On Wednesday, 18 November *Heather Woodward* is going to speak to us about

Rudyard Kipling and Bateman's

Bateman's is the name of the house in which the famous writer of books such as *Jungle Book* settled in 1900 after having lived abroad. He lived there for 30 years until his death in 1932, rejoicing in its seclusion in the Sussex Downs and the evidence all around of thousands of years of English history.

Date: Wedn. 18 November, 8 pm
Speaker: Heather Woodward
Subject: Rudyard Kipling and Bateman's
Venue: De Horst, Kerkstr. 5, Deventer
Admission: members free
guests €7.00
students €3.00

THE SPEAKER

Heather Woodward is a volunteer speaker of the National Trust in the South East of England. By profession Heather was a teacher of French, Senior Teacher in a Grammar School and the Head of Sixth Form. When she retired, she realised that she needed to keep her brain fully active and this was when she was recruited for the National Trust. Heather has enjoyed doing all the research involved with developing new talks and has much appreciated the access she has had to National Trust archives. She currently speaks on a variety of subjects, focusing on the social history side of the stories. Heather successfully spoke to us in 2007 on *Chartwell*, the home of Winston Churchill.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM this year took place on 14 September. Our treasurer was pleased to announce that our finances were sound at the end of the financial year. He was praised for his meticulous work by the auditing committee consisting of Leo Elders and Cor Koppert. With a falling number of memberships however, the committee will again have to be careful this year!

There were no changes on the committee. It now consists of:

Els Vorenkamp – Chair
Karel Wiecherink – Secretary
Paul Lössbroek – Treasurer
Daphne Dijkers – Hospitality and Special events

REMINDER MEMBERSHIP FEES

Some members have not yet paid their membership fees. Please check if you are one of them. As you know no giro cards will be sent to you.

Please remit your fees to *Pen Genootschap Nederl-Engel Afd Deventer* giro 3158375. This is the exact formulation!

Single members €29 - Couples €49
You could also pay at the hall if you prefer.

HOSTING OUR SPEAKERS

Our hospitality officer *Daphne Dijkers* would like to add to her list of possible host addresses. So if you would like to act as host to our speakers (often accompanied by their partners), for instance once a year, don't hesitate to phone her for more information.

Speakers usually arrive in mid-afternoon and require an early hot meal and transport to the venue. They usually leave in the early afternoon of the following day. So if you and they wish, you could do some sight-seeing in Deventer. This is always a success as you may imagine. The tourist information centre has English leaflets on Deventer's town centre. Of course you're not obliged to take your guests around.

This is an excellent chance to meet very interesting people and to brush up your English!

Please phone Daphne at 0578-611660.

A QUIZ QUESTION

Everybody knows that the letters **P&O** stand for a well-known shipping company. But do you know what these letters stand for?!

You will find the answer further down in the item on **Posh**.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION LESSONS

Speaking of brushing up your English!:

GNE Deventer also offers the opportunity to practise speaking English in a small group so as to improve your fluency, command of vocabulary and grammar. In our get-togethers we talk a lot – about various subjects and occasionally we do interesting exercises. This term we started with an article on The King of Pop, Michael Jackson.

In case you should be interested, please contact: *Netty Hesen*, tel. 0570-619441 or email: *nettyhesenjilesen@gmail.com*

READING GROUP

If you have plenty of time on your hands and you're interested in English social history and art of the early 20th century, you may like a novel I came across recently.

With its 600 pages **The Children's Book** by **A.S. Byatt** is not suitable for our reading group we thought but reading it is certainly worthwhile. It is not only a family saga but it also gives an insight into the period. To mention but a few of the subjects: the Fabians, women's rights, ceramics, the Great Exhibition in Paris in 1900. Also the new Victoria & Albert Museum in London and finally, the Great War and the devastating effect it had on a whole generation of young people.

The title refers to the fairy tales full of symbolism an author writes for each of her six children. These stories are scattered through the book and stand on their own.

Being situated near Romney Marsh in south-east England, London, Paris and the Somme, this saga takes the reader to the most important events of the era.

A word of advice: Making a list of the family connections while reading, will be of great help in getting quickly into this fascinating book. I missed the family tree. But don't let this put you off; it is a great read!

ISBN 9780701183905 €16.95

POSH AND OTHER LANGUAGE MYTHS

The fascinating stories we tell about the words we use by Michael Quinion.

Another interesting and entertaining book has come into GNE Deventer's possession which I intend to put up for sale on our book table later this year. But first I'd like to quote from it in our bulletin now and then.

One of the entries is the word **posh**.

Something posh is elegant or stylishly luxurious; in Britain it also means somebody or something typical of the upper classes. The best known and most widely believed story is that it comes from old-time ship travel from Britain to India on the packet boats run by the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company, P&O. It supposedly stood for "Port Out, Starboard Home".

It is explained that somebody who had a cabin on the port side on the outward trip, and on the starboard side on the return trip, had the benefit of the sea breeze, and shelter from the sun, on the hottest part of the journey through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea.

Such cabins were reserved for the most wealthy passengers, we are told, and the P&O company stamped their tickets with POSH to show their status. The trouble is there's absolutely no evidence for it and P&O flatly denies any such terms existed. It's just a legend, though a persistent one....

ISBN 0-140-51534-8

**We hope we will see large numbers
of you at de Horst
on Monday, 12 October and
on Wednesday, 18 November.**

**There will be a bring and buy sale of
books.**

THE COMMITTEE