

G E N O O T S C H A P NEDERLAND-ENGELAND



Patron: Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at The Hague

The Hague Branch - Newsflash No. 1 - August 2009

Dear GNE members,

We hope you've had a superb summer and have been able to make the most of the glorious weather. Thinking positively, even the wet days have been good for those with a garden! So welcome back to a new season of cultural events. You will note that I've numbered this Newsflash with the start of this new season in mind.

Starting in September, all evening programmes - unless we inform you otherwise - will take place in a **NEW VENUE : Stichting Gunst, wat een Kunst, Raamweg 45, 2596 HN The Hague**. Some of you may already know this venue for the regular concerts given there.

You can reach Raamweg 45 as follows:

By car - From the A12, turn left = Zuid-Hollandlaan. Turn right at traffic lights = Koningskade which becomes Raamweg after 2nd set of traffic lights. No. 45 is on the right-hand side.

By tram - Tram 9 from Central Station to Laan Copes van Cattenburch. Cross the bridge and cross Raamweg at the traffic lights. It is a few minutes' walk to Raamweg 45.

By bus: Line 20 (and follow further directions as per for the tram) or Line 22 on the Raamweg.

An overview of this season's activities is given overleaf and we have pleasure in enclosing our new brochure which also gives further details of the events planned.

Do please note, however, that **on 16th SEPTEMBER**, prior to Mr Michael Daley's lecture on Holkham Hall, we shall hold our **AGM**. That will give us all the opportunity to welcome Heino van Rijnberk as our new Acting Chairman whilst of course thanking Katja ter Brugge for all her hard work in that role during recent years. The evening starts at 8 p.m. but you are very welcome to join us for a coffee from 7.45 p.m. Copies of Minutes of the previous AGM, together with the Annual Report, will be available but if you would prefer to receive a copy beforehand, then kindly telephone Katja ter Brugge on 070 351 5699.

This brings me on to the **actual topic for 16th September: Holkham Hall in Norfolk**. This is a subject particularly dear to me as I was born and brought up in that county. On this evening, Mr Michael Daley, MBE, will introduce us to the many splendours of Holkham Hall, renowned as the jewel in Norfolk's crown. Almost unbelievably, founded in the mid 1700s, it has been in the hands of the same family under whose custodianship it now remains. In a recent British newspaper article on the British Monarchy, it was suggested that Sandringham House, the Norfolk residence of Queen Elizabeth II, was *not* preferable to Holkham Hall. Now that should certainly whet our appetites! And Michael Daley, Administrator at the Hall - responsible for overall security and also often undertaking specialist private guided tours - will take us all on a grand tour of this magnificent Palladian house with its outstanding art collection. His talk will also cover the founder of the family fortune, Sir Edward Coke - Elizabeth I's Attorney General and prosecutor of Walter Raleigh and the Gunpowder plotters.

Later in the season we will bring you details of next year's BBC Young Speakers' Awards with which the GNE is closely associated. And, finally, in our General Information section at the end of the Newsflash, we repeat many of our usual items, all of which are still applicable/valid.

Wishing you a very enjoyable GNE season.

Doris Wiersma

Forthcoming events – please register with Katja ter Brugge on 070 351 5699

Date	Time	Venue	Event	Speaker
2009				
Wednesday 16 September	8 p.m.	Raamweg 45	AGM followed by Holkham Hall	Mr Michael Daley
Monday 16 November	8 p.m.	Ditto	Nelson: the Myths and Truths	Mrs Heather Woodward
2010				
Tuesday 23 February	8 p.m.	Ditto	Hero or Villain: In search of Rob Roy MacGregor	Mr John Sutton
Wednesday 10 March	to follow	Koninklijke Schouwburg	‘Macbeth’ by Cheek by Jowl	not applicable
Wednesday 17 March	8 p.m.	Raamweg 45	Time Gentlemen, please - the origin of pub signs	Ms Jill Collinge
Wednesday 14 April	8 p.m.	Ditto	Living with Jane Austen’s legacy at Chawton	Ms Louise West
May or June, 2010	to follow	to follow	Possible End of Season event - visit to Koninklijk Huisarchief	Not applicable

A backward glance ... !

On April 27th, safely tucked away in the vaults of the former Nutsbank (which, quite appropriately for the current situation, were empty), Mrs. Christine Robinson took her audience into the splendour of Chatsworth House. As Head Housekeeper of this enormous stately residence, home of the Cavendish family, she gave her public a lively guided tour, amply illustrated and accompanied by ongoing anecdotal tidbits. She took us upstairs and downstairs, thus showing not only the grandeur of the state apartments (with gold leaf on the window styles), but also the “behind the scenes” organisation needed for the upkeep of such a house, its gardens and, in fact, the whole estate.

It was fascinating to learn about the aim of becoming self-supporting in terms of craftsmanship having, among others, joiners, seamstresses and electricians all employed by the estate itself. And diligent personnel is needed when you have to clean crystal chandeliers consisting of 2000 pieces each - all cleaned by hand - without discovering spare pieces at the end of the job! Also interesting to hear about were the fully-stocked kitchen cupboards, which no one had known had existed since World War II, these only recently being found when renovating the joiners’ workshop. A marvellous and exciting place indeed, which I shall view from quite a different perspective when next I visit.

Heino van Rijnberk

General information and appeals - in random order

Mr Jacques Zonneveld, 070 368 4626 (email: jacques@jacqueszonneveld.com) is the person to contact if you wish to attend one of the monthly informal gatherings of **The Oxford and Cambridge Society of The Netherlands** held at Het Wapen van Den Haag, Driehoekjes 15.

We will always be delighted to hear from anyone interested in **joining our committee**.

E-mail addresses are invaluable to us in our bid to improve communication and cut costs. Do please let us know yours!

Although Raamweg 45 should be easy to reach, **offers of transport** will always be welcome.

Our **national website** is www.nederlandengeland.com. Our Newsflash can be found there as well as other branches’ bulletins and information on a national level.