

# BULLETIN

GENOOTSCHAP  
NEDERLAND-ENGELAND

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## UTRECHT BRANCH 2007

[www.gne-utrecht.nl](http://www.gne-utrecht.nl)

**VOL.17, NO.2 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**

Venue: Noorderlicht Church, 92B bergweg, Zeist.

### Members of the GNE Utrecht Branch,

Last week-end we switched from summer time to winter time. Daylight shortens gradually and the time we spend inside the house increases, hence a nice chance to enjoy the GNE lectures. In November (**Monday**, 12<sup>th</sup>) Peter McNamara will inform us on two Yorkshire cities (Ripon and Leeds) and in December our Christmas party will be on **Tuesday** the 11<sup>th</sup>. As in former years goodies for the buffet and presents for the raffle are very much appreciated; elsewhere in this Bulletin you will find a more detailed programme.

Twenty eight members attended our AGM (Annual General Meeting) in October. We were happy to be able to announce that, due to two donations, the annual fee will not be changed in 2008.

I also want you to remember that we are grateful to those members who host our lecturers from abroad. Sometimes they do this for more than one night. Without this help it would be impossible to keep our branch going as we cannot afford hotel costs. Therefore, a warm "Thank You" to these families in name of all of you.

We also discussed at the AGM that we need new members to participate in the Committee. Already a year ago our Secretary and our Treasurer announced that they wanted to step down at the end of their term (2006). Fortunately both of them volunteered to stay for another year. At this meeting they again agreed to help us out. However we need your help desperately!

The national website was launched in September, You will find here extensive descriptions of and internet references to all the lectures that are organized by the National Committee. Two branches (Twente and Utrecht) have already put their local information on the branch pages, hence have a look <http://www.nederlandengeland.nl/?mid=GNEUtrecht>.

My warmest regards and see you on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November,  
Herman Steeneken

### From the Committee:

#### OBITUARY

The Committee regrets to have to announce that notification has been received of the death of one of our members: Mrs Sietske Clements, Nieuwegein. Our deep-felt sympathies go out to her partner, Ron Shargool, and her family.

#### NEW MEMBERS:

We would like to express our warmest welcome to Mr and Mrs Schweig and Mr den Hartog.

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

For many years now it has been a tradition that our members provide the food for the party. Committee member Janny Merrick will co-ordinate refreshments and will be going around soliciting offers of goodies for the next Christmas Buffet (and little presents for the raffle). Members who would like to contribute are invited to call Janny, 033 253 44 73, or to talk with her at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

As usual, to cover the extra costs, members will be asked to pay an entrance fee: €4,-- for members and €8,-- for non-members. Anybody bringing refreshments for the Buffet is, naturally, exempt from paying the entrance fee.

## **COMING EVENTS:**

**NOVEMBER, MONDAY** 12th in the Noorderlicht Church at 8.00 p.m.

### **TWO YORKSHIRE CITIES – RIPON AND LEEDS**

A slide illustrated talk by **Peter MacNamara**.



Beginning as medieval market towns, Ripon and Leeds had much in common for centuries, but one became a major industrial city while the other has seen modest changes over time. The comparison shows that although the scale is different, their development has striking parallels and each illustrates the larger patterns of English life

Peter MacNamara retired from the post of Principal Lecturer in History at York St.John's where he had particular responsibility for Local Studies in History, and the training of students to teach history in schools. He was the instigator and manager of projects to secure and develop the use of a range of contemporary archives, namely the Ripon Community History Project, the Ripon Records Project and the Yorkshire Film Archive, and lectured to a wide range of audiences on the nature and use of the materials. Yorkshire Television employed him as a presenter for two

series of programmes based on the work of the film archive, and exhibitions drawing on the work were presented in a number of centres in the region.

He is much in demand as a lecturer for visitors to Britain, in particular at the Norwegian Studies Centre at the University of York and at the centres for Language Studies at both the University and York St.John's

Peter strongly advocates the teaching of history as human experience rather than as simply a political or cultural phenomenon, - the understanding of which is central to our ability to manage our lives as individuals and as members of communities

Peter MacNamara visited our branch in September 2002 with his lecture: From Workshop to Factory.



## **DECEMBER, TUESDAY** 11th in the Noorderlicht Church at 8.00 p.m.

Our **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** will start with **ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE at the TIME of JANE AUSTEN**, a talk and dance demonstration by **Antony Haywood and his Dancers**.

Country dances played an important role in middle-class and upper-class society at the time of Jane Austen. Dance evenings in village halls and balls at great houses were big social occasions where it was important to be seen as well as providing opportunities for young people to converse privately without the presence of a chaperone. Jane Austen makes frequent references to country dancing in her novels and letters and it was clearly important not only to her but to her characters. Anyone who has seen the films and television series adaptations of Jane Austen novels will be aware of the English country dance.



English country dancing is still alive and our speaker, Antony Heywood, has been dancing for 50 years. In his talk (which will be illustrated by film excerpts and a dance demonstration) he places the country dance at the time of Jane Austen in its historical perspective. The etiquette of the dance hall is discussed and the development of the dance up to the present day is touched upon.

Antony Heywood first came into contact with English Country Dancing whilst studying Physics at Cambridge University in the 50s. It soon became his main spare time occupation and he became an accomplished performer in local and, later, national demonstration teams. It was at Cambridge that he was

encouraged to teach the dances and this required in-depth study of English Country dance from its beginnings in the 17th century right up to the present day. After graduation he worked in Cambridge, then in London where he joined Philips which ultimately brought him to the Netherlands in 1978 and he has settled here since, and again instigated a dance group specialising in dances from the British Isles and North America.

If you always wished to find out more about the meaning of the codes and etiquettes of dancing of this particular period, why not come to this entertaining evening.

Afterwards delicious traditional Christmas fare will be waiting for us spread out on the tables of our Christmas Buffet. We can spend the rest of the evening in eating, drinking, chatting and being merry and for anyone willing to risk a few Euro's there will be a raffle.

## **GNE Utrecht Branch Bulletin**

published four times a year

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