

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. 2 - October 2009

Dear members,

On 16 September, we held our AGM in our new venue, "Gunst, wat een Kunst". It was per definition a very short meeting, matters were dealt with quickly and the Minutes and accounts were agreed without major discussion. However, it was good that so many of you managed to come and the general feedback has been that this venue is very pleasant and certainly suitable to our needs. Before the lecture on Holkham Hall (more on that later), Heino van Rijnberk said a few words of thanks to Katja ter Brugge who had stepped down from the role of Acting Chairman, and presented her with flowers and a book token on behalf of us all.

At the end of the evening, we were able to "mingle" and enjoy the odd glass of wine! We now look forward to another enjoyable evening on 16 November (see below).

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

Monday 16 November 2009

Lecture: Nelson: the Myths and Truths
Guest speaker: Mrs Heather Woodward
Venue: Gunst, wat een Kunst, Raamweg 45, 2596 HN, The Hague
7.45 p.m.: Venue opens – refreshments available
8.00 p.m.: Start of lecture

In April of last year, we were enthralled by a talk given by Mrs Heather Woodward, a volunteer speaker for the National Trust in the South East of England, on Churchill of Chartwell. We were delighted to invite her to return to The Hague in November, this time giving us the benefit of her knowledge of Nelson – the myths and the truths. By profession, Mrs Woodward was a teacher, holding various senior positions at a Grammar School, all of which gave her ample practice in public speaking. Since her retirement, and having been recruited for the National Trust, she has access to its historical archives, thus enabling her to undertake the extensive research involved in developing new talks. A supporter of various charities, including the Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance, her hobbies – goodness knows where she finds the time – include water-colour painting, amateur dramatics, playing the piano and singing for various choirs and groups. We now look forward once again to what should prove to be an extremely interesting and entertaining talk.

A backward glance ... !

On September 16 the administrator of Holkham Hall, Mr. Michael Daley, told his audience everything about the pleasures, challenges, hazards and indeed sometimes dangers of living in a huge mansion like Holkham Hall.

The building, belonging to the Earls of Leicester, originates from the golden age of the grand tours. It was built by Thomas Coke, whom at 12 became the young master of an 10.600 ha big estate and was inspired by his travels to build a mansion looking like a Palladian version of a Roman villa,

resulting in Holkham Hall as we see it today. Many generations of Cokes followed him, often struggling with unhappy marriages, the duty to create “an heir and a spare” and to keep a building of this size heated.

Today Mr. Daley, as administrator of the hall, and his wife are one of the four families who actually live in the Hall, together with the families of the Earl, the butler and the assistant manager, thus making the huge building into a home rather than a museum. Together they are managing to keep the building for the future, as a vital part of a living estate and community, and to which we are very welcome.

Heino van Rijnberk

<i>General information - in random order</i>
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Christmas shopping in London? In case you didn't know:.....

If you are thinking of visiting London in the coming weeks and, after a spell in one of the many huge department stores, need a whiff of culture in order to recharge your batteries, here are a couple of suggestions:

Tate Britain - in the first exhibition of its kind - “Turner and the Masters” - is presenting some of JWM Turner’s famous works paired with comparable paintings by other greats, such as Canaletto, Rembrandt, Rubens, Constable. Check for details on 0044 (0)20 7887 8888.

At the other extreme, ***Tate Modern’s*** exhibition - “Pop Life: Art in a Material World”- looks at how many modern artists (Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons and Andy Warhol among others) have made use of the media and have created their own brand in order to promote their work. Check for details on 0044 (0)20 7887 8888.

And finally, a sensible way to counteract high expenditure on sightseeing in London is to purchase the “**London Pass**”. This gives free entry to over 55 attractions, such as the Tower of London. If you purchase the travel option with it, then you can whizz around London at your heart’s content on its renowned public transport system. One card - not masses of tickets. What could be better ! Check details on 0044 (0)1604 485020.

And if you're staying at home during the autumn, then why not consider attending the following:
The OxCam 2009 Annual Dinner

This year’s Annual Dinner of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of The Netherlands will again be in The Hague. GNE members are again invited to come along and enjoy this very special evening. The event will be held at restaurant Le Cirque on **Wednesday, 25 November 2009** from 7:00 pm. (Address: Le Cirque, Circusplein 50, 2586 CZ The Hague)

This year's speaker is Minister Ronald Plasterk, who followed a postdoctoral course in the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge. After a career as professor at several eminent universities in the Netherlands, and director of medical institutes, he was appointed Minister of Education, Culture and Science in the current government. He is also a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities. He was also advisor to the National Convention, and columnist for the *Volkscrant* and on the TV programme *Het Buitenhof*.

The cost of the evening, covering an aperitif, a three-course meal, wine, soft drinks and coffee is €65 for GNE members. Those wishing to attend are asked to complete and return the registration form by 15 November. Forms can be downloaded from the OxCam website (www.oxbridge-nl.com) or, if you do not have a computer, a printed version can be obtained from Katja ter Brugge (070-3515699). Dress code: black tie is preferred.