

BULLETIN

GENOOTSCHAP
NEDERLAND-ENGELAND

www.nederlandengeland.nl



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www.nederlandengeland.nl

Venue: Noorderlicht Church, Bergweg 92B, Zeist.

Members of the GNE Utrecht Branch

The new GNE season has taken off; here is the first issue of Vol. 18. The Committee has all but finished putting together the Programme 2008-09, the conference room has been booked for the whole season, the papers for the Annual General Meeting are attached, so let's go.

However, some words of concern regarding our future should not be neglected. We have seen the number of members slowly decreasing over the years while the costs for organizing activities have been increasing. Last season we had a negative result of over € 500 (due to a special benefit reduced to € 120). We did and will do in the future our very best to advertise our activities in the Utrecht region. Sending press releases to local newspapers, inviting teachers and students related to the GNE-BBC award activities did not result in drawing more interest in our branch activities. Again, the Committee, will put full effort into a healthy Utrecht Branch. We cannot do that just as a Committee, *we need your help*.

The efforts that you can offer on behalf of our Society are to advertise GNE and to attract your friends to visit one of our meetings. We also submit, prior to our meetings, a *flyer* with a short description of the next presentation. Please make a copy and display it at local places such as bookshops, libraries, super markets, etc. *We count on your cooperation*.

I hope to meet you at our next meeting, Friday 26th September 2008.

Herman Steeneken

FROM THE COMMITTEE

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the death of one of our members, **Mrs Schokkenkamp-Carslaw**. Our sympathies go out to her family.

Ella Schoonhoven has had a serious accident and will therefore probably be unable to attend our meetings this season. We wish her strength and hope she will get well as soon as possible.

AGM 2008

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting 2008 on Friday October 17th at approximately 10 p.m., following Leslie McLoughlin's lecture. The papers pertaining to this meeting are appended to this Bulletin.

COMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER, Friday 26th in the Noorderlicht Church at 8.00 p.m.

Talking Points – an Eclectic collection of the Great War

A slide-illustrated talk by Geoff Bridger

The lecture will be preceded by a short introduction to the war and the part played by the Netherlands in so far as it effected Great Britain. The talk comprises pictures, drawings etc., illustrating various aspects of the war; a random selection of general items of interest. The audience will be invited to make additional observations.

Geoff Bridger retired from Government Service in 1997 and now spends most of his time researching aspects of the Great War in archives and on the battlefields and writing and publishing on this subject. Geoff has absolutely no claim to fame regarding matters appertaining to WWI; he wasn't even around. But his Dad served from September 1914 until February 1919. Geoff was born during a Second World War air raid and subsequently brought up on a diet of incidents relating to the wars.

OCTOBER, Friday 17th in the Noorderlicht Church at 8.00 p.m.

Confessions of an Arabic Interpreter

A slide illustrated talk by Leslie McLoughlin. Leslie McLoughlin has had a varied career in the academic world but also as an interpreter, consultant, writer and broadcaster. He has spent most of his career abroad and has been an independent consultant for the last twenty years. Leslie has taught Arabic in the UK and the USA.

He lectures in Arabic to Arab audiences for the British Council in countries such as Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrein, Qatar, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Oman. Leslie has also acted as interpreter to HM the Queen, Prime Ministers and the British Government. He was a consultant on Arabic language to the Lockerbie Trials in Kamp Zeist. Leslie is a frequent broadcaster in Arabic on radio and television, including for the BBC and Al Jazeera.

RECENT EVENTS:

MARCH 2008, Friday 14th, in the Noorderlicht Church

Christian Wolmar – The Subterranean Railway

Our speaker on this evening was Christian Wolmar who introduced his talk with a challenging remark – he was not a historian telling the truth but a journalist correcting history! His subject was Subterranean Railway, the London Underground – or Tube as it is more commonly known – and his talk looked, not at the facts and figures, but at the social conditions which more or less set the scene for its development, and the main entrepreneurs who carried out the development.

The first of these was Charles Pearce, a 19th century lawyer, a somewhat strange profession for someone with such a grand idea. His aim was to do something useful for the City of London, to expand it into suburbia but still allow quick access for those living there. A somewhat more noble ambition than introducing congestion charges and abolishing bendy-buses you might say. This was in the period 1840-1850. At that time the primary means of 'long distance' commuter travel was the horse drawn omnibus. His original idea for a replacement was a vacuum railway. The multifaceted engineer-cum-inventor Isambard Brunel had actually tried it but it proved not to be especially successful. The first real attempt to establish a dedicated commuter railway was done by the Merton Railway Company, a line of about four miles between Farringdon and Paddington. It was started in 1860 and cost £1 million – about

£400 in today's terms. It was built, not by tunnelling, but by the simple expedient of digging a huge trench in the middle of the road, then covering it over – the cut and cover method. It took three years to complete and, despite one minor disaster when part of the construction collapsed into the River Fleet there were no deaths. Trains were drawn by steam engines and exhaust chimneys allowed the fumes to escape upwards into the 'fresh' air. I can still recall that in my childhood steam trains were still used on the above ground sections of the underground network. All around Britain you can still see the large purple-bricked structures allowing exhaust gases to escape from railway tunnels.

Development of a more comprehensive network went ahead with James Fowler working on the District line and Edward Watson on the Metropolitan line. These were undertaken on a more speculative basis, with the development companies buying up the land either side of the lines to use for (future) industrial purposes. As the lines moved more into central London, and eventually going underneath the Thames, it became necessary to tunnel, and to go deeper, anything from about 50 feet under the streets to as much as 200 feet – especially where lines crossed each other.

Around 1900 the first electric trains came into use on the Central Railway line – that is 50 ton monster engines pulling carriages – and the name 'Tube' came into common usage. Drawing on his experience with the Chicago overhead railway – the Loop or L (made excitingly famous in the film *The French Connection*) – Charles Yerkes successfully oversaw the electrification of many of the lines, Piccadilly, Bakerloo, and part of the Northern line.

Inevitably, development of the system continued quickly, success breeding success commercially, both for the Underground and for businesses in and around London, and in the 1930s London Transport came into being, a conglomerate of Tubes, buses, stations with shops and 'canteens'. In WWI the underground system had been used for sheltering from the sporadic and intimidating, if not wholly successful, Zeppelin bombing raids. This experience was repeated throughout WWII, especially during the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940, with station platforms packed with people, including those who travelled by day. At night time the platforms became huge silent dormitories.

No story about the London Underground can pass without mentioning the bleaker aspects of its history, such as the Moorgate disaster in 1977 when a train ran into buffers at full speed, killing 40 people. In recent times we had the 7th July bombings in 2005, a deliberate act of terrorism which killed 52 people.

Christian ended his fascinating tale with a three dimensional glimpse of a station serving several lines, crisscrossing at different levels. It brought to my memory the several nights I had spent over the years in the Goadge Street underground deep shelter as guest of Her Majesty's Navy – an awful experience, in every sense.

Thank you, Christian, for giving us a marvellous insight into London's Underground and giving us much to reflect upon next time we travel on it – not least being the windowless carriages of yore – who needs windows when you're in a tunnel?

NLM

APRIL 2008, Friday 18th, in the Noorderlicht Church

Martyn Everett – Art and the Anarchists

Martyn began his talk by giving us an insight into the beliefs and ideals of anarchists, which to many seem on the surface scary and frightening. However, on closer examination anarchists have always had a desire for freedom which springs from Society itself and is rooted in how people live in Society. They wish for a better Society for all. Not believing in the accepted political order they believe that an individual should have an active roll and take responsibility for their own lives and for helping and encouraging others to do the same. Small groups would take over and power would be maintained at the basic levels of Society. Hence they have always been at loggerheads with the prevailing regimes whether they be left or right orientated.

Martyn explained to us how this philosophy appealed to many artists and writers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They were drawn to the principles of anarchism and showed sympathy to the cause by what they did rather than by what they said. They gave themselves complete freedom of expression which showed itself in the Art movements of Post Impressionism, Surrealism, Dada, Avant-garde, Art-nouveau

etc. During these turbulent years whilst the old order was being questioned and thrown over, writers found an outlet in magazines produced by the anarchists, magazines where they could air their views. Artists painted posters or drew caricatures also showing their sympathy with the movement in their paintings. Their numbers included such great artists as Picasso and Pissarro, sculptors such as Jacob Epstein and who has never heard of Oscar Wilde and his famous *Ballad of Reading Jail*. Illustrated by many slides the evening was ended with the usual questions but also with a short discussion over “The roles artists should portray in Society”. It proved to be a very interesting and thought provoking evening.
C.B.

MAY 2008, Friday 16th in the Noorderlicht Church

Heather Woodward – Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks in Kent

Set deep in the Kentish Downs Ightham Mote, now a National Trust property, is a secluded, charming house hidden down a quiet, narrow country lane. The house was started with the building of the medieval hall, the solar and the chapel by the first occupants in 1320. Leading us through the centuries Heather revealed to us the tragedies and the joys of the inhabitants, of the Selbys who occupied the house for 299 years and of the last owner, an American Charles Henry Robinson, who bequeathed the property to the National Trust and left a million pounds for its upkeep and who's ashes have been given a final resting place in this house which through the ages has remained essentially a family home.

She explained to us how and why the house was extended to accommodate the needs of the occupants and illustrating how today despite all the extensions it all still fits perfectly together. We saw the changes in the surrounding grounds, used in the middle ages for the necessary production of food, which have become in more modern times formal gardens, fish ponds which became a pleasure lawn for cricket and croquet, the sides of the pond making a convenient bank for watching spectators. Heather gave us an insight into the servants quarters and showed us what life was like “downstairs”. It was a house that was also loved by its former servants who gladly told National Trust visitors about their duties and work there and advised the Trust on many details for the restoration.

Heather's talk illustrated with slides and interspersed with sayings, anecdotes and interesting details proved to be one of the most entertaining talks of the season 2007-2008. I am glad to say that she has promised to come back with another of her fascinating talks in our 2009 / 2010 season.

C.B.

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7. Op onze reizen zijn de ANVR reisvoorwaarden van toepassing.

NATIONAL DAY ARNHEM SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2008 **Openluchtmuseum Arnhem, Schelmseweg 89, 6816 SJ Arnhem, 026-3576111,**



Programma:

- 10.30-11.15 Aankomst gasten in het Openluchtmuseum Arnhem (European Museum of the Year 2005) met koffie/thee en appelgebak
- 11.15-12.00 Lezing 'migratie' door de directeur van het museum, Prof. Dr.J.Vaessen ¹⁾
- 12.00-13.00 Rondleiding (in groepen, met gids) door het museum
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch in het Paard van Marken
- 14.00-15.00 Museumbezoek op eigen gelegenheid
- 15.00-15.30 Voorstelling Hollandrama ²⁾
- 15.30-16.15 Afsluitende bijeenkomst.

- 1) Mogelijk komt er in Nederland ook een nationale migratie-site, naar het voorbeeld van www.movinghere.org.uk. Deze Britse site is zeker voor onze leden aan te raden.
- 2) Hollandrama is een combinatie van een moderne tijdschapsule en een innovatief panorama. Zie de website www.openluchtmuseum.nl

Kosten zijn p.p. €38,50. Deze dienen overgemaakt te worden op rekening 51.71.33.245 t.n.v. GNE Hoofdbestuur, Nederhorst den Berg onder vermelding van "Arnhem". Aanmelden – eventueel tot 20 september mogelijk – bij: Jan Bakker, 030-6992007, email: j.bakker@scandent.nl. Een uitgebreide beschrijving is aanwezig in de zaal bij onze eerste bijeenkomst op 26 september a.s.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SEASON 2008-09

As usual, our meetings will take place at the hall of the Noorderlicht Church, Bergweg 92B, Zeist.

2008

September, Friday 26 th	Talking Points: an Eclectic Collection of the Great War. A slide-illustrated talk by Geoff Bridger
October, Friday 17 th	Confessions of an Arabic Interpreter. A slide illustrated talk by Leslie McLoughlin
November, Friday 14 th	The Crop Circle Mystery. A slide illustrated talk by Andy Thomas
December, 12 th	Annual Christmas Party. Details forthcoming

2009

January, Friday 16 th	Details forthcoming
February, <i>Tuesday</i> 17 th	Drawing the Baroque English Landscape: Kip, Knyff and English Gentleman. A slide illustrated talk by Ray Biggs
March, Friday 6 th	Heart of the Sahara, a slide and sound illustrated talk by John Pilkington
April, Friday 24 th	A Glimpse of Chatsworth. A slide illustrated talk by Christine Robinson
May, <i>Tuesday</i> 12 th	The Jurassic Coast – a World Heritage Site. A slide illustrated talk by Peter Goddard

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