

# B U L L E T I N

## GENOOTSCHAP NEDERLAND-ENGELAND

Eindhoven Branch



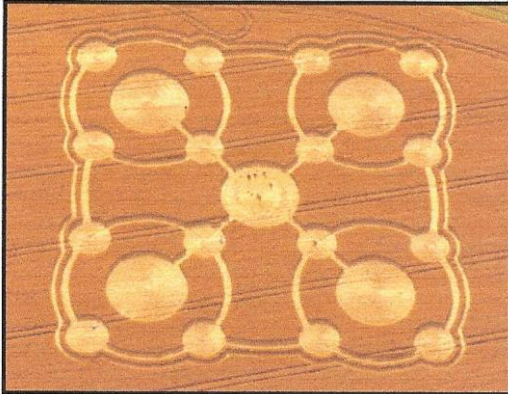
No 2 / Nov 2008 – Jan 2009

Dear GNE members,

We can look back at an excellent start of the season. First we had a successful and pleasant AGM in September and then a marvellous lecture by Gerard van der Laan on The London Docks last month. The dinner at restaurant Listers preceding this lecture was a tremendous success as well and is certainly something we will organise again.

In this bulletin we would like to announce our next three events: a lecture on a very mysterious topic (crop circles), our annual Christmas Party and a lecture that may have a slightly boring title, but a very enigmatic speaker that should not be missed!

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 12 November, 20.00 hrs</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Agnus Dei, Kon. Julianalaan 12, Aalst/Waalre</b>
<b>Lecture:</b>	<b>The Crop Circle Mystery by Andy Thomas</b>



With a stunning slideshow, Andy Thomas explores the extraordinary phenomenon of crop circles, the intricate shapes which appear in fields around the world each summer and still defy explanation despite misleading sceptical propaganda. This lively presentation explains the fascinating history of the mysterious and beautiful patterns and how both the formations and some of the theories concerning them have developed over the years, including reports on some of the most recent events.

Andy is a leading crop circle researcher and the world's most prolific writer on the subject, having written five books exploring aspects of the

phenomenon: *Fields Of Mystery*, *Quest For Contact* (with Paul Sura), *An Introduction to Crop Circles*, *Swirled Harvest* and *Vital Signs*, described by many as the definitive guide to the subject. Andy widely writes and lectures in England and abroad, and has made numerous radio and TV appearances.

**GNE-EINDHOVEN CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**Academisch Genootschap, Parklaan 93, Eindhoven**  
**Friday, 19 December 2008, 20.00h**

For a good number of years our Christmas Party has been attended by and highly appreciated by many members. We trust that we shall succeed in keeping this tradition going with an exhilarating performance of

David Andreae, Joop Hoyer and Eric Geurts  
 in  
**AN EXTREMELY ENGLISH EVENING**

The programme consists of light English songs, bits of comic verse ranging from Shakespeare to Ayres as well as some light piano music. Starting off with a few 19<sup>th</sup> century love songs the singers will move on to the pre- and post war 'pop songs' with a high Vera Lynn and Flanders & Swann calibre to end up with some topical stuff.

We are convinced that again many of you would like to attend this special evening which promises to be another great experience. We have managed to stick to the quite modest admission fee of € 12,50 for members (€ 17,50 for guests), for which you will get the usual coffee, a drink and some Christmas delicacies and, of course, your raffle ticket. Please, send us an e-mail or send the answering slip to inform us you are coming before 1 December and remit the amount due to our treasurer:

Diny van den Ende, penningmeester GNE afd. Eindhoven, Postbank 11.13.061, in Tilburg.

We do hope that you will appreciate our efforts to please you all. We would love to see as many GNE members as possible. Do feel free to ask some of your poetry and music loving friends to join you!!!



Name :

Number of persons:

Address:

Town:

Telephone nr:

will attend the GNE-Eindhoven Christmas party on 19 December '08 at the Academisch Genootschap.

The amount due (€ 12,50 members, guests € 17,50) has been remitted to:

Diny van den Ende, penningmeester GNE afd. Eindhoven, Postbank 11.13.061 in TILBURG



<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday 13 January, 20.00 hrs</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Agnus Dei, Kon. Julianalaan 12, Aalst/Waalre</b>
<b>Lecture:</b>	<b>Political Dialogue - is it still alive? by James Probert</b>



People moan that politics has ‘dumbed down’, or that it is just soundbites, that politicians are insincere and can’t inspire people, so we’re all apathetic and that’s why democracy is under threat. But wait! For most of history the main fear about rhetoric was that it was a really dangerous thing that should never be unleashed on the ignorant masses because they’d end up with a tyrant (supported by evidence from anywhere from Ancient Athens to Nazi Germany). Actually, rhetoric and political discourse / speechmaking has always walked a tightrope between being in and out of control. We no longer have a division in society between the rulers and the ruled because of the success of democracy, so we tend to use outdated measures of what we expect from rhetoric that don’t fit the modern world. There are loads of good examples of sophisticated rhetoric and political argument used nowadays, both good and dangerous. We all need to learn about how they work, though, and not put speaking out or being clever on a pedestal for ‘the experts’. On balance, despite current threats from intolerant groups of all

shades, and despite it being difficult to spot without a change in attitude, political discourse has never been in better shape.

James Probert is the Deputy Director of Education & Head of the Centre for Speech and Debate at the English-Speaking Union. He was in the Question Team at the final of the BBC Awards in april 2007 and impressed everyone by filling the unexpected gap in the programme caused by the length of the jury deliberations.

### **The BBC Young Writers and Public Speaking Awards 2009**

In 2009 the BBC Young Writers and Public Speaking Awards will be organised again. The preliminary rounds will take place at various cities around the Netherlands in February. The semi finals will be on Saturday 14 March at the James Boswell Institute in Utrecht and the National Final will take place at 1.30 pm on 28 March 2009 in Amsterdam, Auditorium of the University of Amsterdam. GNE members are very welcome to attend these, as well as the preliminary rounds. More information will be published in our upcoming bulletins and we would also like to refer you to the new website <http://www.bbcawards.com>

To give you a little taste of what’s to come, the topics are:

- Inspired by the Olympics?
- The credit crunch: its positive effects
- What the world can teach the Dutch
- Fitting in or standing out



- What BBC TV does for me
- English Speaking Union topic (will be published in December 2008 on the website)

We look forward to seeing many of you at these next events!

The committee

The committee are:

Chairman:	Jac van den Ende	013-4682771	Treasurer:	Diny van den Ende	013-4682771
Vice-Chairman:	Françoise Deckers	040-2113493	Member:	Anita van den Hurk	0487-572771
Secretary:	Harry Kort	040-2016203			
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