



# British Society Deventer

<http://britishsocietydeventer.nl>

SEASON 2016-2017

NEWSLETTER NO. 3, December/January  
2016/2017



Dear members,

As the Festive Season will be upon us soon, of which Jos Paardekooper's talk on *Dickens in America* on 20 November is already a precursor, the committee would like to remind you of the annual **Christmas event with film and Tea at filmhuis de Keizer**.

**On 10 December** the heart-warming and funny film *The Lady in the Van*, starring Maggie Smith and Alex Jennings will be shown accompanied by an English Tea and a glass of wine as usual. Please enter your names with Mariette Kooy at 0575-551719 or [jmmkooy@hetnet.nl](mailto:jmmkooy@hetnet.nl) Admission €12,50 for members and €15,00 for guests, to be paid in cash at the filmhuis. *If you wish to attend, please enter your name with Mariette Kooy at 0575-551719 or [jmmkooy@hetnet.nl](mailto:jmmkooy@hetnet.nl), stating number of members and guests before 3 December 2016.*

*The Lady in the Van* tells the true story of the writer Alan Bennett's strained friendship with Miss Mary Shepherd, an eccentric homeless woman whom Bennett befriended in the 1970s before allowing her temporarily to park her Bedford van in the driveway of his Camden home. She stayed there for 15 years. As the story develops Bennett learns that Miss Shepherd is really Margaret Fairchild, a former gifted pupil of the pianist Alfred Cortot. She had played Chopin in a promenade concert, tried to become a nun, was committed to an institution by her brother, escaped, had an accident when her van was hit by a motorcyclist for which she believed herself to blame, and thereafter lived in fear of arrest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA8tMziteZM>

Academy Award® Winner  
**MAGGIE SMITH**  
A TRUE STORY BY ALAN BENNETT  
**The LADY in the VAN**



Maggie Smith previously portrayed Shepherd twice: in the original 1999 theatrical production and in the 2009 BBC Radio 4 adaptation. This film version was shown at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival and received largely positive reviews from critics.

#### THE DICKENS KABINET IN DEVENTER

Following Jos Paardekooper's fascinating talk on Dickens's travels in America, our BSD member Mrs Emmy Strik, well-known for the Dickens Festijn in Deventer, has kindly offered to show her large collection of Dickens memorabilia and antiques to a restricted number of members (members only) of British Society Deventer on 22 November at 2 and 3 pm. You have received information on this recently. To find out if the guided tour by Emmy is not yet fully booked, please contact Marijke Lemmerman. If so, the Kabinet will be open to the general public on Fridays and Saturdays. Please check with the Tourist Information Centre.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQfLqddTlgI>

#### A WARM WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Jansen from Doesburg and to Mrs Achterkamp from Deventer who recently joined our society. We hope they will enjoy their membership for a long time to come and will soon feel at home with us.

#### BRITISH SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION & REGULATIONS

During the AGM you were presented with the British Society Deventer's Constitution & Regulations. You will find a link to the document on our website.

#### JOHN PILKINGTON SPEAKING ON 22 JANUARY 2017

The committee is pleased to announce a talk by

**John Pilkington at BSD Deventer on Sunday afternoon 22 January 2017 at 3 pm. The venue is De Schalm.**

*As was shown on previous occasions it would be advisable for members to arrive early as we expect a large turn-out.*

## The title of John's talk is **Russia and Europe: What Next?**

John wrote:

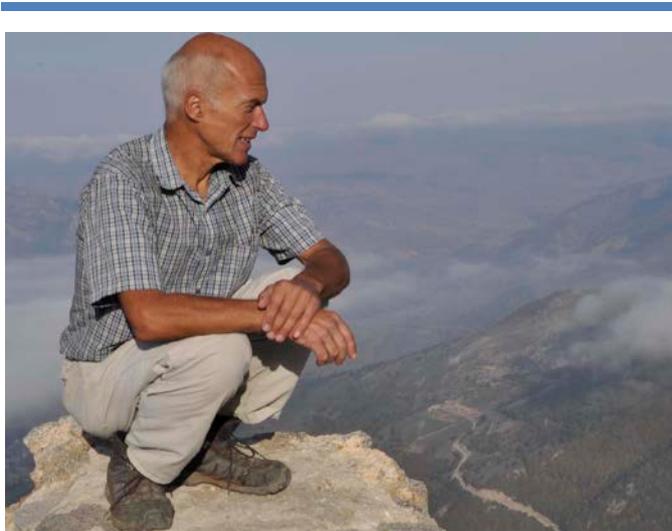
Passions are running high in Ukraine and the breakaway states of the Caucasus. Vladimir Putin's adventures in Ukraine took the West rather by surprise. But in some ways I think they followed a pattern that goes back more than a century to the legendary "Great Game" between Russia and Britain in Victorian times.

Since the Soviet Union's break-up, Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia have become Russia's "forgotten" satellite states – unrecognized and unheard of by most outsiders. Now Donetsk and Luhansk have joined the list, and Russia has full control of Crimea.

I've always loved Eastern Europe, and 2015 seemed the perfect time to get to know it better and discover the stories behind the news headlines. I also visited two places that have hosted the most horrible events in the region's history – Auschwitz and Chernobyl.

The trip was both upsetting and at the same time incredibly heartwarming. After five months of talking to people on both sides, I'm none the wiser about what Mr Putin is planning. But I did get a surprising insight into the Russian and Ukrainian people, their sadness about past and present conflicts, and the practical steps some of them are taking towards a calmer future.

As always John took a lot of photographs and put the best of them into this new presentation.



### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

John Pilkington is one of Britain's greatest tellers of travellers' tales. In 1983, after journeys in Africa and Latin America, he completed a 500-mile solo crossing of the western Nepal Himalaya and told the story in his first book, *Into Thin Air*. His interest in Asia grew further with the opening in 1986 of the border between Pakistan and China, making it possible – for the first time in forty years – to retrace virtually the whole of the Silk Road. John was one of the first modern travellers to do so, and he wrote about the journey in *An Adventure on the Silk Road*. This was followed in 1991 by *An Englishman in Patagonia*, recounting eight months spent exploring the southernmost tip of South America.

In 2000 John became one of only four people in modern times to walk the 1000-mile Royal Road of the Incas in the Andes of Ecuador and Peru. In 2003 he explored the Mekong River and, with two Tibetans, reached and mapped its source at over 17.000 feet. In 2006 he turned his attention to the Sahara desert and joined a camel caravan carrying salt for 450 miles from the mines of Taoudenni to Timbuktu. <http://www.pilk.net/>

### READING GROUP

Next on our programme is **Sweet Caress by William Boyd** to be discussed in January.

Lovers of novels by William Boyd will agree: this is vintage Boyd again. Reminiscent of *Any Human Heart* (2003) by the same author, which was made into a good film, *Sweet Caress* also follows the life, successes and disasters of an artistic person, this time she is a woman, Amory Clay, born in 1908.

Although the reviewer in *The Observer* (18-09-2015) expressed her doubts about the male writer being able to express a woman's feelings, as far as I'm concerned he is doing just that in a convincing way.

The subtitle is *The many lives of Amory Clay*. And many lives she certainly has in the novel. What almost confuses you is the presence of old photographs in the book which makes her seem to be a real person and they add to the picture the reader has of the particular period and circumstances described. Boyd told he had great fun in collecting old photographs at car boot sales and charity shops.

With a traumatized father in World War I and a cool mother, Amy tries to find her way towards a career as a photographer, helped by her artistic uncle. As Amy travels through the night clubs of 1930s Berlin, working in Paris during World War I and New York in the 50s, Vietnam in the 60s, even a hippy community in Los Angeles, ending in the Hebrides, one appreciates the vivid descriptions of time and place.

Your December wish-list is not complete without this book I'd say. (EV)

### TIPS OF THE MONTH

- **26 November 2016 Evensong at Abdijkerk Sion**, Diepenveen 16:00 hrs Vocaal Theologen Ensemble. Doors opening at 15:30  
In the Christian Church, Evensong is a service of evening prayers, psalms, and canticles, conducted according to a set form, especially that of the Anglican Church. Evensong in the Anglican Church is a traditional service for people coming to church to worship in the late afternoon or early evening. The main aims are to introduce Evensong services to the congregation and to publicise the presence of the chaplaincy to people living in this region.  
For a full description of the Anglican Evensong see [link](#)
- **Henry Moore. A European Impulse**  
**11 November 2016 until 19 March 2017**  
Landesmuseum Münster  
LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur  
Domplatz 10  
48143 Münster  
<http://www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/museumkunstkultur/>

- **Cultural Evening in Deventer in Christmas Atmosphere  
16 December 2016**

Broederenkerk, Broederenstraat 18, 20:00 pm. Admission: free.

De Historische Vereniging Deventer will be organising a cultural evening in Christmas atmosphere as part of the Dickens Festijn. Charles Dickens will be playing a prominent part in this event. The church will be decorated including a magnificent crib. Good stories about Deventer and Dickens will be alternated with beautiful singing and piano music.

- **Kerstbrocante aan de IJssel**

**17 December 2016** Oude |Mariakerk, Nieuwe Markt 35, 10:00 – 17:00. Admission €.

In this market you will find besides the special nostalgic Christmas items, fine antiques, vintage design, nostalgic toys, antique clothes and textiles, farmers' antiques, and curiosities. All tastes are catered for.

[http://www.deventer.info/nl/agenda/agenda\\_id.70665/kerstbrocante-aan-de-ijssel](http://www.deventer.info/nl/agenda/agenda_id.70665/kerstbrocante-aan-de-ijssel)

- **Dickens Festijn 17 & 18 December 2016**

Entrance: corner of Walstraat/Keizerstraat, start of the queue: Keizerstraat, 11:00 – 17:00. Admission: free.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century English town of Dickens' time is being revived in its full glory in the Deventer town centre. In the Historical Bergkwartier area more than 950 characters from the famous novels by this English writer will come to life. [www.dickensfestijn.nl](http://www.dickensfestijn.nl)

COMMITTEE, BSD DEVENTER 2015-2016	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
Fred Santing, chairman (038-4652759) AnneMarie Meijer Secretary (0570-631324) Marijke Lemmerman Events & Lodgings Coordinator (0571-271630) Cor Koppert Treasurer (0570-590707) Mariette Kooy, member-at-large (0575-551719)	Couples €54,00                      Singles €30,00 Bank nr NL25 INGB 0003 158375 tnv British Society Deventer Membership year: 1 July – 30 June In practice, our season of talks and events starts on 1 September Newsletter: Els Vorenkamp