



# British Society Deventer

<http://britishsocietydeventer.nl>

SEASON 2016-2017

NEWSLETTER NO. 4, February/ March 2017



Dear members,

After John Pilkington's fascinating talk on Russia on 22 January it is now time to give you details of what is next on our programme. On **Saturday 11 February** a private film viewing with Tea will be organized at Filmhuis De Keizer at 14.00 pm, doors open at 13.30 pm. The film **A Street Cat named Bob** will be shown. You have received information on this wonderful film. Please enter your name with Mariette Kooy at [jmmkooy@hetnet.nl](mailto:jmmkooy@hetnet.nl) before 31 January. Admission: members €10,00 and guests €12,50. (These prices include tea/coffee & cake and a drink during the interval).

## A STREET CAT NAMED BOB ON 11 FEBRUARY

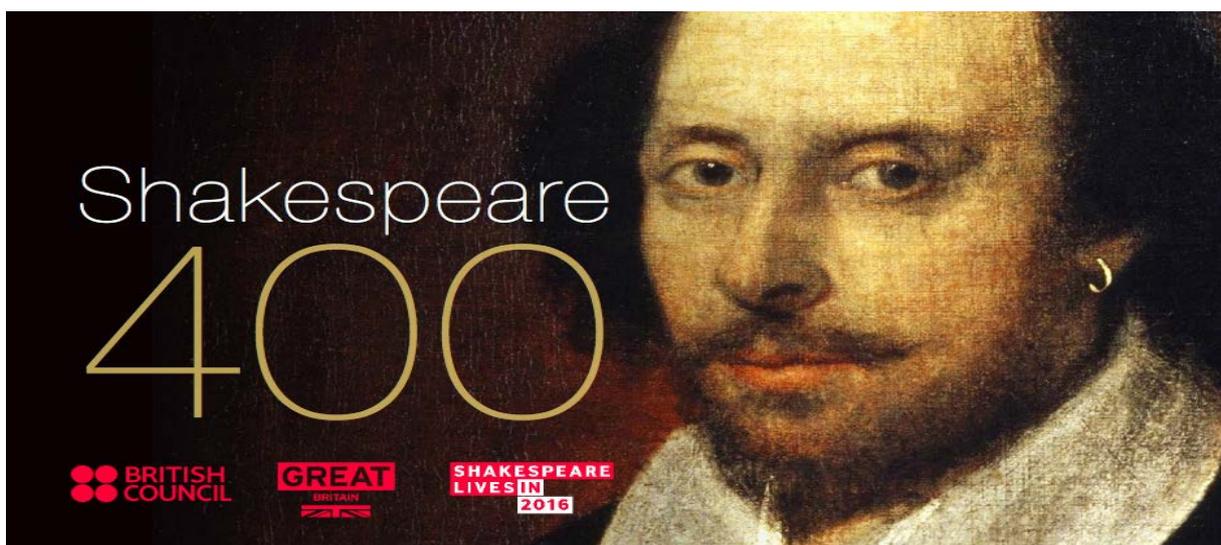
Homeless and a recovering drug addict, James Brown is running low on his luck. As James attempts to build a life and future for himself by busking in Covent Garden, he struggles to gain any traction as the London crowd passes him by. One day a ginger cat finds his way into his flat and he finds her eating his cornflakes in his kitchen. Over the next few days the cat continues to linger on the estate and James discovers an infected wound on the animal's leg. He takes the cat to a charity vet and from that point onwards, the two lives become entwined resulting in a turn for the better for both and even fame. <https://www.pathe.nl/film/22189/a-street-cat-named-bob>

### PAUL FRANSSEN ON THE GENIUS OF SHAKESPEARE ON 12 MARCH

Our next talk (and last talk of this season which we will be ended with an end-of-season event in May) will take place on **Sunday, 12 March 2017 at 3 pm**. The venue will be **Wijkcentrum De Schalm**, Dreef 1, 7414 EA Deventer. Tel. 0570-670731

On 23 April 2016, we celebrated the four hundredth anniversary of William Shakespeare's death (1564-1616). Dr. Paul Franssen will speak about the Genius of Shakespeare. After a brief biographical introduction, he will first address Shakespeare's rise to canonical status, both in the UK and on the continent, particularly the Low Countries. Finally, he will investigate Shakespeare's current fame, and ask what is its basis. Is it a coincidence that he is an English writer, while English is the world language (for wholly unconnected political reasons)? Or is his reputation due to something inherent in his plays, in particular, and if so, what? In exploring these questions, the talk will also cover ideas such as John Keats's notion of Shakespeare's "negative capability", that is to say, being able to live with uncertainty and to represent both sides of a conflict with a large degree of empathy. This concept will be illustrated with practical examples from plays such as *Julius Caesar* and *The Merchant of Venice*. Knowledge of these plays, and of Shakespeare's work in general, though an advantage, is not absolutely necessary to follow the lecture.

Paul Franssen (1955) is a lecturer in older English literature at the English Department of Utrecht University. He has written many articles on the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, co-edited scholarly volumes of articles on *Shakespeare and War* (Palgrave, 2008) and *Shakespeare and European Politics* (Associated University Press, 2008), and has recently published a monograph on Shakespeare as a literary character, entitled *Shakespeare's Literary Lives* (Cambridge University Press, 2016).



### A WARM WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Hadley from Den Bosch. We hope she will soon feel at home with us and will enjoy her membership.

### THE DICKENS KABINET IN DEVENTER

On 22 November 2016 some 20 members of the British Society Deventer were shown round the newly opened Dickens Kabinet by Mrs Emmy Strik whose collection of Dickens antiques and memorabilia is on show there. It was a very enjoyable and interesting event with, for instance, its beautiful display of a fully laid dinner-table and Miss Havershams little room. There are also first editions of Dickens's works and numerous commemorative mugs and such like. The Dickens Kabinet is situated in the Walstraat, off The Tearose. It is open to groups on demand and to visitors on Saturdays from 11 a.m. onwards. Admission €2.

### VACANCY ON THE COMMITTEE

After six years on the Committee AnneMarie Meijer has announced she will step down as our secretary in September. The Committee is now looking for someone who can replace her or take over some of her tasks. Naturally computer skills will be required. Those interested to take over the task of **webmaster** without being on the Committee, are also requested to react. The Committee hopes that in this way the future of British Society Deventer will be guaranteed. For information on the various tasks please contact AnneMarie Meijer at [annemariiek.meijer@kpnmail.nl](mailto:annemariiek.meijer@kpnmail.nl).

### READING GROUP

Recently I came across a debut novel about Orkney, **The Outrun** by Amy Liptrot (1982). Orkney-born of hippy parents she left for London after school where she imagined she was at the centre of things, only finding herself an alcoholic after some years.

After her rehab she returned to Orkney where she rebuilt her life finding occupation and solace in nature and the fierce climate there. One of her new pastimes, almost an obsession, is swimming in the ice-cold sea.

This autobiographical novel is not only impressive in its descriptions of Orkney, its birdlife (ever heard of the corncrake, the kittiwake or the auk?) but it also gives an insight in the struggles an ex-addict continues to have. The writer investigates her feelings in a no-nonsense, honest way.

Despite all this, this is definitely not a depressing story but rather an example of courage and an excellent piece of armchair travelling.

The BBC regularly shows historic documentaries about Orkney entitled: *Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney*. Recommended.

**SAVE THE DATE:** A date has been set for the end-of-season: **Saturday 20 May 2017.**

<b>COMMITTEE, BSD DEVENTER 2016-2017</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP</b>
Fred Santing, chairman (038-4652759) AnneMarie Meijer Secretary (0570-631324) Marijke Lemmerman Events & speakers Coordinator (0571-271630) Cor Koppert Treasurer (0570-590707) Mariette Kooy, member-at-large (0570-670731)	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

