



British Society Deventer

<http://britishsocietydeventer.nl>

HAPPY NEW
2019
YEAR

SEASON 2018-2019

NEWSLETTER NO. 3, January/February 2019

Dear members,

The committee of British Society Deventer would like to wish you a Happy New Year. May you enjoy good health and happiness in 2019. We hope to present you with three more talks on various subjects, a Film & Tea on 16 February (read more on this event further down) and an End-of-Season Event in the second half of season 2018-2019.

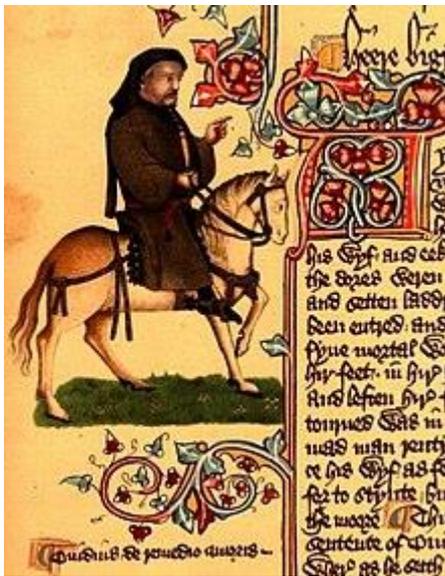
This year's **Christmas Event at the Filmhuis** which took place on **Saturday afternoon 22 December** was well attended with some 51 members and their guests enjoying an excellent English Tea and the film **The Guernsey Potato Peel and Literary Society**. This film, after the book by Mary Ann Shaffner, is a love story between a Guernsey girl and a German army officer during the occupation in WW II. The historic facts of what the situation was like for Guernsey inhabitants, gives this film an added point of interest. A big thank you to those who organized this wonderful afternoon. As always, the very English delicacies, such as mint pies and Christmas cake, were specially bought for this purpose in England.

THE NEXT TALK

On **Sunday 20 January 2019 at 3 p.m.** our next talk will be given by **Dr. Gregor Dijkhuis** on the subject of **The Canterbury Tales**. The venue will be De Schalm, shopping centre Borgele.

In the *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer (ca. 1345-1400) tells us about a group of pilgrims on their way to Canterbury. Before starting on their pilgrimage, it is agreed that they will all tell two stories on their way to Canterbury and two on their way back. The person who tells the best tale will win a free meal. Then they set out. A colourful group of pilgrims, all with their individual backgrounds and their own stories. A unique cross section of Medieval English society. Craftsmen, monks, merchants women, nuns and knights....

This lecture provides a general outline of this masterpiece of medieval literature. The characters are introduced, you will get a colourful glimpse of their lives and a closer look at some of the tales.



Gregor Dijkhuis (Haaksbergen, 1953) studied English literature at Amsterdam University. After a thirty-odd year career in secondary schools as a teacher and a (deputy) headmaster, he now devotes most of his time to his lifelong passion: medieval history, especially the period of the High Middle Ages.

His book on Frederick II (*Stupor Mundi – Kroniek van een eigenzinnige keizer* -2015) was the first book in the Dutch language on the life and times of this formidable emperor.

Gregor Dijkhuis lectures on a wide range of medieval subjects for U3L (the Overijssel branch of HOVO) and delivers talks for all kinds of groups and organisations with cultural-historical interests.

COFFEE TOGETHER

On 13 November from 11.00 to 12.00 British Society Deventer had its first meeting at De Buren van Schimmelpenninck with a group of 7 members. This was an enjoyable session, having a conversation on topics such as the participants' connection with England and whether we should worry about Brexit. Coffee Together on 11 December however, was attended by only a few members. This may have been due to the busy December month.

Our next session is planned for **Tuesday, 12 February 2019 at 11 am**. Els Vorenkamp will be there to guide the conversation. The address is Brink 22, Deventer.

What is more natural than having a coffee in a relaxed atmosphere, provided by the pleasant venue **De Buren van Schimmelpenninck**, while talking about a topic that makes for good conversation?

If you wish to join us please sign up with Marijke Lemmerman. Admission: members only, free of charge. h.lemmermanvdworp@upcmail.nl

FILM & TEA 16 FEBRUARY 2019

On **Saturday 16 February** our next **Tea & Film** event will take place at Filmhuis de Keizer, at 13.30 pm. The film to be viewed will be **The Children Act** after the book by Ian McEwan.

A short synopsis: As her marriage to Jack flounders, eminent High Court judge Fiona Maye has a life-changing decision to make at work - should she force a teenage boy, Adam, to have the blood transfusion that will save his life? Her unorthodox visit to his hospital bedside has a profound impact on them both, stirring strong new emotions in the boy and long-buried feelings in her.

The invitation and how to sign up will be sent to you separately at a later date.



If you'd like to be involved with the baking of cakes for this event, please contact Marijke Lemmerman. Your expenses will be refunded. This could be a nice opportunity to show off your baking skills. A Great British (Society's) Bake-off?

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6040662/videoplayer/vi2677390105>

READING GROUP

This month our book club will discuss **The Melody by Jim Crace.**

As Jim Crace stated in an introduction to his new novel (2018), he loves making up a new world, rather than holding a mirror up to a real one. In the case of *The Melody* this meant it is set in an unspecified time, on an unnamed coast in a non-existing town. The idea for this novel was born from an experience he had in India, where he was staying in a luxury hotel but was kept awake at night by scavenging street children looking for food in waste bins. This led him to ask himself (and the reader): What occupies the space between humans in their affluent hotel rooms and those amongst the bins?

Alfred Busi, a concert singer famed and beloved in his town, is now in his sixties, mourning the recent death of his wife and quietly living out his days alone in the large villa on the sea front. The night before he is due to attend a ceremony at the town's avenue of fame, Busi is attacked by a creature he disturbs as it is raiding the contents of his larder. Busi is convinced that what attacked him was no animal, but a child, innocent and wild, and his story rakes up an old rumour – of an ancient race of people living in the woods near his house - and results in new controversy: the town's paupers must be dealt with, once and for all. As Busi's nephew's ambitious plans (he is a property developer) unfold, Busi and the town he loves will be altered irrevocably.

The Melody is a story about grief and ageing, about reputation and the loss of it and the peculiar way *myth* creeps into real life. It is not an easy book but, as always, Jim Crace manages to keep his readers on their toes.

COMMITTEE, BSD DEVENTER 2018-2019	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
Fred Santing, chairman (038-4652759) Paul Lössbroek, secretary (055-3558675) Marijke Lemmerman Events & Lodgings Coordinator (0571-271630) Cor Koppert Treasurer (0570-590707) Mariette Kooy, member-at-large	Couples € 54,00 Singles € 27,00 Bank nr NL25 INGB 0003 158375 t.n.v. British Society Deventer Membership year: 1 July – 30 June In practice, our season of talks and events starts on 1 September Newsletter: Els Vorenkamp, website: AnneMarie Meijer