



British Society Deventer

<http://britishsocietydeventer.nl>



SEASON 2018-2019

NEWSLETTER NO. 5, April 2019

Dear members,

British Society Deventer will be organizing two more events before the summer.

On 14 April **Nicholas Thompson** will be speaking to us on

The Mansion House, the City of London.

Venue : De Schalm, shopping centre Borgele at 3 pm.

You will have received the invitation for our **end-of-season event** on **Saturday 8 June** from 10.30 to 15.30. This year's event will start with coffee and a guided tour of the lovely gardens of **De Roode Hove** at **Nijbroek** to be followed by a lunch at **restaurant Swinckels in Twello**. Please don't forget to sign up before 1 May by remitting the required amount to our treasurer Cor Koppert.

For details please see the invitation. Do join us on this pleasant outing!

THE MANSION HOUSE ON 14 APRIL

The Mansion House was built between 1739 and 1752 to designs derived from Padian prototypes by the architect, George Dance the Elder as a grand home for the City's Lord Mayor during his term of office. It is currently the home of the City's 691st Lord Mayor, Peter Kenneth Estlin who took office in November 2018. As well as being the Lord Mayor's home for a year, it is also the base from which he and his staff work and where he entertains on behalf of the City and of the Nation. The house is appropriately and richly furnished and houses the important

collection of Dutch and Flemish paintings, mostly of the 17th century, bequeathed to the City by the property developer, Lord Samuel in 1987.

The house was closed in 1991-1993 for a major programme of repair, refurbishment and redecoration, for which Donald Insall Associates were conservation architects and interior designers under the direction of Nicholas Thompson.

Nicholas Thompson's illustrated lecture will refer to the building's architecture, history and collections, its purpose and use, and will describe the extensive works carried out in 1991-93.



NICHOLAS THOMPSON

Nicholas Thompson is a British architect who has specialised in the refurbishment and redecoration of historic buildings in the UK. Having trained at Edinburgh University and with pre-qualification experience in Chicago, he joined in 1974 the specialist London architectural practice founded 60 years ago by Sir Donald Insall which went on to direct the post-fire restoration of Windsor Castle between 1992 and 1997. Since his retirement as chairman of the practice from 1998 to 2012 he has acted as consultant to the firm and continues architectural work from his home in rural Herefordshire, where he moved in 2015.

Whilst working for the firm in London, he was involved in repair and refurbishment projects at many of the capital's major historic buildings, including the Palace of Westminster, The Public Record Office, The Mansion House, Somerset House, St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Royal Albert Hall as well as the public open space of Trafalgar Square. He has also been responsible for a number of important country house projects, both privately-owned and belonging to the National Trust. During this time he has also been able to write and lecture, to serve on advisory boards and to contribute to the activities of charitable organisations.

LOOKING BACK

On 17 March **Simon Wales** spoke to us on **Waddesdon Manor** of which he is the general manager. With a career in music management behind him, Simon showed us how varied his tasks are at Waddesdon Manor. Before the break Simon talked about the stunning interior and its old paintings and art treasures. Such as the amazing elephant, an automaton which can move its limbs and head, made from costly materials and studded with gems.

After the break we learned how the estate makes sure to generate money for the upkeep of the Manor by organizing summer and Christmas fairs etc.. The pictures of walks in the park organized in darkness, with the illuminated Manor in the background were very inviting! The Rothchild family, who built the manor in the 19th century, are still very much involved in all this although Waddesdon has been passed on to the National Trust.

With Simon's pleasant way of speaking, this "classic" country house talk was much appreciated by our members.

READING CLUB

Last month we discussed Crusoe's Daughter by Jane Gardam, which we liked a great deal.

For our discussion in May we have chosen **Warlight** by **Michael Ondaatje** (who is famous for his novel and film *The English Patient*). In *Warlight*, shortlisted for the Man Booker prize 2018, the writer takes us to the end of World War II, London 1945. Narrator Nathaniel and his sister Rachel are left in the care of strangers when their parents are being sent to Singapore for his father's job. Finding their mother's trunk by chance, it becomes clear she has not really left. Where she is and what she is doing is not clear to the adolescent children. There are indications their mother is working for the Intelligence service. Likewise mysterious is the man looking after them and so are his dodgy friends. In the second half of the book the story has moved on to 1959. Nathaniel, now 28, is offered a job as an information-analyst in the secret archives of the Intelligence Service which offers him a chance to find out more about his mother's secret life some years after her death.

This novel is about Nathaniel's deepest wish to make sense of his incomprehensible past. With its vivid details and muted, melancholy tone, this is not just any spy-novel.

COFFEE TOGETHER

If you'd like to practice your speaking skills in a small group, our next Coffee Together will take place on Tuesday 16 April. De Buren van Schimmelpenninck, Brink 22, Deventer is our venue as usual. This time Marijke Lemmerman will guide the conversation. Members only, free of charge, except your coffee. Please sign up with Marijke Lemmerman h.lemmermanvdworp@upcmail.nl

TIPS OF THE MONTH

In the months of April and May Filmhuis de Keizer will present a number of restored **CLASSICS** directed by *James Ivory* after the novels by E.M.Forster (apart from

Shakespeare-Wallah)

<https://www.filmhuisdekeizer.nl/>

15 and 22 April **Maurice**

Two male English school chums find themselves falling in love at Cambridge. To regain his place in society, Clive gives up his forbidden love, Maurice (pronounced "Morris") and marries. While staying with Clive and his shallow wife, Anne, Maurice finally discovers romance in the arms of Alec, the gamekeeper. Written from personal pain, it's E.M. Forster's story of coming to terms with sexuality in the Edwardian age.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78jkhPOBfcg>

29 April and 6 May **Heat and Dust**

Anne is investigating the life of her grand-aunt Olivia, whose destiny has always been shrouded with scandal. The search leads back to the early 1920s, when Olivia, recently married to Douglas, a civil servant in the colonial administration, comes to live with him in India. Slowly, Olivia becomes fascinated by India and by the local ruler, a nawab who combines British distinction with Indian pomp and ruthlessness. This fascination is not without risks: the region is being ransacked by a group of sanguinary bandits, and intrigues are opposing the prejudiced British community led by Major Minnies and Dr. Saunders against the nawab. As Anne delves into the history of her grand-aunt, she is led to reconsider her own life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVAqXzx18BI>

13 and 20 May **Shakespeare-Wallah**

Shakespeare -Wallah follows the true adventures of Felicity Kendall's family who are travelling through India with their theatre-group during the last days of English colonial rule. The Buckingham Players try to keep up British tradition by performing plays by Shakespeare for the general public, boarding schools and local royalty but cannot compete with the immensely popular Bollywood film industry. James Ivory's film also deals with the turbulent relationship between the young actress Lizzie (Kendal) and Sanju (Shashi Kapoor), a rich Indian playboy. But their romance is frustrated by all kinds of obstacles, not least by Manjula (Jaffrey), a fiery Indian film star who is also in love with Sanju.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33CCBkosSBw>

27 May and 3 June **Howards End**

Encounter of three social classes of England at the beginning of the 20th century : the Victorian capitalists (the Wilcoxes) considering themselves as aristocrats, whose only god is money ; the enlightened bourgeois (the Schlegels), humanistic and philanthropic ; and the workers (the Bastis), fighting to survive. The Schlegel sisters' humanism will be torn apart as they try both to softly knock down the Wilcox's prejudices and to help the Bastis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNJdbu4p1Fg>



Mansion House, London

COMMITTEE, BSD DEVENTER 2018-2019	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>