



British Society Deventer

<http://britishsocietydeventer.nl>



SEASON 2019-2020

NEWSLETTER NO. 2, October 2019

Dear members,

We have been looking forward to the next talk which will be given by our old friend

John Pilkington on **Sunday 10 November at 3 pm. The venue is De Schalm,** shopping centre Borgele, Dreef 1, 7414 EA Deventer. His subject will be:

To Eritrea and Ethiopia: Retracing a Victorian Expedition

John has been speaking to a Deventer audience many times before (remember *Up the Mekong to Tibet, Georgia to Afghanistan or a Balkan adventure?*) and no wonder the hall has always been packed so make sure you are early to secure a good seat!

TO ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA: RETRACING A VICTORIAN EXPEDITION

In 1868 the British government mounted an extraordinary bid to rescue a clutch of European hostages deep in the Ethiopian highlands. They built a Red Sea port, then a railway across the coastal plain, and finally imported 44 Indian elephants and commissioned 26,000 local people to serve the soldiers and carry their heavy guns into the heart of Africa.

A hundred and fifty years later, John followed in their footsteps and looked at the changes that have swept through Eritrea and Ethiopia since then. He says: “It’s very exciting to be back in Africa – a chance to think about how Europe’s relations with the two countries have moved forward, and about how far we still have to go.”

“Only the Victorians would have set off on such a mad mission. The captives were being held in a supposedly impregnable hilltop fortress 400 miles inland. Despite arduous conditions, the invaders reached it, freed them, and put an end to the emperor who for four years had been their persecutor. They then looted his rich collection of treasures – which they saw as booty – but to its credit Whitehall (the government) resisted the temptation to turn the success into a full-scale colonisation bid. Had it done so, the Horn of Africa’s history might have turned out rather differently. Instead, they simply made their way back to the coast, dismantled the equipment and took their elephants home.”

“As ever, wonderful photos to add to the storytelling, which was gripping and entertaining.”(International Travel and Holidays Association)



JOHN PILKINGTON

John made his name in the 1980s as a travel writer and photographer and more recently has become known for his thought-provoking, richly illustrated talks and his adventure travel documentaries for BBC Radio 4.

He has spoken to over 1000 audiences in 6 countries and holds the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) *Ness Award* for popularising geography and the wider understanding of the world.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held preceding Inez van Gisteren’s talk on British oddities on 6 October. A report of the AGM will be sent to you separately. There was a change in the committee. Paul Lössbroek stepped down as our Secretary. AnneMarie Meijer will replace him. She was our secretary several years before and our web-master.

CHANGE OF DATES IN FEBRUARY 2020

Please note that there has been a change in our programme in February 2020.

A Film and Tea will be organized at Het Filmhuis on **15 February** instead of the 22nd.

CHRISTMAS EVENT

For our Christmas Event on **Saturday 21 December** the film title which has been chosen is: **Finding Your Feet**, directed by Richard Loncraine. Next month you will receive more information and directions on how to sign up in a separate mail. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-Cp6ba2Y0g>

READING GROUP

This month we're discussing **Middle England by Jonathan Coe**. This So-called Brexit novel, following British people from various backgrounds and age groups is a real page turner.

Another entertaining novel for readers who love or know Paris well is **Paris Echo by Sebastian Faulks**. This popular writer has a vast knowledge of France and both World Wars. All this comes together in his latest novel.

An American post-doc researcher, Hannah, is in Paris to research the war experiences of Parisian women in W.W. 2 by means of listening to recordings in which they tell about their lives in the war and by interviewing some who are still alive.

The second protagonist is a 19-year run-away boy, Tariq, from Morocco who is trying to find traces of his deceased mother who grew up in Paris.

Hannah's and Tariq's paths cross each other and Hannah allows him to stay in her spare room. Both learn a lot from the other. There is a lot of history in the book, a lot of names of Metro stations and streetnames. And there is some development of character when Hannah finds acceptance of her lost love and can finally move on and Tariq's "coming of age" when he realizes his place is at home in Morocco. A good read, cleverly written.

TIPS OF THE MONTH

Live ballet at the Royal Opera House in Vue Cinema, Deventer

5 November: *Concerto/Enigma Variations/Raymonda*

1 December: *The Nutcracker*

10 December: *Coppelia*

For more information see www.vuecinemas.nl

Filmhuis de Keizer for dates and times please see www.filmhuisdekeizer.nl

Films to be on show soon:

Official Secrets

Sorry we missed You

COMMITTEE, British Society Deventer 2019-2020	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
Fred Santing., chairman (038-4652759) AnneMarie Meijer (0570-631324) 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