

# British Society Deventer

<http://britishsocietydeventer.nl>



SEASON 2019-2020

NEWSLETTER NO. 3, December 2019/January 2020

Dear members,

Christmas is just round the corner and as you know, our Christmas event with film and tea is about to take place at Het Filmhuis on 21 December. The committee would like to wish you a *Merry Christmas* if you cannot make it to our event this year.

As to our programme in the first three months of 2020, we have **a few alterations**.

We start the New Year on **Sunday, 19 January at 3 p.m.** with a talk by **drs Muriel de Beer** on “**Dream on! Kunst en Cultuur in het Victoriaanse Tijdperk**”. (in Dutch). The venue is De Schalm.

On **Saturday 15 February (in stead of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February)** there will be a Film and Tea event in Het Filmhuis. Details and how to register will follow later.

On **Sunday 22 March Dr Roy Wales** was to speak to us but owing to health reasons his son **Simon Wales** will replace him. Simon spoke to us before. The title of his talk will be **Experiences of British Classical Music – as a performer and a professional**.

### A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Sunday 22 December A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held in the Abdijkerk of Klooster Nieuw Sion, Vulikerweg 6, Diepenveen, with the New Sion Choir for English Church Music, director Jan van Dijk at 16.00 pm and at 19.30 pm (doors open from 15.00 pm and 18.30 pm respectively)

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a celebration of Christmas traditionally held on Christmas Eve. It tells the Christmas story.

The abbey church of Nieuw Sion, with its history as abbey church, its rural location outside Deventer, its English atmosphere and its excellent acoustics is the perfect location for a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

More information on [www.britishsocietydeventer.nl](http://www.britishsocietydeventer.nl)

<https://www.nieuwsion.nl/events/festival-of-nine-lessons-carols/>

### THE NEXT TALK ON SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2020

Art historian drs. Muriel de Beer's talk is on art and culture in the Victorian Era. It offers a survey of the most important art-historical developments in England during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert's personal artistic choices, such as the painters Leighton, Winterhalter and Landseer, will be discussed.

At that time Great Britain found itself in a peculiar straddle: on the one hand there was a preference for tradition (neorenaissance and neogothic), on the other hand there was interest in the latest modern achievements following the Industrial Revolution. (such as the Crystal Palace in London).

In the second half of the talk there will be ample attention for two typically British phenomena: the Pre-Raphaelites and the Art & Crafts Movement of William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones.

The art of painting, architecture and applied art will be discussed alternatively in this talk, besides references to literature.



Drs. Muriel de Beer completed her degree in general art history at the university of Utrecht in 1990 and received her teaching qualification the following year. She worked as a university lecturer at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Constantijn Huygens in Kampen (now Artez). Since 1992 she has worked as an independent art historian in adult education. She is also in great

demand as speaker for various art societies throughout the country. Although she is at home in all periods in art history, her main subject is the development of modern art in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Her motto is: *Pleasure in art enhances your life!*

**READING GROUP**

Our group will meet in January 2020 when **Ian McEwan’s Machines Like Me** will be discussed. In this futuristic novel a robot with very human looks and behaviour is bought by Charlie. The robot, called Adam, is one of ten robots, recently brought on the market. After having installed Adam’s character traits, Charlie and his friend Miranda make Adam part of the household. Adam is a very erudite “person” with a big talent for logic and fairness and honesty, which will be his downfall eventually. The “machine” is lacking in human failures and that is McEwan’s implicit message: Man is not characterized by his intelligence or power but by his weakness and deceitful behaviour. But this is what Adam cannot understand or copy. In this way McEwan looks at human beings critically as compared to robots.

This novel causes a certain uneasiness with the reader, who starts asking himself whose reactions are those of a human being or of a robot? There is a lot to think about in this novel where the future seems to be literally moving in.

**TIPS OF THE MONTH**

**Saturday 21 December at 20.00 hrs at the Bergkerk, Deventer.**

The Deventer Vocaal Ensemble will be giving a Christmas concert following the wonderful English tradition of A Festival of Lessons and Carols. The choir will sing, among others, the well-known Christmas carols such as “O come all ye Faithful” and “Silent Night”. Less well-known songs by both traditional and modern composers are also on the programme. Christmas songs will be alternated with readings in English of the Christmas Story.

Admission is free. A donation to cover the costs is kindly requested. The doors will be open from 19.30. Considering the huge interest in previous years, it is advisable to be early.

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

<p><b>COMMITTEE, British Society Deventer</b></p> <p>Fred Santing., chairman          AnneMarie Meijer, secretary          Marijke Lemmerman, events &amp; lodgings coordinator          Cor Koppert, treasurer          Mariette Kooy, member-at-large</p>	<p><b>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP</b></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>
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