

# THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

No 1 : February 2014  
[www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](http://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk)  
Reg. Charity No 313202



Vikings : Life and Legend

## THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

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Søren Dyssegård, R1  
Birger Jensen  
Dr Kristian Jensen, R  
Dr Claire Thomson

### Membership Subscriptions

Single membership £15  
Family membership £20  
Corporate membership £100

Anglo-Danish Society  
43 Maresfield Gardens  
London NW3 5TF  
[info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk)  
[www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](http://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk)

Guest Editor: Lisbeth Ehlers  
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Dear Members,

February 2014

We would like to wish you all a belated, but very happy and healthy New Year.

The festive season seemed to go on forever with a truly international flavour. We had a very jolly Anglo-Danish Christmas Lunch in the Church and thank Pastor Else Hviid and her staff for great hospitality; Inger Dawson braved the London traffic chaos to come and accompany the singing of traditional Christmas songs. A patchwork of photos is proof of a successful occasion.

At the initiative of Dr Eva Robards, Chairman of CoScan, York Anglo-Scandinavian Society (YASS) and York Minster had organized the first Sankta Lucia procession ever in the Minster. A Swedish boys' choir had travelled across to join the two choirs, the YASS Singers and the Ebor Singers. We were 750 guests in the congregation. I never stop marveling at the wonders of York Minster which was a total contrast to the Russian Orthodox Christmas celebrated in a tiny onion-domed church built in the back garden by the late Princess Mary Galitzine whose family fled Russia. Little had I imagined to be invited for a Russian Christmas in the depth of Suffolk.

But the most amazing thing is that the Society now has a new website, and I pay tribute to Margit Stæhr, our honorary scholarship secretary, who in addition to her official rôle has masterminded the new website which is informative and easy to navigate. May I recommend that you visit [www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](http://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk) regularly for updates. You may imagine that it is not always easy to organize events and meet deadlines, so our new website will be a great way to keep in touch.

Lisbeth Ehlers, Honorary Secretary

# In memoriam : Jens Peter Rasmussen

**JUNE 1953—DECEMBER 2013  
MEMBER OF THE ANGLO-DANISH  
SOCIETY FROM 1983, COUNCIL  
MEMBER FROM 2008-2011 AND  
FROM 2012 UNTIL HIS DEATH.**

With great sadness the Society received the news that Jens Peter Rasmussen had passed away on 15 Dec. after a long and courageous battle against cancer. He spoke quite openly about his illness which made it easy for us, his fellow council members, to communicate and appreciate to the full his outstanding support of and generosity towards the Society.

Until the last two years Peter and I were like ships passing in the night. Peter served on Council three times, rejoined the Council in 2008, when I retired, and had it not been for a chance meeting on the ship back to Denmark shortly afterwards, I might only have remembered him as a truly wonderful Great Dane. Matters Anglo-Danish were discussed until late, of course, and we had plans to meet again.

In 2012 we both found ourselves back on Council, and that was when I really got to know Peter. Having built up a very successful business in European Bakery products, Peter always turned up at our meetings and events with generous offerings of the most delicious cakes and macaroons freshly



imported from Italy. I can think of more than one occasion when he actually saved the day. This picture of Peter keeping a watchful eye on proceedings is how I like to remember him. Peter was always totally reliable.

The last time we saw Peter was at the Møller Centre in Cambridge on 3rd September when he had driven down from Nottingham with his wife, Ella. We were well aware that he was unwell on that day and that the cancer had returned. But with his incredible optimism he still wrote in the visitors' book: "What a wonderful center, first time here and not the last time, thank you for a great time."

Jens Peter will be much missed in the Society, and I am so sad that he will not be with us to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Society he loved.

Lisbeth Ehlers

# Scholarship News



## DOMUS FELLOW

### SØREN DYSSEGAARD, R1

... a great friend of the Society and a valued member of the Scholarship Committee has been elected Domus Fellow of St Catherine's College in Oxford, designed by famous Danish architect Arne Jacobsen.

Søren Dyssegård has since his service as Minister Counsellor of the Danish Embassy in London from 2000 to 2005 been working with the College in preserving what has been known as “the Jacobsen heritage”.

St Catherine's College which last year celebrated its 50th anniversary is known to be among Arne Jacobsen's finest works.

## ANNIVERSARY AWARD

To mark the Society's 90th anniversary a special Award will be given for the academic year 2014-15 “for an outstanding example of research cooperation between the UK and Denmark”

## DEBUT CONCERT : JACOB SHAW

A-DS Scholarship Awardee, the cellist Jacob Shaw's Debut Concert will take place in Copenhagen on Wednesday, 2 April 2014 in the DKDM's Concert Hall (formerly the Concert Hall of the Danish Radio). Jacob who has studied at the Kongelige Danske Musik Konservatorium will perform works by Degli Antonii, Wagner, Prokofiev, Popper and Hallgrímsson. The concert is free, and e-invitations will be sent out later. For more information visit [www.jacobshaw.de](http://www.jacobshaw.de)



# Where Vikings mean business

**WE HAVE HAD LENE ORCHARD'S  
PERMISSION TO REPRINT AN ARTICLE  
SHE WROTE IN 1988 FOR  
ANGLODANIA, MAGAZINE FOR  
ANGLO-DANISH RELATIONS**

In York, Vikings mean business. A thousand years ago the city, then called Jorvik owed much of its prosperity to the hard work and commercial enterprise of its Viking settlers. Mostly coming from Denmark, they had captured the town in AD 866 and rebuilt it above the remains of a Roman fortress. Centuries later the heyday of the Scandinavian influence came to an end when Jorvik was destroyed by invading Normans.



Until recently only scant evidence of the Viking age had been recovered and it was not until 1976 when archaeologists carried out an excavation in Coppergate, where the city's new shopping centre was to be built, that Viking remains were unearthed deep below 20th Century York. The sensational discovery of substantial chunks of plank-built dwellings and workhouses as well as fragments of everyday objects led to delay in the planned building project until the whole area had been thoroughly examined.

When the excavations were completed, York Archaeological Trust decided to share its find with the public permanently. To tell the story of Jorvik of a Thousand Years Ago became their project. The result, the Jorvik Viking Centre, is unashamedly touristy and has turned out to be a great crowd puller. Situated in the very hole created by the dig in the middle of a modern shopping precinct, it is a reconstruction of Viking York. With the help of modern technology the visitor gets transported back in time to the sights, sounds and smells of Jorvik.

Sitting in a "time-car" one is surrounded by closepacked thatched buildings. Through narrow alleys past workshops and warehouses where life

# Where Vikings mean business



-sized models of Viking men, women and children live, work and play, one listens to a spoken commentary against a background of noises from animals and humans.

There are woodcarvers, potters, jewellers and bootmakers. Families sit round the hearth of their primitive home. Rubbish-choked yards and pigsties come into sight, even a man squatting on a latrine walled in by wickerwork. A cargo boat on the banks of the river is unloaded, its sail being mended.

Finally one moves forward to 1980 and sees the archaeological excavation sites, complete with actual timbers of Viking houses. The painstaking process of washing, labelling, recording and packing which takes place after the dig has ended, is also shown. Then it is time to step out of the time-car and enter a gallery with display cases showing 500 objects chosen from the 30.000 found at Coppergate. They are arranged in themes such as everyday

life, dress, textile working, bone and antler working and many more and thus give excellent evidence of the skill and artistic talent of the Vikings who so often have been portrayed as a bunch of uncouth raiders and pillagers. The exhibition is fun, but at the same time it is instructive. In the adjoining gift shop there is something for every taste – even books of Norse Myths can be purchased.

Anyone keen for further Viking enlightenment can proceed to a complementary exhibition of Viking Ships nearby. It chronicles the development and construction of the ships, supported by huge photographs and replica boat finds.

Although this exhibition is only 200 yards away from the Jorvik Centre and clearly marked from the street, it seems to attract far fewer visitors. On the morning when I first queued to get into Jorvik Centre, there were no crowds at the Viking Ship Exhibition.

**THE JORVIK CENTRE IS A YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT. THE TRUST IS A CHARITY SET UP TO CARRY OUT EX-CAVATIONS IN THE CITY FOR THE BENEFIT AND EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC. ANY PROFITS FROM THE JORVIK VIKING CENTRE WILL BE DEVOTED TO FURTHER WORK OF EXCAVATION OF ANCIENT REMAINS.**

# News

## EVENTS IN THE DANISH COMMUNITY

Organised by Danish Women in England. Both lectures are in Danish.

### SUNDAY, 30 MARCH AT 13.30

Venue: The Danish Church  
Per Stig Møller, former Danish Foreign Minister and Minister for Culture will give a lecture on Kaj Munk (1898 – 1944), Denmark's famous Playwright and Lutheran Pastor. Price: £15.00 including lunch to be served after the Church Service.

### THURSDAY, 10 APRIL AT 12 NOON

Venue: The Danish Church  
Lisette Vind Ebbesen, curator at

Skagen's Museum will give a lecture on Laurits Tuxen (1853-1927), one of Denmark's much loved painters.  
Price: £15.00 including lunch.

Tickets: The Danish Church on 020 7935 7584

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Hafdis Bennett

Mr Michael Frellsen

Mr Barrie John & Mrs Kirsten Harbott

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# Anglo-Danish Christmas Lunch 2013



# Anglo-Danish Christmas Lunch 2013



# Anglo-Danish Society Events

## THE BRITISH MUSEUM : THE VIKINGS – LIFE AND LEGEND THURSDAY, 20 MARCH AT 10.30 FOR 11AM LECTURE

A Special Group Lecture for the Scandinavian Community by Curator Gareth Williams followed by a visit to the Exhibition.



The much heralded exhibition about the Vikings opens in early March at the new Sainsbury Exhibition Gallery. It has been organized in cooperation with the National Museum in Denmark. The Exhibition focuses on the core period of the Viking Age from the late 8th century to the early 11th century, when the Vikings created an international network connecting cultures over four continents. At the centre of the exhibition is the 37-metre-long Viking Ship, constructed around AD 1025 and found in 1997 at Roskilde in Denmark. About 20% of the timbers survived and have been set into a stainless steel frame that reconstructs the full size and shape of the original ship. But that is not all: Swords and axes, coins and jewellery,

hoards, amulets and religious images will all be on show.

### THE PROGRAMME:

- 10.30 Meet in the Clore Educational Centre West Foyer. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be served.
- 11.00 Lecture by Gareth Williams in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, followed by Questions and Answers.
- 12.00 Time at leisure for lunch (see suggestions below).
- c.13.00 Timed entry to the Vikings exhibition with printed guide – please stay as long as you like.
- c.16.00 End of visit.

Price per person excluding lunch is £29.50. Please book immediately, as seats are limited. Please send the attached reply coupon, with your cheque made payable to the Anglo-Danish Society, no later than 15 Feb.

### LUNCH

Inside the Museum: The Great Court Restaurant will feature a special Viking menu for which we will need to book. Please see the reply coupon.

The Court Cafés serve a wide range of hot and cold snacks. No booking req.

Outside the Museum:  
Tea and Tattle,  
41 Great Russell Street, WC1  
Scoff & Banter Bloomsbury,  
97 Great Russell Street, WC1

# Anglo-Danish Society Events

## WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL AT 6.00PM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY, 55 SLOANE STREET, SW1X 9SR FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION IN THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

We look forward to welcoming you to our 90th Annual General Meeting in the Canteen of the Danish Embassy. Please see Agenda and the Minutes of last year's AGM enclosed with this Newsletter.

We are delighted to announce that H.E. Ambassador Claus Grube and Mrs Grube have kindly invited our members to a reception in the Residence following the official proceedings. During the evening the Ambassador will give a talk about the first 6 months in his new role, and refreshments will be served.

Please return the reply coupon to the A-DS by Friday, 3 April 2014.

## TUESDAY, 20 MAY FROM MIDDAY A DAY IN ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

Pelle Valentin Olsen, A-DS scholarship awardee and an MPhil Candidate in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at St Antony's College will be our host for the day. The final programme has yet to be arranged. Please indicate on the reply coupon that you would like to join us for the visit to Oxford, and we shall send you detailed information.

## WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE FROM 18.30

As part of the Society's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations a dinner will take place at the Regimental Headquarters of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at HM Tower of London finishing with the Ceremony of the Keys.

## WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2014 ROYAL BANQUET HM QUEEN MARGRETHE II

The Anglo-Danish Society's 90th Anniversary to be celebrated with a Royal Banquet.

We are greatly honoured that our

Royal Patron  
Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II

has accepted the Society's invitation and will take part in a gala dinner on

Wednesday, 3rd December 2014  
at  
Drapers' Hall, The City of London.

More information will be published in the next Newsletter.

For further information on events, please contact Lisbeth Ehlers on 01728638345, or by e-mail [ehlerslisbeth@me.com](mailto:ehlerslisbeth@me.com)



## Vi bor i udlandet. Nordea udarbejder vores skatterapporter.

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