

THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No 2 : June 2014
www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk
Reg. Charity No 313202



Iceland in Form and Texture
Photograph by A-DS member
Hafdis Bennett

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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
www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

Webpage: Margit Stæhr

Guest Editor: Lisbeth Ehlers

Layout: Palle B Pedersen

Photos: D.W.F. Hallett & Graham Stone

Print: Go Digital (Derby) Limited

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Dear Members,

June 2014

An Annual General Meeting is the time to reflect upon past achievements and upon hopes and aspirations for the future. It is also a unique opportunity to talk to the Society's members, to meet new and old members, to hear their views and ideas and listen to opinions.

Our 90th AGM on 30 April was most gratifying in that respect. Ideas and offers of help for next year's events were proffered as well as suggestions how to generate more funds for the Society. All ideas to be discussed and decided in Council and announced later in the year.

Margit Stæhr, our honorary scholarship secretary, delivered a fine illustrated report on the seven scholarship awardees as well as the scholarship funded by the Ove Arup Foundation. Her report was proof that the A-DS Scholarship Programme is gathering further momentum.

But no Society can continue paying out money without serious, new funds flowing in. We have ambitious plans for the future of our Scholarship Programme, so with that in mind we shall appeal to foundations and private individuals who have also in the past donated considerable sums to the Scholarship Fund.

In conclusion may I, on behalf of Council, thank everybody for attending, for good ideas, for promises of help with the forthcoming Royal Banquet on 3 December, and last, but not least H.E. the Danish Ambassador and Mrs Susanne Fournais Grube for a fine reception.

Lisbeth Ehlers
Honorary Secretary

Scholarship News

SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE SUM OF £16000 HAVE BEEN AWARDED FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015

The next Newsletter will include a full description of the new scholars; more detailed profiles can be found on our website.

ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY'S ANNIVERSARY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH COLLABORATION BETWEEN DENMARK AND THE UK:

Anni Djurhuus, DPhil, Marine Biology, University of Oxford (£3000)

ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY AWARDS:

Emma Christine Jappe, MSc Chemoinformatics and Bioinformatics in Drug Design, University College London (£2000).

Sarah Kathinka Georg Jensen, PhD Psychology, King's College London (£2000).

Anders Meldgaard Kjemstrup, MPhil Development Studies, University of Cambridge (£2000).

Emma Oemann, M.Mus. (Performance - Soprano). The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (£2000).

Erik Stassen, MSc Materials Science, University of Oxford (£2000).

Ruairidh Tarvet (British), PhD The Linguistics of a Borderland (Southern Jutland), Rønshoved Højskole/ University of Edinburgh (Scandinavian Studies Dept) (£1000).

OVE ARUP FOUNDATION AWARD FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

Jesper Eis Eriksen, PhD Built Environment (Urban Studies), Urban Brownfield to Public Green Space Study, University of Cambridge, Dept of Architecture (£2000).

Membership News

We welcome the following new members:

Ulrik Tofte Jensen, Surrey
Poul Grøndahl Petersen, London
Ivo Wiesendanger, Switzerland
Louisa Rasmussen, London
Gunnar Larsen, Surrey

Mrs Ella Rasmussen, Nottingham has inherited the Life Membership after her husband, Jens Peter Rasmussen, who passed away in December 2013.

We are sorry to announce the death of Poul Hougaard Nielsen, a very supportive member of the Society.

The 90th AGM of the Anglo-Danish Society

The AGM was a lively and very special event attracting nearly 50 members. A tube strike interfered with the event, but only two members were prevented from attending.



By chance A-DS Member, Hafdis Bennett opened her stunning photographic exhibition in the Icelandic Embassy in 2a Hans Street that same evening and had kindly invited members for a preview and refreshments.

The AGM was totally overshadowed by the news that DFDS had just announced the termination of the passenger route Harwich/Esbjerg at the end of September. The route has existed for nearly 150 years, and all we Danes, resident in the UK, have not only been dependent on this route, but also had very happy memories (and sometimes not so happy ones) of travelling home and coming back to the UK on these

magnificent ships. It was a shock to everybody, and I am sure many more words will be written about this. After the official proceedings the Society's honorary president, Ambassador Claus Grube and Mrs Susanne Fournais Grube hosted a reception in their beautiful residence where we were joined by nine of our scholars, past and present. Anni Djurhuus and Jesper Eis Eriksen, two of our 2014/15 awardees, were presented to and congratulated by His Excellency and afterwards mingled with the guests.



The ever patient staff at the Danish Embassy eventually managed to make us leave long after the appointed hour, and I shall now let Graham Stone's photographic evidence tell the rest of the story.

The 90th AGM of the Anglo-Danish Society



Balance sheet as at 31st December 2013

	2013	2012
	Total	Total
	Fund	Fund
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investments	107,096	90,411
Current Assets		
Debtors and prepayments	2,268	1,937
COIF charities deposit fund	56,981	56,981
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,984</u>	<u>8,890</u>
	61,233	67,808
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(14,321)	(12,176)
Net current assets	46,912	55,632
Net assets	<u>154,008</u>	<u>146,043</u>
Funds	<u>154,008</u>	<u>146,043</u>

Statement of Financial Activities 31.12.2013

	2013 Restricted Fund £	2013 General Fund £	2013 Total Fund £	2012 Total Fund £
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generating funds -				
Voluntary income	2,000	3,858	5,858	10,841
Activities for generating funds	-	1,500	1,500	2,000
Investment income	-	5,426	5,426	5,336
Incoming resources from charitable activities	-	4,293	4,293	4,707
Total incoming resources	2,000	15,077	17,077	22,884
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities-				
Grants	2,000	13,455	15,455	16,571
Expenditure arising from activities & functions	-	6,534	6,534	5,087
Governance costs	-	3,808	3,808	2,025
Total resources expended	2,000	23,797	25,797	23,683
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	-	(8.720)	(8,720)	(799)
Net unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	-	16,685	16,685	12,846
Net movement in funds	-	7,965	7,965	12,047
Total funds at 1st January 2013	-	146,043	146,043	133,996
Total funds at 31st December 2013	-	154,008	154,008	146,043

The Viking World

Our day at the British Museum's Viking Exhibition in March started with elevenses in the Clore Education Centre Foyer before we went into the Stevenson Lecture Theatre along with members of other Anglo-Scandinavian Societies for a talk with slides by the Exhibition's curator, Dr Gareth Williams.



The museum's last Viking Exhibition was in 1980. Do we really need a new one? The answer is yes, not only because there is a whole new generation that has not seen a major exhibition on Vikings, but also because the old stereotypes of Vikings as pirates, raiders and marauders are not accurate. New finds and interpretations are subtly changing our views of the Vikings. They were in fact traders, settlers, craftsmen, poets, explorers, shipbuilders and sailors. The current exhibition which runs till 22nd June is a joint venture between museums in Copenhagen, London and Berlin. The glamour, romance and nastiness should capture modern imagination – exciting!



In this exhibition Scandinavia is seen as the centre of the Viking world which expanded westwards, eastwards and southwards. It is not well known that Vikings traded and raided both in Morocco and in Southern Spain. They went down through Russia into the Black Sea and eastwards as far as Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Vikings also left traces in North America – ideas, fashion and art styles.



The Viking World

Ships made all this possible and the exhibition emphasizes the importance of the big boat. Roskilde 6 found underneath the soil in 1996 is 37 metres long. It is the largest ever found – now a symbol of the Viking Age – and has been specially mounted for the Exhibition. The space in the new Sainsbury Wing makes it possible to display the whole boat; there would not have been adequate space anywhere else. It was built around 1025, lost some twenty years later and discovered in 1996. Such ships crossed the open sea, but also penetrated inland along larger rivers in what is now Russia and Ukraine. Viking warriors were both male and female – the latter called “Valkyries”.

The Roskilde 6 ship – the ultimate display of sea power – had 39/40 oars. It was made in Norway and the



new steel frame now displaying its shape and length was designed to hold it all together in two containers for transport. In that vast exhibition room are also weapons and armour as well as various adornment of warriors plus helmets (no horns!)

The Vikings were traders who exchanged amber, ivory and silk both east and westwards. Slave trade also – they carried off thousands of people, selling them. One shouldn't romanticize the Viking Age! Building a ship was a massive investment and among Vikings display of wealth was important. The jewellery showed exquisite workmanship, weapons also decorative and ornate so that they could hack someone to pieces stylishly. (“I've got a pretty expensive axe!”) Showing off seemed part of their life style – wearing a 2.2 kilo gold neckring must have been quite tiring, but obviously worth it.



After the talk and questions answered, our chairman Christian Williams thanked Gareth Williams for

The Viking World



his 'inspiring, spiced with humour lecture", and we all dispersed for lunch. Forty of us were booked in the Great Court Restaurant where we enjoyed a delicious meal and had the opportunity to chat to members we had not met before. Then it was down to the Sainsbury Wing with our timed tickets.



I wish the Wing had been somewhat bigger, for the crowds in the first two exhibition rooms were overwhelming. It felt cramped and it was a constant effort to get to see the exhibits in their glass cages. Not easy to read the captions either. It wasn't until one got to the huge hall with the ship that there was room to walk around and see it from all angles. The length of



the boat was truly astonishing – an overpowering image of the Vikings' adventurous spirit. The last exhibits documented the Vikings' change from belief in several gods to one God – Christianity.

The exit ran through to the shop which was a pleasant uncrowded area with lots of items to tempt you. I bought the big book about the Exhibition and look forward to studying it at leisure, reliving the experience of gazing at Roskilde 6 and also having the opportunity of looking again at all the marvellous jewellery and weaponry which I only fleetingly encountered on my walk through the first part of the Exhibition.

Lene Orchard

Anglo-Danish Society Events

**TOWER OF LONDON:
THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S
ROYAL REGIMENT
WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE AT 18.30**



Drinks in the Fusilier Museum (via Westgate), Dinner, Briefing on The Ceremony of the Keys by Yeoman Warder and Ceremony of the Keys.

MENU

Melange of salmon
Fillet of beef
Meringue roulade w. summer berries
Coffee and petits fours
Wines

Price per person £90.
Dress code: Black Tie/Decorations

Further information from
ehlerslisbeth@me.com or
+44.7785975648

**YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL
TUESDAY, 7 OCTOBER FROM 11.00**

By public demand we revisit the famous music school in Surrey with the same programme as in 2005 (different students tho') shortly after the opening of the Concert Hall.

THE PROGRAMME:

11.30	Tour of the school
12.00	Buffet lunch in the Hall Foyer
13.20	Lunchtime concert performed by the students
14.15	End of Programme

This visit is limited to 20 guests, and the price is £40 per person including a donation to the School. Please send the attached reply coupon, with your cheque to the A-DS, no later than 20 September.



Address: Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey (easy parking in the grounds or by train to Cobham from Waterloo Station where pick-up will be arranged).

Anglo-Danish Society Events

WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2014

ROYAL BANQUET

HM QUEEN MARGRETHE II

The Anglo-Danish Society's 90th Anniversary Royal Banquet at Drapers' Hall, The City of London, in the presence of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II.

More information will be published in the next Newsletter.



For further information on events, please contact Lisbeth Ehlers on +44.7785975648, or by e-mail ehlerslisbeth@me.com

Other Events

ICELAND IN FORM AND TEXTURE

"For a number of years, Hafdis Bennett has been travelling and photographing Iceland, the uninhabited centre highlands in particular. Being a sculptor, she has a special interest in the amazing forms and textures to be found in that country, where its volcanic origins are everywhere to be seen. She is a born and bred Icelander, despite having lived abroad for most of her adult life, first in Copenhagen for two years and then in London ever since, but has kept close ties with her beloved country, the result of which is very much in evidence in this show."

We are proud to announce that an exhibition of stunning photography by artist, Hafdis Bennett, a member of the Anglo-Danish Society, at the Icelandic Embassy, 2A Hans Street, London SW1, is running through the summer months until September. The Exhibition is open weekdays only from 10.00 – 16.00. Prints, on light canvas, can be ordered from a slide presentation at the Exhibition.

For further information, please contact the artist by phone 0207 722 7208, or by email hbennett414@btinternet.com



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