



The Anglo-Danish Society

Newsletter Autumn 2020



Rape Fields near Skanderborg, Denmark

THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

Patrons:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II

Protector of the Scholarship Programme:

HRH the Duchess of Gloucester GCVO

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Scholarship Committee:

Katie Schwarck (Chair of Committee)

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Dr Kristian Jensen R

Wayne Harber OBE, K

Administrative Address:

The Anglo-Danish Society

43 Maresfield Gardens

London NW3 5TF

www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

Newsletter Editor, Events & Facebook Manager:

Bette Petersen Broyd

Webpage & Newsletter layout: Margit Stæhr

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Family membership £40 p.a.

Corporate membership £200

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Dear Members

It has been, and seemingly continues to be, strange times! With life and 'normal' being turned topsy-turvy we have all had to adjust, review, postpone or abandon plans, live in isolation and probably all experienced highs and lows.

The often surprising and welcome kindness of neighbours and strangers has been a blessing for many. Limited social contact has similarly been a relief for some, while others have felt even more isolated than usual.

We have learnt new skills, methods of communication, ways of shopping or visiting 'virtual' clinics or public offices. New and imaginative ways of working from home and now: Edging back, gingerly, toes-in-water-style to an unimaginable future.

We hope and trust that our programme of events for the rest of the year will run as planned. It may be optimistic – but a positive outlook is indeed what is needed just now. At least we are paving the way for success and if we have to capitulate – we will deal with that, too. We will contact you via electronic messages if events are postponed, cancelled or changing format.

Three Danish organisations in London work closely with us and we support one another in a variety of ways. They have seen many changes in their circumstances and ways of working over the last months. We have asked The Danish Embassy, The Danish Church and Danish YWCA to share some insights and reflect on their shifting patterns of working.

Please get in touch if you are NOT receiving this newsletter in the electronic version as well as the printed version. All members should receive both, but we may not have your correct email address.

Trust you are well and look forward to meeting up in the near future.

Bette Petersen Broyd, Honorary Secretary
bettebroyd@gmail.com

Scholarship News

The Anglo-Danish Society is delighted to introduce you to the ten newly selected awardees who will each receive £2,500 to support their postgraduate studies for the academic year 2020-2021.

As usual, the standard of applications was very high overall and competition was, therefore, intense.

We are very fortunate to enjoy the generous support of the **Ove Arup Foundation** who continues to sponsor one £2,500 award for advanced studies in the Built Environment.



We are also fortunate in having secured the support of the **ACE Foundation**, who has agreed to sponsor an award for a UK student taking postgraduate studies specifically in either architecture, design, art or music at a Danish university. The scholarship is for £2,500.

The Society is also very grateful to **William Charnley** who has very generously provided a scholarship of £2,500 for study at postgraduate level in a subject taken at Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge.

Please meet:

Benedicte RAHBEK, the recipient of the **Ove Arup Foundation Scholarship**.



Benedicte, who is Danish, is reading for a Master of Architecture at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. Over the past four years, she

has participated in field trips in France, Italy, Germany, Finland, Spain and Japan.

Now entering her fourth year of studies, her Master's project will focus on the seaside town of Margate and its regeneration. Her career objective is to become an architect.

Hayley TONNER, the recipient of the **ACE Foundation Scholarship**.



A graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the recipient of a number of prizes, Hayley is now embarking on the second year of a Masters' degree in Music Performance (French Horn) at the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus. She

began working as a professional musician prior to her graduation from the Conservatoire and has played with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Ballet, Scottish Opera and the Ulster Orchestra. Her ambition is to become a full-time professional musician.

Olivia BENDIXEN, the recipient of the **William Charnley Scholarship**.



Olivia has a BSc in Economics from the University of Copenhagen and has been accepted for an MPhil at Hughes Hall, Cambridge University. She is currently a Visiting Associate at the Boston Consulting Group and spent one year as a student assistant at

Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She came third in the 2019 Nordic Championships in Business & Economics and 2nd in the *Polit pre case* competition hosted by Denmark's Ministry of Finance last year. Her ambition is to work in an economic consultancy focusing on public sector and macroeconomics.

Scholarship News

The following are general awards:

Simon KOPLEV is Danish and is studying for a PhD in Medical Science at the University of Cambridge, Cancer Research UK, Cambridge Institute. His area of study is *Tracing cell plasticity of*



heterogenous tumour clones in the pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) microenvironment. Simon has an MScEng in Systems Biology from the Technical University of Denmark and spent one year as a research scholar

at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School. His current project has the potential to provide fundamental insight into the development of metastatic cancer of the pancreas. He plans to start his own academic laboratory either in Denmark or the UK.

Julie de Fønss GANDRUP is Danish and studying for a PhD in Medicine (Rheumatology) at the



University of Manchester. Her specific area of study is *How can digital patient-reported data advance clinical care in rheumatoid arthritis?* Julie's research involves the implementation, testing and

evaluation of a novel smartphone app for remote monitoring of symptoms in rheumatoid arthritis patients. Already a medical doctor and the recipient of a number of prestigious awards and fellowships, Julie has wide international experience and is seen as an academic leader of the future.

Alissa MACHIN, who is British, has been accepted to read for a two-year Master's degree in Comparative Literature, University of Copenha-



gen. Her area of study is 20th and 21st century women's writing, specifically the exploration of women's writing from different genres, contexts and countries. Alissa speaks five languages and is

currently learning Danish. Ultimately, she wishes to contribute to a diverse and open-minded approach to the development of the humanities to encourage more independence of thought and more opportunities for freelance thinkers to contribute to the public consciousness and cultural thinking.

Tinne Nissen DAMGAARD who is Danish and has a Master of Science in Molecular Science from the University of Copenhagen, has been accepted for a Master of Research at the Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine at King's College, London. Her area of study is *Neuro-Immune Interactions in Health and Disease*. Tinne's research will aim at improving therapies that better understand such



conditions as Alzheimer's disease, chronic pain and various psychiatric diseases, an area of study that combines neuroscience and immunol-

ogy. She is deeply interested in how scientific discoveries are translated into value for patients and for society.

Scholarship News

Signe Marie THØGERSEN, who is Danish, is taking an MPhil in Textile Conservation at the University of Glasgow, the only course of its



kind in the UK. She already has a BSc in Object Conservation from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation. Signe's studies will contribute to the socio-cultural value of textile conservation in terms of both tangible and intangible heritage and will make an important contribution to cultural life in Denmark. Her ultimate ambition is to become a textile conservator at a major museum.

Denise HANSEN, who is Danish, is currently reading for a PhD at University College, London. Her area of study is *This is not a novel: 1960's*



British Art Novels and the Visual Arts. Previously a visiting Research Fellow at Yale, she is providing new perspectives to aid understanding of mid-century British literature and wishes to forge further cultural bonds between Denmark and the UK. Denise is

currently translating Ann Quin's novel *Three*

into Danish and is Co-Founder and Editor of Scandinavian Fiction, 2018–present. Her publishing initiative, Lolli Editions, also brings contemporary Danish art novels to British readers.

Max-Olivier VAN BASTELAER, who is Danish/Belgian, will start an MPhil at the University of Cambridge this year. His area of study is



Machine Learning and Machine Intelligence, which focuses on state-of-the-art machine learning, speech and language processing and computer vision. Max-Olivier has a profound interest in artificial intelligence and he is

keen to pursue a Research & Development focused career, specifically new models and applications for AI and machine learning. Max-Olivier is a member of Danstar whose ambition is to participate in the Spaceport America Cup, a rocketry competition in the U.S.

Congratulations to our successful scholars!

Katie Schwarck

Anglo-Danish Scholarship Secretary

For more information about the Society's Scholarship Programme, please visit

www.anglodanishsociety.org.uk/scholarships

A message from HRH The Duchess of Gloucester soon after lockdown:

The Duchess of Gloucester would like to convey her best wishes to the volunteer council, students and members as we enter this unprecedented period of uncertainty and worry.

Her Royal Highness is very much aware of the concerns that you and all the many people whom you support will have at this moment and would like you to know that you are all very much in her thoughts.

The Danish Embassy during COVID-19



Ambassador Lars Thuesen UK explains:

On the afternoon of Thursday 12th of March chairs were arranged in a socially distant manner in the canteen for an all-staff meeting. The message from Copenhagen was clear: everyone who could work from home should now do so. Only staff essential to keeping the Embassy open were exempt. In the following days, the Danish government would urge all Danes travelling the world to come home, and close the Danish borders to foreigners with very few exceptions.

The closing of the Danish borders and the call to Danes abroad to come home caused a surge in phone calls and e-mails at the Embassy. This continued for almost a month. To cope, we extended our working hours into the weekend. Luckily, new IT-software meant that both the switchboard and many phone calls could be dealt with from home. Throughout the crisis, there has not been more than 10-15 employees at the Embassy at any one time. Those who have been present have staffed the reception, processed passport- and visa applications, managed building operations, and a slew of other tasks that could not be handled from home.

Many Danes needed guidance on whether they could actually travel home. Non-Danish citizens with homes, jobs, families or partners in Denmark needed advice on how to deal with closed borders. Several airline companies would not let travelers to Denmark board their flights unless the Embassy issued a so-called 'Certificate to board'.

As the crisis spread worldwide and countries chose different strategies to cope, the Embassy kept the Danish government informed on British regulations and restrictions. When Denmark

began to lift some of the restrictions and, especially, when the schools re-opened, there was a great deal of interest in the Danish government's handling of the crisis. The Ambassador appeared on Sky News' "Ridge on Sunday" and "Kay Burley @ Breakfast" as well as ITV's "Good Morning Britain". Newspapers requested interviews and the BBC produced a documentary on the re-opening of Danish schools, which was broadcast during peak viewing hours. The documentary has since been followed up with a video conference between British and Danish parents, when the British government re-opened parts of its school system.

A great deal of the work at the Embassy consists of building networks through meetings, conferences, roundtables, and contact with British collaborators. Slowly, our normal activities moved to Skype, Zoom, and other webinar-platforms. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.) plays a vital role in the Embassy's communication during normal times. During lockdown, it has continued to take centre stage and our reach is greater than ever before.

After three months in a state of crisis, Embassy staff is still encouraged to work from home where possible. It works well enough, but it does take its toll on the daily life and atmosphere we enjoyed in the "before" time. There are weekly virtual get-togethers: members of staff go running 'together', enjoy a drink, and take part in virtual games and quizzes. There is no replacement for being physically present with your colleagues every day, but it is the only and best alternative in the current situation.

No-one had foreseen that the Embassy would be in a state of crisis for so many months. It is now our reality and heading into the fourth month of restrictions, all pressing matters are continuously dealt with. However, there is no denying that this "new normal" poses a great challenge to the traditional way of doing diplomacy – and it is no secret that the staff at the Embassy are very much looking forward to going back to normal, whatever it might look like!

To learn more about the embassy, visit <https://storbritannien.um.dk>

The Danish Church in London

DON'T FORGET THE POWER OF THE BUILDING



Flemming Kloster Poulsen, Rector at The Danish Church in London:

One thing the Corona Crisis really brought home to me was the power of the building. The church, the house, the building itself has great significance. It is more than just a building. When you enter St Katharine's, the Danish Church, everything speaks to you. You notice the architecture. The high ceiling. The art. The pulpit, the baptism font, the altar. The history of the wooden statues, the pews, the chandeliers and the typically Danish ship. And all the stories that belong to the room, about God and man, good and evil, joys and sorrows.

In that room we connect with 'something bigger', something significant and powerful. The building pushes us out of the chaos of daily life and into deeper connection with spiritual depth and each other.

That is what I realised when we had our services on Zoom during the Coronavirus Crisis. The

church was closed for 16 weeks. A weird experience for me. This ran counter to everything I had worked for. Always, I have been aiming to keep the church open and making it accessible.

During the period of lockdown and social isolation we all used Zoom, Facebook and other social media platforms to communicate with the world. On Good Friday we held our first online service on Zoom. People from the church acted in the roles of sacristan, reader, singer, Zoom master and priest. More than 100 devices checked in. So many faces appeared from London, UK, Denmark and Europe. It was thrilling. Two days later, on Easter Sunday, about 135 devices checked in. It was a magical experience.

Even though it was all virtual we had a strong sense of getting together, of sharing. Momentarily, we escaped isolation, we saw the faces of one another. We sang the Easter hymns as best we could. We shared the Gospel and said The Lord's Prayer. That was great! As one put it, 'It was uplifting and comforting'. It was certainly better than nothing.

But! A virtual room on Zoom might be the right option in a time of crisis when we cannot access the church. And sure, Zoom fulfilled a need. However, something was lacking in these virtual encounters. But what? One of my English colleagues, Giles Fraser, argued that it was the human soul, by which he meant, "The thing that makes me ... me. My essence, my individuality, the specific characteristic that picks me out as different in the world."

I do wholeheartedly agree. The soul was lacking on Zoom. Business and board meetings on Zoom are okay. We have an agenda; we want to get some sort of deal done. But when talking to my wife and my family, I wanted the original, not the digital copy. That is the difference. Feelings, emotions, disruptions were all flattened out. Perhaps that is why Zoom sometimes was so draining? That is how I came to appreciate the church building as something indispensable. The real thing.

The Danish Church in London

During the lockdown, I became acutely aware that we are spiritually anchored in a certain place, a building. The building is a visible sign of the presence of the Danish Church and Christianity in London. In a community like the Danish, with such a transitory population, the solid permanence of the church building is an expression of the continuity of Danish community, faith and culture. The entire passage of human life, from baptism to burial, is marked in one building and has been so for more than three hundred years.

That is why it really does make sense to carry out a huge refurbishment project. To maintain the building. To really make it what it is supposed to be, a meeting place, a place of worship, a place of cultural activities.

Our contemporary age might not be traditionally faithful. For millions, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost are just words. Festivities, traditions and delicious food have replaced religious celebrations. And yet, even in this secular era, buildings of worship still retain enormous physical and spiritual presence. God, death, love and the meaning of life - great existential questions, they don't get much bigger. That is what the building is reminding us of.

The Building Project

Dorte Bille Harding, Chair of the Danish Church Council:

The Danish Church in London is undergoing major renovation works, to update the beautiful St Katharine's Church in Regent's Park, which the Danish congregation has been using since 1952. The façade was recently restored and made safe, and installation of under-floor heating in the church nave was also fully completed before the corona virus hit. Via a ground source heat pump, warm water is circulated from pipes dug deep into the lawn in the garden, to heating pipes under the church floor. We have also finished a number of cosmetic improvements in the church, and more will follow over the summer.

Works in all other areas have been affected by restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and by difficulties in securing supplies etc. Delays are unavoidable, but we are pleased that CF Møller Architects and Coniston, the main

contractor, have managed to keep works going as far as possible – despite the difficult circumstances.

Three new meeting rooms are taking form under the vicarage. These will also be used as much needed class rooms for the Church's thriving Saturday School, where 120 children and adults are taught Danish language and culture. Open terraces in front will create light and spacious areas.

The church hall will benefit from improved disabled access, with a platform lift from the garden, and fully accessible toilet facilities next to the main entrance to the hall. The first church hall will be used as a café area, and both halls will feature beautiful new wooden floors.

Underneath the halls, a brand-new proper shop will be constructed. This will show off an extended variety of Danish food for sale, as well as the usual favourite sweets. The catering kitchen will have its own staircase for deliveries from Albany Street, and in the increased space we have found room for a new walk-in freezer, where loads of food can be safely stored.

This project has been funded by a large number of generous people, trusts and corporations, and we are extremely grateful for the continued support. Rest assured that all parties are working hard to complete the project this autumn.

Soon Danes in London will yet again meet at St Katharine's, not only for Sunday Services but also to enjoy Danish celebrations, watch Danish films, sing together, stock up on Danish groceries, meet visiting Danish speakers and for many other social and cultural purposes. Come and take part!

To learn more about The Danish Church:

<https://www.danskekirke.org>



Danish YWCA in London

'K' Bids Farewell to Palle



After 29 years as a much-loved manager of KFUK (Danish YWCA in Hampstead) – or just “K” as it is affectionately called, **Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen** is leaving to become ‘time rich’, as some retirees prefer to say. Happily, Palle will remain in London and will no doubt continue to maintain supportive links to the many organisations he is involved in.

Palle initially came as manager of ‘K’ for just one year, half expecting that a permanent post had to be given to a female, but that tradition was soon changed.

Change for the better, initiatives that make life easier as well as sound economic sense, a listening ear, a flexible way of thinking and a sense of humour are but some of the reasons why ‘K’ has been such a popular and happy place to stay in London for young Danes. There have been many! 18,000 to be exact and 250 employees have lived and worked together during Palle’s reign.

The hostel is home to 60 young people – usually between the ages of 18 – 24. For a very reasonable sum the youngsters experience communal living with shared meals and a morning ‘sing song’, much like life at a *højskole*.

“My job is more a lifestyle than an actual job”, says Palle. “I keep office hours, but most young people will choose to offload and seek advice while engaged in a task, or when visiting the pub, over a beer or a meal. Much like a family, really.

I will find it hard to say farewell to all ‘my children’ but have also built up many friendships over the years. ‘K’ is where I have spent the major part of my life.”

Palle has employed some impressive contacts and initiatives in successfully fundraising for establishing 10 flats in North London, The Queen Ingrid College Flats, for postgraduate Danes studying in London. The hugely popular annual Christmas Bazaar has helped the very healthy financial state at ‘K’ but Palle has also arranged concerts in London with names such as Søs Egelind, Kirsten Lehfeldt, Linie 3 and Kim Larsen.

‘K’ has been in existence since 1907 and has as such acted as a safe harbour or home from home for the many Danes who have visited, lived there for up to 6 months, had au pair placements arranged or just benefitted from the warm welcome extended to youngsters in London.

Ahead of the lockdown there was an exodus from ‘K’ back to Denmark to settle in with their families during the Danish lockdown. A core of residents and staff remained and have, judging by the social media posts, had a wonderful time with innovative ways of staying fit, keeping busy and engaged, celebrating events and always ensuring that meals were fun and cosy gatherings with healthy and delicious food at the centre. Rumour has it that events such as ‘Best Layer Cake Competition’ is just another way for Palle to ensure that there is a regular supply of cakes and baked goods for all to enjoy.

Former residents at ‘K’ from years, or decades ago, keep popping in to say hello when life or work brings them to London. No doubt they will continue to seek out 43 Maresfield Gardens to reminisce about the wonderful time they had in Hampstead with Palle and his merry crew.

Palle will be greatly missed after having made such a seismic and lasting impact over many years. Everyone wishes him well and God speed – and members of The Anglo-Danish Society sincerely hope that Palle will continue to serve on Council – albeit in a different guise.

To learn more about ‘K’ and the forthcoming changes: <http://www.kfuk.co.uk>

Council News - New Member

Christine Bergstedt



Christine Bergstedt is an experienced finance professional with an extensive experience within fund management performing business development, strategy, management, client service and PR.

Besides London, Christine has worked in Stockholm, Paris and Copenhagen. She has been London based since 2008.

Christine is vice chair at the Church Council in the Danish Church in London with fundraising her main responsibility.

Christine holds a M.Sc. in Economics (cand. polit.) from University of Copenhagen and she is a CFA Charterholder.

Retirement from the Scholarship Committee - Dr Claire Thomson



Dr Claire Thomson is stepping down as a member of the A-DS Scholarship Committee. We owe her huge thanks for well-founded contributions based on thorough insights into the academic world and experience in postgraduate education.

Claire says: "It has been a real pleasure and privilege over the last fifteen years to read applications from so many talented scholars who are building sustainable cultural and scientific bridges between the UK and Denmark."

A native of Lanarkshire, in the early 90s Claire decided on a whim to take Danish as a minor language during her MA in EU Studies and French at the University of Edinburgh. She then took an MSc in translation and a PhD in Danish literature. She lectured at the University of East Anglia for four years before moving to University College London in 2004, serving as Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow. A five-year term as Head of Department of UCL Scandinavian Studies followed. Currently Associate Professor of Scandinavian Film, from autumn 2020 Claire will be Director of Film Studies at UCL.

Claire has written two books on Danish cinema: *Thomas Vinterberg's Festen* (University of Washington Press, 2013), and *Short Films from a Small Nation: Danish Informational Cinema 1935-1965* (Edinburgh University Press, 2018). The latter was researched during a wonderful year in Copenhagen as Visiting Researcher at the Danish Film Institute.

Currently, she is co-editing *A History of Danish Cinema* (forthcoming 2021 - Edinburgh University Press). In her spare time Claire is a director of Norvik Press, enjoys translating from Danish, and occasionally dabbles in research-based stand-up comedy.

Membership News

New Members

We welcome the following new members to The Anglo-Danish Society:

Dorte Estrup Cox, Berkshire

Philip & Susanne Waterfield (Rasmussen), Essex

Karin Schoubo Nielsen, Berkshire

Emma Hetherington-Sadler, London

Linda Nightingale, Winchester

David Jenkins, Middlesex

Shona Milne, London

Deceased:

We are very sad to report the death of Miss Anne Marie Elisabeth Jacobsen

Mr Ian Dunbar Sutherland

Mrs Birgit Ahm

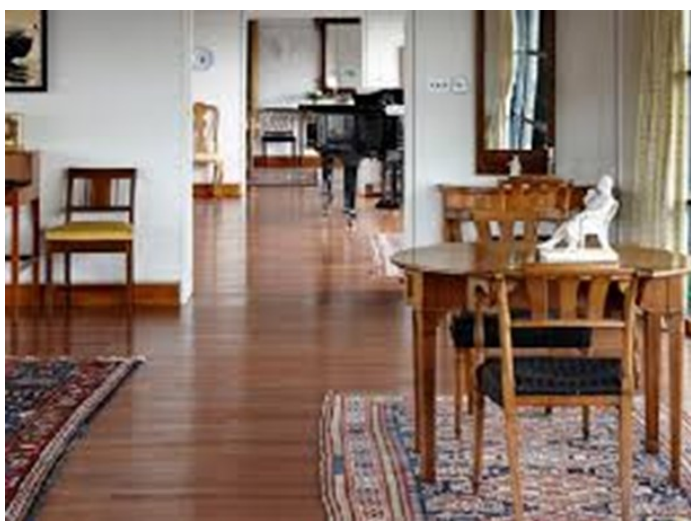
Future Events 2020

Annual General Meeting and Ambassador's Reception

WHEN: Thursday 24 Sept 2020 5pm - 8pm

WHERE: Royal Danish Embassy, 55 Sloane Street
London SW1X 9SR

Once again, HE Lars Thuesen the Danish Ambassador, welcomes members of The Anglo-Danish Society to a reception in his official residence.



The drinks and canapé reception will follow immediately after the Annual General Meeting which we aim to keep short and to the point.

We are keen to hear your views and invite you to get in touch if you have any suggestions or requests or if you would like to stand as a Member or Officer of Council.

The evening is FREE and reserved for MEMBERS ONLY.

If you wish to attend or send apologies for absence please contact

Bette Petersen Broyd

bettebroyd@gmail.com

Mob. 07934 236686.

Dinner at HM Tower of London

WHEN: Thursday 22 Oct 2020 6.30 pm - 10.30 pm

WHERE: Princess of Wales's Regimental Headquarters, Tower of London, EC3N 4AB



Members and guests are invited to join the Black-Tie dinner at the Regimental Head Quarters of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment. We have unique and exclusive access to the Officers' Mess in the historic setting inside the Tower of London.

Diners and their guests will enjoy a pre-dinner drinks reception in the Fusilier Museum from 6.30pm, followed by dinner in the Officers' Mess Dining Room with hosts from the Regiment. The aim is to also attend the very popular, ancient Ceremony of the Keys after dinner - if possible. No promises!

This popular event is being held in an exclusive venue which is not open to the general public and which has become a firm favourite in the Society's calendar.

Please note that there is no car parking, disabled or wheelchair access available at the Tower and taxis are not allowed entry inside the grounds.

Dress code: Black Tie with medals

Price: £110 for members / 125 for guests

Book with Bette Petersen Broyd

bettebroyd@gmail.com

Mob. 07934 236686.

Georg Jensen Design & Craftmanship – Open Evening

WHEN: Wednesday 25th November 2020 from 6.30 pm to 9 pm

WHERE: Georg Jensen Flagship Store, 89 Mount Street, Mayfair, London W1K 2SR



Many of you have asked to have a return visit to Georg Jensen and they have very kindly agreed. This event will be for both members and guests. Champagne / drinks and canapés will be served throughout while we browse, chat and explore the many new and traditional designs. There will be a brief talk about aspects of the world-famous Georg Jensen Silversmith's design and craftmanship of jewellery, decorations and household items.

You will have time to ponder to what extent you are shopping for Christmas presents for others or just 'treats' or must haves as rewards for ourselves. Georg Jensen will generously provide a **10% discount** on all purchases.

PRICE: £5 for members, £8 guests and non-members.

Essential to book for members and guests / non-members.

Paying for Events, Membership or Making Donations

Direct Bank Transfer to: The Anglo-Danish Society National Westminster Bank, Sort Code 55-70-13 Account No: 78325285. Please mark your payment with your name and event for easy identification.

IBAN code: GB43 NWBK 5570 1378 3252 85
(Payer's AC to pay bank fees, please.)

Paid up members only can pay by cheque made out to 'Anglo-Danish Society' and send to Mr Alan Davey, Hon. Treasurer, 40 Princes Way, Hutton, Brentwood CM13 2JW

Christmas Service and Lunch at the Danish Church

WHEN: Thursday 17th December 2020 from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm

WHERE: The Danish Church, St Katharine's Precinct, Regents Park, NW1 4HH

The Rector at the Danish Church, Flemming Kloster Poulsen and the organist, will strike just the right note with a short Christmas Service in English.



We will sing traditional carols and share the Christmas message. Immediately following will be the festive traditional Danish Christmas Lunch in the newly refurbished adjoining Church Hall. Andrew and Lone will create a lunch with all the traditional Danish dishes and some with an updated touch to accommodate those with special dietary needs. The first drink, coffee and Danish Christmas biscuits are included. The new shop will be open for you to purchase Christmas decorations and gifts or traditional Danish goodies essential for cooking your own Danish Christmas lunch or dinner at home.

PRICE: £49 for members / £59 for guests

Booking Events

All Anglo-Danish Society events can be booked by contacting Bette Petersen Broyd:
bettebroyd@gmail.com Mob: 07934 236686

Please always check availability and book before making any payments.

Further information:
www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk and Facebook

Genforeningen

100 years since the Reunification of South Jutland with Denmark

The 15th June 2020 marks the 100th Anniversary of South Jutland being re-united with the Kingdom of Denmark after 56 years of German rule.

Plebiscites were held in North and South Schleswig in 1920 asking if people wished to be Danish or German. There were large turnouts and north of the current border 75% voted to re-join Denmark. South of the border it was the opposite.



On 10th July 1920 King Christian X rode across the old border on a white horse to a huge welcome. The historical background was that, after Denmark's defeat by Prussia and Austria in the 2nd Schleswig Holstein war in 1864, South Jutland was lost by Denmark and the border moved north close to Kolding. German rule in South Jutland meant that Danish songs were forbidden and there were no Danish school books.

When the 1st World War broke out Danes in South Jutland were conscripted into the German forces. My two great uncles were unwillingly conscripted into the Imperial German Navy. One of them was awarded the Iron Cross after the Battle of Helgoland. Thousands of others lost their lives. My great grandfather was fined by the German authorities for flying the Danish flag on his farm.

On the 11th November 1918 the war ended and at the Paris Peace Conference it was decided there should be plebiscites in South Jutland to determine whether people wanted to be Danish or German.

There are minorities both north and south of the current border and in Queen Margrethe's New Year's Eve TV address every year she always sends her greetings to "Those south of the border."

The *Genforeningen* is commemorated by Danes near the border with a "South Jutland coffee table". People bring a variety of cakes and breads and brew coffee. It is a reminder of a time when the German authorities banned Danes meeting in taverns.

On 15th June this year the Statsminister Mette Frederiksen gave a speech at redoubt no. 4 at Dybbøl. She said South Jutland 'came home' 100 years ago. The co-operation across the border is an inspiration for us all. Danes in Germany have their language, culture and education protected, the same for Germans north of the border. The *Grænseforeningen*, Danish Border Association, does much good work to achieve this. The Statsminister said it was symbolic that Denmark had just opened its border with Germany after the Covid-19 lockdown.

The virus has postponed or cancelled many commemorations, including that of the Anglo-Danish Society. However, the *Genforening* 100 years ago shows how consulting the people can lead to a peaceful and lasting agreement.

Peter Davis, Vice Chairman

Anyone considering travelling to Denmark is advised to check the latest guidance and recommendations from the Danish police (regularly updated):

<https://politi.dk/en/coronavirus-in-denmark>

<https://politi.dk/coronavirus-i-danmark/rejser>

Travel for Free to a Danish Island



During July, when most Danes take their summer holidays, up to 53 ferry routes in Denmark will be free to pedestrians and holidaymakers on bicycles. This government led initiative aims to enliven tourism, local industry and culture on hard hit islands that have experienced months of travel restrictions and cancellations during lockdown.

The ferry companies decide for themselves if they want to partake in the scheme. What they miss out on in lost revenue will be compensated retrospectively by the state as part of a rejuvenation package agreed by parliament.

During August and September cars will be included in the scheme and ferry crossings will be available at greatly subsidised fares to many smaller islands as well as the islands of Ærø, Fanø, Læsø and Samsø. The ferry route to Bornholm from Ystad in Sweden to Rønne is also included in the subsidising package to island societies.

Learn more about free and reduced travel to Danish islands: trm@trm.dk

The Island of Fanø

Just a 12-minute ferry ride from Esbjerg on the West coast of Denmark across the Wadden Sea you arrive on the small island of Fanø with less than 3.500 inhabitants. Traditional houses are thatched and bear witness to the seafaring past which is evident throughout the island, all of which is a designated national park. The houses, low and snug, offer protection against the salty wind and sand which reign supreme when the west winds blow off the seal rich waters.

Sønderho, the southernmost village on the island and voted the most beautiful village in Denmark,

will transport visitors to a bygone era. Walking the narrow streets lined with colourful architectural pearls you may encounter 'Hanne's House' – a skipper's cottage from the 1750s. The house remains intact with the original furniture, pictures and items from the seafaring expeditions and with a sheep pen reflecting the frugal early life on the island.



Frugality is far from what you will now experience at Sønderho Kro, where gastronomy with a local flavour and indulgence in 'hyggelige' low ceilinged rooms and an attractive garden is available to guests from near and far. If they had the sense to secure a booking well in advance!



Fanø is one of the few places left in Denmark where the locals still don the traditional dress for special occasions and festivals. To the onlooker they all look colourfully embroidered with a generous use of scarves for tying and draping in many styles. To the locals, each style indicates the village or area the wearer comes from; variations also indicate if the outfit is for Sunday best or for working on the land or beach with faces covered and skirts tied to stop them billowing in the wind.

The Island of Bornholm

To the east, in the Baltic, is the rocky island of Bornholm. Many now travel to Bornholm across the bridge to Sweden from Copenhagen, then motor an hour's drive to Ystad where there is a 1 ½ hour ferry to Rønne, the largest town on the island of nearly 40,000 inhabitants.



The fishing village of Gudhjem on the East coast is home to about 750 residents. It attracts lots of tourists with its steep and picturesque streets, fish restaurants, the Oluf Høst Museum and stunning views across the harbour.

Every morning from Easter till autumn, locals and tourists gather on the harbour for 'Morgensang', a much-loved tradition coinciding with the departure of the ferry to Christiansø.



Several seasonal songs are belted out across the harbour and the ferry acknowledges the performance with a long blast of the ship's horn.



Danes seem to be particularly keen on this communal singing in the morning. It happens in schools and many organisations, at gatherings of all sorts and, most recently, on Danish TV every morning during lockdown.

Hammershus is an impressive medieval fortification, prominently positioned atop the rocky island. The fascinating history reflects the many battles fought here with possession shifting between the warring parties and a period as an island prison, most notably for prisoner Corfitz Ulfeldt and his wife Leonora Christina in 1660.



On the car free island of Christiansø most of the 100 locals live in close connection with one another, sharing kitchen gardens and essential tasks. The current teacher, not an original islander, accepted the position in the local school knowing that her job also includes other duties such as guiding tourists and delivering post.



The Anglo-Danish Society

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Pro-rata rates apply in the year of joining according to the calendar quarter when your membership starts (*Ind./Fam.*):

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See our Privacy Notice in relation to GDPR 2018 on <https://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk/membership>