



The Anglo-Danish Society

Newsletter January 2019



The Wave in Vejle / Henning Larsen Architects

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

Honorary Presidents:

HE Lars Thuesen R1, Danish Ambassador

Baron Rupert N. Hambro CBE

Officers and Members of Council:

Wayne Harber OBE, K (Chairman)

Peter Davis OBE (Vice Chairman)

Alan Davey FCMA (Honorary Treasurer)

Bette Petersen Broyd (Honorary Secretary)

Kate Grønholm

Christian Rasmussen

Ex Officios:

Lone Britt Christensen (Danish Embassy)

Palle B. Pedersen R (Danish YWCA)

Pastor Flemming K. Poulsen (Danish Church)

Scholarship Committee:

Wayne Harber OBE, K (Chair of Committee)

Lone Britt Christensen

Birger Jensen

Dr Kristian Jensen R

Dr Claire Thomson

Administrative Address:

The Anglo-Danish Society

43 Maresfield Gardens

London NW3 5TF

www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

Editor & Facebook: Bette Petersen Broyd

Webpage & Newsletter layout: Margit Staehr

Membership Subscriptions:

Single membership £25 p.a.

Family membership £40 p.a.

Corporate membership £200

Reg. Charity No.: 313202

The Anglo-Danish Society is a member of CoScan

www.coscan.org.uk

Dear Members

2019 is an important year in the Anglo-Danish Society's history in that it is 60 years ago that the Scholarships were started.

In those days the amounts were clearly of much smaller proportions, but the impact to the recipients remain much the same.

For those lucky enough to receive a scholarship it can mean the difference between being able to take up their year of study abroad, or, at the very least, of enhancing and enriching the post-graduate student's experience whilst exploring life and academic study in Denmark or UK.

We are keen to celebrate this important anniversary and will be planning ahead for some festivities towards the end of the year.

Meanwhile, we hope you find the current programme of events of interest.

There are often additional events by fellow Nordic or UK organisations which come to our attention along the way. We endeavour to post those which may be of interest to you on our webpage and on Facebook, so please keep tuning in to the latest news and events.

Wishing all members and friends a very happy and healthy 2019!

Your Council

Scholarship News



Scholarship Applications

Now is the time to plan ahead for postgraduate study in Denmark or UK.

Scholarship Applications are due by 1st March 2019.

The Anglo-Danish Society's Scholarships & The Ove Arup Foundation Scholarship is applicable for studies during the academic year from October 2019 to July 2020.

You are eligible to apply if you are a Danish graduate with a first degree from a Danish university planning to or already studying at postgraduate level at a university in the UK or, vice-versa, if you are a British graduate planning to do or already doing postgraduate study/research at a university in Denmark.

Please see our webpage for guidance, application form and further information:

<http://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk/scholarships>

For enquiries: scholars@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

Council & Membership News



Christian Williams (left) handing over the Chairmanship to Wayne Harber

A number of changes have taken place on the Council.

Christian Williams, R, who served efficiently as chairman for many years, stepped down at the Council meeting in September. We are enormously grateful for the safe steerage he provided and the many doors he opened for us, not least to Drapers' Hall.

Wayne Harber, OBE, K was unanimously voted in as your new chairman and has also taken on responsibility as Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

The latter role was resourcefully and creatively held by Margit Stæhr, who has now resigned from Council after 14 years.

During Margit's service, in every conceivable capacity, she revolutionized the way we operate and worked fastidiously for the welfare of members. Margit continues to take responsibility for our webpage and newsletter layout – until a suitable replacement is found.

Please do get in touch if these are roles you would like to take on. Proficiency in the Microsoft package including Publisher and web management as well as secretarial skills are essential.



Farewell to Christian Williams & Margit Stæhr

To learn more and to register your interest please contact one of the following:

Wayne Harber
harbers181@gmail.com
Mob: 07972 563655

Bette Petersen Broyd
bettebroyd@gmail.com
Mob: 07934 236686

New Members

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

Christian R Davis, Kent
Elizabeth Stephens & David Stokes, Essex
David Greenin, Essex
Mitzel & Ole Valentin, Surrey
Ulla Gray, London
Joachim Gram, London

Donations, Legacies and Privacy

From time to time the Society receives generous legacies from past members or from families who recognise just what Anglo-Danish Society meant to their loved ones after often many years of friendship.

They know how vital it is that the scholarship programme continues to enable post-graduate students to study abroad and that the scholarships make a real difference to those nine students who annually benefit and so are enabled to further their career and make lasting connections across the North Sea.

Donations also trickle in, and are always gratefully received whether the amounts are small or large, from individuals or companies or just a member who cancels an event but allows their pre-payment to go towards the Scholarship Fund.

We are also hugely gratified when a member says that even though they no longer feel able to actively take part in events they still choose to continue their support by maintaining their membership.

Those of us on the Council and the Scholarship Committee, and not least the scholars, are thankful for your generous contributions to our charity and thank you all wholeheartedly. Naturally we would like to encourage more donations and legacies to the charity.

If you do we ask you to indicate if you are choosing to make an anonymous donation or legacy or, alternatively, if you would like your generosity acknowledged in the newsletter.

In a time when the need to protect the privacy of individuals is paramount, we really want to respect your wishes and get it right!

In Memoriam

Valerie Margaret Taylor, London



We have gratefully received a large bequest towards the Scholarship Fund from the late Miss Valerie Margaret Taylor, London who passed away in June 2017.

Valerie worked for many years for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in far flung destinations such as Borneo and East Africa, but it was her years in Copenhagen working at the British Embassy that developed her lifelong love of Denmark.

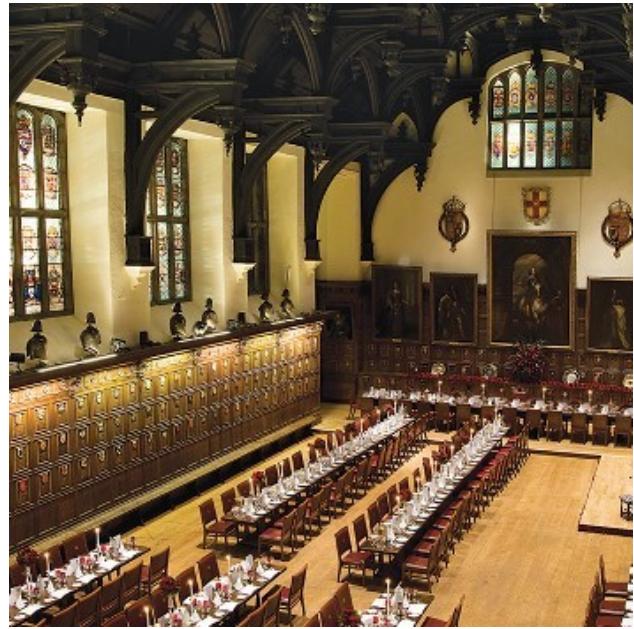
Having returned to the UK she was elected a member of the Society's Council in the late eighties and again in the nineties when she also served on the Scholarship Committee for several years.

She was known for great diligence with her work, and generosity and warmth towards others. In spite of ill health during the last years of her life she continued to follow the Society's activities with keen interest remaining a faithful friend of Denmark and the Danes.

Her bequest will benefit future recipients of the Anglo-Danish Society scholarships.

oo

Future Events



Drapers' Hall Supper and Concert

WHEN: Wednesday 27th February 2019 at 6 pm

WHERE: The Drapers Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DQ

This popular annual event is set in the magnificent and historical Drapers' Hall.

A delicious supper with coffee and petit fours is served at 6 pm.

We then make our way to the central hall to experience a magnificent concert with exceptionally talented musicians from the Royal College of Music who will be performing a broad repertoire of music.

Musicians from the Royal College of Music:

Roberto Ruisi / *Violin* - Duncan Commin / *Viola* -
Nina Kiva / *Cello* & Cristiana Achim / *Piano* - Irina
Vater / *Piano*

SCHUMANN - *Fantasie Op. 17*

DEBUSSY - *La Flute de Pan*, *Le Tombeau des Naiades*

POULENC. - *Le Chemins de l'Amour*

FAURÉ. - *Les Berceaux* - Nell

SCHUBERT - *Piano Quintet in A 'The Trout'*

PRICE: £55 for members / £65 for non-members
Please book by 17th February by contacting
Bette Petersen Broyd
bettebroyd@gmail.com Mob 07934 236686

Middle Temple Guided Tour with Optional Lunch

WHEN: Thursday 7th March 2019 meet at 11 am
The tour starts at 11.30am.

WHERE: Middle Temple, Middle Temple Lane, London EC4Y 9AT

The historic and awe-inspiring buildings of Middle Temple will be revealed in all their splendour. You will feel as though you are going back in time as you walk down cobbled lanes flanked with gas street lamps towards one of the finest Elizabethan Halls in the country.

The guided tour will take you into the Hall with its magnificent double-hammer beam roof completed in 1573. Generations of royalty have dined at the 29ft oak High Table – reputedly a gift from Elizabeth I herself. It is said that the first-recorded performance of Twelfth Night took place in Hall in 1602.

PRICE for Tour and Coffee/Tea: £14 members, £17 non-members.

Please book by 21st February by contacting
Bette Petersen Broyd bettebroyd@gmail.com
Mob: 07934 236686

OPTIONAL LUNCH: Please indicate your interest in a 3 course lunch in Middle Temple Hall after the tour. (£35pp - drinks purchased at the bar).

TEMPLE CHURCH: will be open from 10 am until 2 pm but is not part of our tour. (Communion Service is from 1.15 to 1.45 pm)

Future Events



London Cru Winery Tour and Tasting

WHEN: Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 6.30 pm
WHERE: London Cru 21-27 Seagrave Road, London SW6 1RP

London Cru is tucked away down a little alleyway in SW6 where we will meet to experience London's fine traditions of winemaking.

As London Cru puts it, "*Take a walk around central London's first winery and taste wine made right here in the heart of the capital.*

Our Welcome to the Winery event is a relaxed and entertaining introduction to our very own working winery. The tour is designed to unravel a few of the mysteries behind winemaking and allow you to taste the exceptional wines made here. Learn about the grape's journey from vineyard to bottle and the basics of making wine. Finish off with a guided tasting of award-winning wines and get answers to those burning wine questions you've always wanted to ask."

PRICE: £27 members, £31 non-members
Please book by 27th February by contacting Bette Petersen Broyd bettebroyd@gmail.com
Mob 07934 236686



Danish Easter Lunch

WHEN: Tuesday 9th April 2019 at 12 noon
WHERE: Danish YWCA, 43 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5TF

A very popular bi-annual event!

Set in the leafy environs of Hampstead the Danish KFUK (YWCA) opens its roomy and tastefully decorated rooms to Anglo-Danish Society members and guests. We will have a delicious traditional home-made Easter lunch buffet with several courses of fish, warm dishes, salads and cheese.

Beer, snaps or wine is included in the price.

Coffee and Danish baked goodies will be served in the drawing room after lunch.

Guest Speaker: Sara Ayres, PhD and scholar at The National Portrait Gallery will entertain us with her insights into the portraiture of Danish Royals in U.K.

PRICE: £44 members, £51 non-members (all-inclusive)
Please book by 1st April by contacting Bette Petersen Broyd bettebroyd@gmail.com
Mob 07934 236686

Future Events



AGM & Ambassador's Reception

WHEN: Thursday 23rd May 2019 at 6 pm
WHERE: Royal Danish Embassy, 55 Sloane Street
London SW1X 9SR

The Annual General Meeting of The Anglo-Danish Society is your chance to meet friends old and new and to influence the way your Society is run.

At 7 pm following the AGM you are invited by the ambassador, HE Lars Thuesen to a drinks reception in his official residence. You will be able to mingle, meet the scholars and enjoy a convivial gathering with familiar faces. **This event is free and strictly reserved for members of The Anglo-Danish Society only.**

Please notify Bette Broyd of your intention to attend: bettebroyd@gmail.com
Mob: 07934 236686

HOW TO PAY FOR EVENTS:

Please arrange direct bank transfer when booking.
Name: The Anglo-Danish Society
Bank: National Westminster Bank
Sort Code: 55-70-13
Account No: 78325285

Please mark your payment with your name and event for easy identification.

Alternatively, you may pay by cheque made out to 'Anglo-Danish Society' and send to
Mr Alan Davey, Hon. Treasurer, 40 Princes Way,
Hutton, Brentwood CM13 2JW

Fulham Palace Tour & Cream Tea

WHEN: Tuesday 11th June 2019 at 2 pm
WHERE: Fulham Palace, Bishop's Ave, Fulham
London SW6 6EA

During our exclusive guided tour we will hear of the rich and varied history of Fulham Palace, since Tudor times the Bishop of London's country home. In fact, the site was occupied by the Bishops from about 700 until Bishop Stopford retired in 1975.

The building is vast and a colourful mixture of styles and periods. What survives is a Tudor manor house with elegant Georgian additions and an ornate Victorian chapel.

Immediately following the tour, we will enjoy a traditional cream tea in the Cafe drawing room overlooking the gardens.

The beautiful 13-acre botanical garden, including a restored Walled Garden is now protected as an important historic landscape. Our tour concentrates on the Palace but it is possible to visit the gardens independently in your own time.

PRICE: £19 members / £24 non-members
PLEASE BOOK at least 2 weeks before with
Bette Petersen Broyd
bettebroyd@gmail.com
Mob 07934 236686

Reviews - Past Events

Visit to the Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars

Late October saw an interesting visit to the oldest surviving livery Hall in the City: The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. The premises, on the site of a Dominican Priory, were rebuilt in 1672 after the great fire of London destroyed everything. The Hall houses archives which chart the history of developments and changes and activities over the years. It is still a seat of learning, running medical courses and awarding postgraduate diplomas in a variety of subjects, while sponsoring students and lecturers at Medical and Pharmacy Schools.

We assembled in the splendid, impeccably kept open courtyard of the Society, enhanced by blue skies above and huge, decorative lead planters on the ground. A large coat of arms hangs in the courtyard and includes Apollo, patron of medicine with two unicorns from King James's Royal Arms and a rhinoceros symbolic of the powdered horn being used in medicine. The motto in translation reads, "I am spoken of all over the world as one who brings help".

The Beadle, Mr Gary Howe was an outstanding fount of knowledge, imparting huge amounts of information with witty asides! We discovered that the Apothecary was the ancestor of the modern-day GP. In medieval times he would sell wine, spices and herbs. Having been part of the Grocers' Company, in 1617 Gideon de Laune, a Huguenot and Apothecary to Queen Anne of Denmark and her husband, James 1, masterminded the formation of the Apothecaries' Society. A portrait of Queen Anne suggests her importance to the apothecaries.

From 1671-1922 the Hall was the centre for the manufacture and sale of drugs with a client base of the Army, Navy, East India Company and Crown Colonies. Mr Howe explained that there had been some antipathy shown towards the apothecaries from the Society of physicians and indeed in 1671 William Rose had been prosecuted for prescribing drugs and visiting the sick. However, the judgement went in Rose's favour thereby giving legal recognition to apothecaries as GP's. It followed that in 1704 the Society was given the right to prescribe and dispense medicines. In 1673 the Chelsea Physic Garden was established as the Apothecaries' Garden to grow plants to be used as medicines. In 1815 the Society won the statutory right to hold medical examinations and became a licensing body. We heard that Elizabeth Garratt Anderson, after much opposition, became the first female to sit the exams and qualify as a doctor. John Keats did so

also, though after a short time in practise, he returned to his life as poet. Agatha Christie successfully passed the exam for Apothecaries' Assistants or Dispensers while working at a hospital in Devon. We all suggested this was useful knowledge in her novels where characters were often poisoned!

After the history lesson and discussion of the large painting of the Spanish Armada showing Queen Elizabeth 1 as a tiny figure in the corner reviewing the fleet, we climbed the beautiful wooden staircase, which included a stair carpet patterned with rhinos and individual newel posts made by the Turners' Company. The Parlour included pill tiles and ancient drug and leech jars, many of Delft origin but some manufactured in Italy and Spain. A map from the 1700's demonstrated how the property then had access to the River Thames where the Apothecaries had a barge to enable them to go to the Psychic Garden to collect their herbs.

The Great Hall was oak panelled with a minstrel's gallery and a magnificent ceiling with large fluted cornice and stained-glass windows and portraits showing the Coats of Arms or the past Masters and Officers of the Society.

Everyone felt that it had been a very interesting tour in beautiful surroundings. After being submerged in the ancient past, we rounded off our day by being transported to the modern Cote restaurant where we were able to re-acquaint ourselves with old friends or meet new ones while enjoying a French style lunch.

Ann Seaborne

Photos are available on The Anglo-Danish Society Facebook page.

Christmas Service and Lunch

As a recent newcomer to the group, I would like to thank you all for making me feel so welcome. I loved the community feel of the Church Hall beside the lovely church. The simple yet uplifting Church service set just the right tone to begin the festivities. The convivial atmosphere and the mixture of the Danish and English languages made me feel at home, reminding me of many past family gatherings in both UK and Denmark with my Danish mother and English father and various friends and relatives. I thought of my Uncle Ebbe from Graasten when I detected a South Jutland accent! I look forward to further meetings during 2019.

Elizabeth Walker

Other Events



THEATRE

Rosenbaum's Rescue

9 January - 9 February 2019

Park Theatre, Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, London N4 3JP

75 years ago, when Alexander Bodin Saphir's Jewish grandfather was measuring the suit for a high-ranking Nazi officer, he got a lifesaving tip-off : The Nazis were planning the deportation of all Jews in Denmark. Now Saphir has written a play about the event, premiering in London in January 2019.

Rosenbaum's Rescue is a moving, sharp and intriguing story about two childhood friends and one of history's most compelling mysteries: How did thousands of Jews from Denmark escape the grasp of such a powerful war machine during World War II?

See the article at the end of this Newsletter for further insights.

EXHIBITION

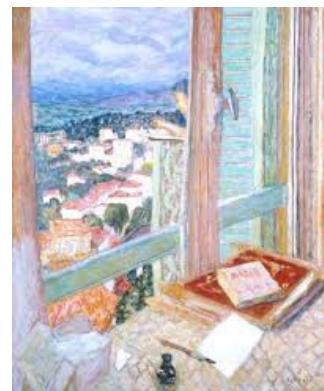
Asger Jorn, Per Kirkeby & Tal R

23 January - 23 March 2019 Victoria Miro Mayfair, 14. St George Street, London W1S 1FE

This exhibition will be celebrating three generations of internationally acclaimed Danish artists: Asger Jorn (1914–1973); Per Kirkeby (1938–2018); and Tal R (born 1967). They are all great artist-experimenters.

Danish by birth or residence, each has looked simultaneously to Denmark and outwards to international movements and tendencies. The paintings reveal a shared interest in the physical properties and expressive potential of their medium along with a deep understanding of its history and traditions. As much as they have in common, the works by these three artists also show their wide-ranging interests – including but by no means limited to Nordic mythology (Jorn), geology (Kirkeby) and the liminal space of sleep (Tal R).

Danish Women's Association Events available for The Anglo-Danish Society Members:



PIERRE BONNARD ART LECTURE

When: Thursday 7th February at 12 noon

Where: The Danish Church, 4 St Katharine's Precinct, London NW1 4HH

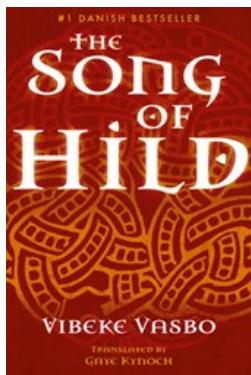
Alette Rye Scales is a distinguished Art Historian and will open up the world of interiors painted by the French artist Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947) at the beginning of the 20th century. This illuminating and illustrated talk in English coincides with the Pierre Bonnard Retrospective Exhibition due to open at TATE MODERN on 23rd January 2019. The exhibition showcases Bonnard's sense of colour in both landscapes and interiors, the latter often intimate and fascinating.

Price: £20 to include lunch. Booking essential. Payment to Danish Women's Association after confirmation of place. Please contact Ulla Gray: ulla@ullagraymanagement.com

Books

SONG OF HILD - Literary Talk

Newly published book by Vibeke Vasbo



When: Thursday 24. January 2019 at 1 pm

Where: The Danish Church, 4 St Katharine's
Precinct, London NW1 4HH

Abbess Hild of Whitby was an extraordinary woman living in extraordinary times. In this exquisite translation of the No 1 Danish bestselling novel 'Hildas Sang', we are drawn into a world of dark dealings, powerful patriarchy and religious wrangling.

Vibeke Vasbo and the English translator Gaye Kynock will share exciting extracts from the book and explain how the story was unearthed, became a bestselling book in Denmark and how the translation process enhances the telling of this fascinating story. This event in English is arranged by Danish Women's Association.

Price £5.00 to include coffee or tea and a bun or cake. Pay on the day.

Please indicate your attendance to Ulla Gray:
ulla@ullagraymanagement.com

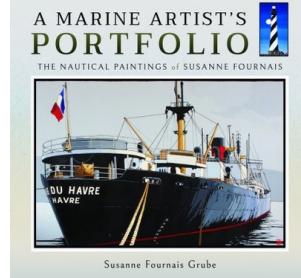
Edward Munch – Love and Angst – Exhibition from 11th April to 21st July 2019

The British Museum, Great Russell Street London WC1B 3DG
www.britishmuseum.org

British Museum – Munch and his World Symposium Friday 14th June 2019

Further information from Grant Lewis:
GRLewis@britishmuseum.org

A Marine Artist's Portfolio: The Nautical Paintings of Susanne Fournais



For over thirty years Susanne Fournais Grube has painted marine scenes depicting ships and small vessels as well as the architecture of marine buildings and light houses. This collection presents - for the first time to a wider public - a cross section of her work. Some paintings were commissioned for corporate or private clients while others were produced just for pleasure. Susanne Fournais Grube is the wife of our former Honorary President, then Ambassador Claus Grube.

The Chestnut Man by Søren Sveistrup



Søren Sveistrup is the award-winning creator of the TV sensation *The Killing*, and this is his nail-biting debut thriller! *The Chestnut Man* captures all the unrelenting tension, style and atmosphere that made *The Killing* unmissable viewing and amassed legions of fans worldwide.

Rosa Hartung is returning to her job as minister for social affairs following a year's leave of absence - granted after the dramatic disappearance of her twelve-year-old daughter. On the same day Rosa returns to Parliament, a young single mother is found brutally murdered - one of her hands has been cut off. Thulin and Hess, the detectives sent to investigate, arrive to find a figure made of chestnuts hanging from a playhouse nearby. When yet another woman is murdered - this time with both hands missing - and another chestnut figure is found, Thulin and Hess begin to suspect a connection. But what is it?

New Nordic Restaurant



Borealis Restaurant

180 Borough High St, London SE1 1LB

This new restaurant with a Danish flavour is the third London City venture opened by Danish-born restaurateur Søren Jessen.

1 Lombard Street has been popular for nearly 20 years while *Ekte Nordic Kitchen* also opened in 2018.

Borealis has a restaurant as well as a café / To Go area on the ground floor.

On the 5th floor there are private rooms for hire and a terrace overlooking Borough. They serve smørrebrød, pastries and Pariser Bøf as well as a 'new menu' of which many items are with a Nordic flavour.

The Wave - Finally Completed

The Wave, a striking wave-shaped apartment complex that has made splashes internationally for years is now finally finished.

The award-winning building was designed as an extension or reflection of its surroundings, from waterfront location to the rolling, forested hills that rise from Vejle Fjord in Jutland.

The Wave's sculptural silhouette comprises five rounded towers that create a new visual landmark for the town and are visible from rail, road and sea.

The Wave



The Wave consists of more than a hundred luxury apartment units along with a new public pier in front that aims to revitalize the waterfront across 3.5 acres.

Although construction on the complex started in 2006, the financial crisis halted all progress after the completion of only two towers; construction resumed on the remaining three towers in late 2015.

The wave-shaped towers consist of nine floors each and appear identical to one another to create the appearance of a unified building. The fifth and final tower of The Wave was finalized in November 2018.

The Wave was designed by Henning Larsen Architects, Copenhagen. The project which started in 2006, has already won a number of awards:

'Residential Building of the Year' in 2009 in the magazine 'Byggeri'.

LEAF 'Multiple Occupancy Award' in 2010

An award for innovative architecture in 2012 by ABB LEAF

A Civic Trust Award in 2011 – an award initiated in UK in 1959 to honour outstanding architecture, design and planning.

No doubt this significant landmark in Vejle will gain wider recognition for its ground-breaking modern architecture.

o0o

Rosenbaum's Rescue

The Story of Danish Jews Smuggled to Sweden



A fishing boat involved in the rescue

When Alexander Bodin Saphir's Jewish grandfather was measuring a high-ranking Nazi for a suit in Copenhagen 75 years ago he got an important tip-off - the Jews were about to be rounded up and deported. It has often been described as a "miracle" that most of Denmark's Jews escaped the Holocaust. Now it seems that the country's Nazi rulers deliberately sabotaged their own operation.

It was a cold October night 75 years ago when my grandparents, Fanny and Raphael Bodin, stood on the dock of a harbour on the east coast of Denmark with their 15-month-old daughter, Lis, in their arms.

I imagine they peered into the darkness, nervously awaiting the fisherman who would take them across the water to the safety of neutral Sweden. Until that point the Jews of Denmark - unlike those in other parts of occupied Europe - had been free to go about their business. But

now the order had been given to transport them to Germany "for processing".

So my grandparents and aunt fled. As they boarded the fishing boat they handed the fisherman a substantial sum of money for the hour-long boat trip across the Øresund - the narrow stretch of water between Denmark and Sweden. Then it started to rain and my aunt began to cry. The fisherman, fearing the Germans would hear her cries, ordered my grandparents either to leave their child on the dock or get off the boat. They chose the latter and watched as the boat cast off for Sweden with their money and perhaps their last chance of escape.

Fortunately, it wasn't their last chance. They succeeded in making the crossing the very next night - after giving their daughter a sleeping pill to ensure she remained silent - and lived out the rest of the war in Sweden.

The Miracle Rescue cont'd

Their story mirrors that of the vast majority of Danish Jews. According to Sofie Lene Bak, associate professor in history at Copenhagen University, 7,056 of them escaped to Sweden, with only 472 captured and deported to Theresienstadt.

This became known as the "**Miracle Rescue**" but many Danish historians now believe it was less miraculous than it seems. And my grandparents' experience provides evidence for this theory.

My grandfather - usually known by his nickname, Folle - always claimed that the reason they managed to escape early in that month of miracles was because of a high-ranking German officer who came to his brother-in-law's tailor shop, N Gollmanns, on Istedgade in the seedy red light district of Copenhagen.



Raphael Bodin measuring a client

After the war my grandfather would open his own shop, R Bodin on St Kongensgade, one of the most fashionable streets in Copenhagen, but in 1943 he was still learning his craft. Together with his brother-in-law, Nathan, they would take measurements of new customers and note them down with other relevant information on A5 cards. These cards were stored in a bureau in the shop. I suspect my grandfather's hands shook as he took the measurements and fitted the suit of this particular German officer, who must have been pleased with

the finished article as he then offered my grandfather and brother-in-law a warning: "Get out, while you still can. There's a round-up coming."

My grandfather never named the high-ranking German officer, but years later Nathan made a startling declaration to my cousin, Margit. The source of the leak that saved my Danish family was none other than Dr Karl Rudolph Werner Best - the very man who, as Germany's plenipotentiary in Denmark (and, moreover, deputy head of the SS) was in charge of ensuring that Denmark's Jews were sent to their death.

So why would such a man - a member of Hitler's inner circle, known as the Butcher of Paris for his relentless pursuit of France's Jews a year before - be fraternising with Jewish tailors in the red light district of Copenhagen, much less warning them to escape? It's hard to believe.

When Margit heard the story, she immediately went to the bureau which still then held pride of place in the family tailor shop. She searched for the measurement cards from 1940-1943 and rifled through to the letter B. Her heart stopped as she pulled out the card of Dr Karl Rudolph Werner Best.

The measurement cards have since been lost, but the story has always fascinated me. A few years ago I started to turn it into a play, and learned then how historians have been rewriting the narrative of the miracle rescue.

Dr Werner Best was a doctor of law and had an uncanny ability to bend the law in his favour. After the war he not only convinced the Danish courts to commute his death sentence to a prison sentence, but years later - when he was accused of signing the death warrants of 8,000 Poles - he managed to convince the judge that he was too sick to stand trial. The case collapsed and he lived for a further 17 years as a free man before dying of natural causes.

A key priority for Best, as the Third Reich's plenipotentiary in Denmark, was to maintain the flow of agricultural goods from Denmark to Germany.

Not for nothing was Denmark known as "Germany's pantry" and as the "whipped cream front" - by some estimates it supplied up to 15% of Germany's needs. To ensure this continued, political stability was essential. But in the summer of 1943 the Danish Resistance had become emboldened, and the Danish government had resigned in protest at a new policy requiring convicted saboteurs to be sentenced to death.

Hitler's order to make Denmark "free of Jews" - Judenrein – therefore came at a bad time for Best.

"The summer of 1943 had been a blaze of sabotage, strikes and physical confrontations between Danes and Germans," says Sofie Lene Bak. "Best feared for an uprising and general strikes if the Jews were targeted."

So it seems Best set about organising the round-up of the Jews – while also simultaneously sabotaging it.

When the extent of the failure of the round-up became apparent, Hitler telegrammed Best ordering him to explain himself. He responded that he had done as he had been ordered - he had made Denmark Judenrein.

Credit for saving Denmark's Jews has often been handed to Georg F Duckwitz, a German naval attaché and Best's right-hand man, who leaked the date of the round-up to Hans Hedtoft of the Danish Social Democrat Party. Hedtoft in turn passed the information to the acting chief rabbi, Marcus Melchior, who told his congregation the next morning - the day before Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year - that there would be no service that day. Instead everybody was to go home, sort out their affairs and find any means of escape.

After the war Duckwitz became West Germany's Ambassador to Denmark (1955-58) and was declared "Righteous Amongst Nations" by Israel's Holocaust Memorial Center, Yad Vashem. But it's Werner Best who ultimately bears responsibility for the round-up's spectacular failure.

Soldiers charged with rounding up the Jews were ordered to knock on the doors and ring



the door bells of Jewish homes, but under no circumstances were they to break them down or smash windows. At least one family simply slept through it all.

And when it became apparent that the primary escape route was across the Øresund, all German patrol boats on the water were ordered into harbour. They remained there for three weeks, when the bulk of the escapees were crossing to Sweden. The official explanation was that the boats needed a paint job. All of them - at the same time.

"The restraint of the Germans in Denmark is unique to the rest of occupied Europe," says Sofie Lene Bak. "Not only in terms of method on the night of the raid but in terms of the limited resources used to hunt for Jews after the raid."

None of this contradicts stories of the bravery of the Danish people, the Resistance or those who were fleeing. In 1943, Denmark's Jews and anyone helping them had a justified fear of execution. After all that's what happened in the rest of Europe, why would Denmark be any different?

My grandparents and aunt spent the rest of the war in Sweden, only returning home after it was over, in June 1945. Like many others, they were welcomed home with freshly cut flowers on their tables, placed there by their Danish neighbours.

Source: BBC News article Oct 2018 by Alexander Bodin Saphir (the playwright).



The Anglo-Danish Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Individual: £25 - Family or Partnership: £40 (includes children under 18) – Corporate: £200.

I enclose a cheque for £made out to the Anglo-Danish Society.

Pro-rata rates available if joining during the year. For enquiries: hon.treasurer@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

Please fill in the forms below:

Title/s Name/s

Address Post Code

Telephone Mobile/s

E-mail/s

Date and signature

Registered Charity No. 313202

GIFT AID makes every £1 you give worth 25 pence more, at no extra cost to you. If applicable, please tick this box: I am a UK taxpayer and would like the Anglo-Danish Society to reclaim the tax on all eligible membership subscriptions or donations that I make or will make until further notice. I confirm that I pay at least as much UK Income or capital gains tax as will be reclaimed by all charities on my donations in each tax year (currently 25p for every £1 you give) but will advise the Society if and when this should not be the case .

For future annual subscription payments per 1st January, please fill in the Standing Order below.

STANDING ORDER TO:

.....
(Name and address of your bank):
.....

The annual sum of : £ on the 1st January (year) and on the 1st January every succeeding year until otherwise instructed.

Payment reference (please leave blank)

Name

Address

Your signature (original - not photocopied).....

Account No: Sort Code

NOTE: The entire completed form should NOT be sent to your bank, but via regular post to THE HONORARY TREASURER,

c/o THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY, 40 Princes Way, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 2JW

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