ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY
Newsletter

October 2026
www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk
Reg. Charity No. 313202



PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY

THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

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Website
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Editors & Social media
Wayne Harber OBE
Lone Mohr Curtis

Membership Subscriptions
Single membership £30 per annum
Family membership £50 per annum
Corporate membership £250 per annum

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Dear Members and Friends,

My best wishes to all our readers, whether members, family or friends of the Anglo-Danish Society. I hope that you have all been enjoying the rather long, hot summer.

The year so far has seen another interesting and varied events programme with plenty more planned for the coming months. The AGM and Ambassador's reception at the Danish Embassy in May were very popular with a full house from our members, which was excellent. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester attended the reception again this year and the evening is well covered elsewhere in this Newsletter. On behalf of the Society, I congratulate Her Royal Highness on the CoScan award of Nordic Person of the Year and, of course, on her 80th Birthday in June – many congratulations on both. On reaching such a significant birthday, the Duchess has carried out a review of her many patronages and I am very pleased to say that she has agreed to remain the Protector of our Scholarship Programme for a further 5 years.

Also in May we said farewell to our Vice Chairman, Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen, after many years serving on the Council as an ex-officio and full member. He has been an excellent supporter of the society and an outstanding editor of the Newsletter. I am very pleased to announce that Katie Schwarck has taken over as Vice Chair, while continuing in her role as Scholarship Secretary. As an interim arrangement until another volunteer wishes to take this on, our Secretary, Lone Mohr Curtis, and myself will share the responsibility of Newsletter Editor. I am very pleased to say that, at the recent autumn Council meeting, we welcomed Erik Østergaard OBE, Robert White, Malisa Elliott and Monica Kemp as new volunteers who were all co-opted onto the Council.

I also want to congratulate Erik Østergaard on his recent award of the Freedom of the City of London at the Guildhall through his association with the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights. The Freedom of the City of London is one of the capital's oldest surviving traditions, dating back to 1237. While historically it granted early citizens the right to trade and own property free from feudal lords, today it operates as a prestigious symbolic honour bestowed upon notable individuals and City professionals. Well done Erik!

We have also said farewell to our Honorary Vice President, Kate Sanderson, who has returned to the Faroe Islands at the end of her tour of duty as Head of Representation of the Faroes Islands based in the Royal Danish Embassy. At the time of writing, we are waiting to hear who will succeed her with the hope that they will agree to take on the VP role in the Society.

Finally, we are all deeply saddened to hear of the death of His Majesty King Harald V of Norway and pass on our condolences and sympathy to our friends in the Anglo-Norse Society. Our best wishes go to His Majesty King Haakon VIII.

I look forward to seeing you all at an event soon.

Wayne Harber
Chairman

Scholarship News

It was good to see that the number of scholarship applications the Society received this year increased slightly: 33 against last year's 30. 18 were passed to the Scholarship Committee for consideration. As usual, the applications were of an extremely high standard and were for courses at a wide range of universities - Meaning our final selection certainly wasn't easy.

Of this year's applications, 22 were from Danes while 11 were from British applicants.

The Society had six general scholarships to disburse this year – five went to Danes while one went to a British student.

This year, the Ove Arup Foundation agreed to sponsor two candidates within the field of the Built Environment as there was no suitable candidate last year. The two candidates selected are to begin their studies in Copenhagen and Aarhus this autumn. Emilia Burdett is studying for a Masters of Arts in Architecture at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen while Henry Edmonds is studying for the same degree at the Aarhus School of Architecture. We are extremely grateful to the Ove Aarup Foundation for their continued generosity.

Our six general scholarships have gone to:



JULIE LINDHART – MASTER OF FINE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL FILM & TELEVISION SCHOOL (DIRECTING FICTION)



BENEDICTE ADRIAN – MASTER OF PERFORMANCE AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC



ELIAS MOGENSEN – MSc IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY, LSE

Scholarship News

Although no suitable candidate applied for the William Charnley scholarship this year, we remain very grateful to him for his continuing support of the programme.

Benedicte Adrian, also the recipient of our special Queen Alexandra Scholarship, gave a masterful performance of Bach's Prelude in G minor at our AGM in May.

The meeting of our Scholarship Committee is usually held in April and is a mixture of academics and non-academics. As Scholarship Secretary, I chair the meeting and am very grateful to Professor Jakob Stougaard Nielsen, Lone Britt Christensen, Dr Kristian Jensen and Wayne Harber for their invaluable input.


PHOTO: PRIVATE PHOTO

EMIL ROSENGREEN – MSc, CONFLICT IN A GLOBAL EUROPE AT LSE


PHOTO: PRIVATE PHOTO

MARK DANGERFIELD – MASTERS DEGREE IN COMPOSITION AT THE ROYAL DANISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC


PHOTO: PRIVATE PHOTO

EMMA LØKKE – MASTER OF ARTS (PAINTING) ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART



EMILIA BURDETT IS STUDYING FOR A MASTERS OF ARTS IN ARCHITECTURE AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS IN COPENHAGEN



HENRY EDMONDS IS STUDYING FOR AN MA IN ARCHITECTURE AT THE AARHUS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE.

Scholarship News

It's very gratifying when scholarship recipients get in touch to say thank you. This year, these include:

RASMUS ANDERSEN, WHO SUCCESSFULLY GRADUATED FROM THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC WITH BOTH A MASTER'S DEGREE AND AN ARTISTS' DIPLOMA.

MATHIAS ROSENGREN (MSc IN MASTER OF PHYSICS AT OXFORD) WHO WROTE: "I WISH TO EXTEND A BIG THANK YOU FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP. IT'S SO DEEPLY APPRECIATED, AND SO DEEPLY HELPFUL TO ME IN MY CURRENT LIFE AND CURRENT STUDIES."

AND MEDICAL STUDENT, MIKAELLA NGO, ASKED ME TO: "PLEASE LET THE SOCIETY KNOW THAT I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SUPPORT - MY YEAR AT OXFORD WAS TRULY THE BEST OF MY LIFE SO FAR."

Comments like this make everything worthwhile.

Katie Schwarck
Vice Chair & Scholarship Secretary

Farewell To Palle

As we announced in our eNewsletter on 20th November 2025, our Vice Chairman, Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen, decided to step down at our AGM in May. He did so after some 20 years serving on the Council, first as an ex-Officio member representing the Danish YWCA and, in recent years after his retirement, as a full member, becoming Vice Chairman in 2023.

With his eye for quality photography, design and layout and interest in writing articles on the arts and culture, Palle was involved in the production of our popular bi-annual Newsletters, and in the earlier annual Scholarship Reports, for more than a decade before taking over as Editor in 2023. He also managed the previous A-DS website and looked after our social media presence, continually keeping our Facebook page full of articles of interest. He also organised many events over the years, most recently, the Members' Table Lunches at Restaurant L'Escargot in Soho and he has been part of many of our Society's special celebrations, including our Centenary Gala Dinner in 2024.

At this year's AGM and Ambassador's reception, Chairman Wayne Harber, expressed his gratitude to Palle on behalf of all our members. Palle also received a personal thank you from Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester KG GCVO.

Palle has given an extraordinary amount of his time and expertise to our Society for which we are truly grateful and which was recognised with his award of the very first Certificate of Merit in 2022. Volunteers who can give such support and commitment are rare and he leaves with our warmest best wishes. Naturally, Palle will remain a well-regarded member of our Society and we hope that we will see him at various events in the future.

The Council invited Palle for lunch at the Victory Services Club in London at the beginning of September as a thank you for his long service on the Council and his contribution to our Society. It was an excellent occasion enjoyed by everyone and a fitting way to show the Council's appreciation and say farewell.

Wayne Harber
Chairman

Lone Mohr Curtis
Honorary Secretary & Event Manager


PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY


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Our AGM & the Ambassador's Reception 2026

This year's AGM and Ambassador's reception took place on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at the Royal Danish Embassy. It turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable afternoon and evening where a good time was had by everyone. We had an exceptionally good turnout this year and we would like to express our thanks to all those members who attended both events and made them special.

After the AGM, we were welcomed to the Ambassador's Residence by HE Kristina Miskowiak Beckvard, who took up her post as Ambassador last summer. We were immensely grateful to her for hosting us as our Honorary President.

We were especially pleased to have Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester KG GCVO, the Protector of our Scholarship Programme, in attendance as our Guest of Honour this year, as we celebrated her 80th birthday (in June) as well as the 15th anniversary of her taking on the role of Protector of our Scholarship Programme.


PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY

Our AGM & the Ambassador's Reception 2026

The Duchess kindly took the time to speak to our scholars, members and other guests, including presenting this year's Certificate of Merit to Katie Schwarck, our Scholarship Secretary, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Society. Many congratulations to Katie.

The Duchess also joined everyone in congratulating our scholars on their achievements and their scholarship awards. This year we have awarded 6 scholarships to talented British and Danish post-graduate students in various fields of study and research.

Benedicte Adrian, who is the recipient of our Queen Alexandra Award for Excellence for 2026/2027, performed a beautiful piece for us.


PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY


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Our AGM & the Ambassador's Reception 2026

The Duchess was also presented with the CoScan Nordic Person of the Year Award by Nick Archer MVO, President of CoScan. He stated that the award recognises Her Royal Highness for her unstinting work as Protector of the Anglo-Danish Society's Scholarship Programme and as patron to a large range of other charitable organisations, with a strong focus on healthcare, music, education and disability support.

He went on to say that the award is also a heartfelt thank-you from CoScan's member societies across the British Isles (including our Society) who take a huge pride in Her Royal Highness's Danish origins and wish to express their admiration for the unique level of compassion she shows and her dedication to her role within the Royal Family.

In her acceptance speech after the presentation, the Duchess expressed her delight at being given the award.



PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY

Our AGM & the Ambassador's Reception 2026

In order to celebrate the Duchess's special birthday, there was singing in both English and Danish, three cheers, cake and champagne, flowers and, of course, a card.

Her Royal Highness also thanked our Vice Chairman, Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen, for his time on the Council after he decided to step down after serving for some 20 years.

In addition, we were pleased to be joined by one of our Honorary Members, Flora Montgomery, a few of our fellow Nordic Society representatives, CoScan representatives as well as some of our Scholars of course.


PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY


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Our AGM & the Ambassador's Reception 2026


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Building bridges across the North Sea: The Anglo-Danish Society Scholarship Programme

Since the first Anglo-Danish Society scholarship was granted in 1959, hundreds of postgraduate students have crossed the North Sea to study and research in the neighbouring country. Their disciplines have ranged from medicine and music to architecture, climate science, philosophy, politics and fine art. Together, they embody the Society's founding mission—to strengthen the relationship between the United Kingdom and Denmark through education and cultural exchange.

The first Anglo-Danish Society scholarship was made possible thanks to a gift from the Lord Inverforth Endowment Fund. The awardee was a Danish graduate who studied at Nottingham.

The Scholarship amounted to £250 which at that time enabled the recipient to study for a period of six to eight months. Annual support from the Lord Inverforth Endowment Fund continued until 1992, when the capital was transferred to the Society itself.

In 1995, the Royal Danish Embassy entrusted the Anglo-Danish Society with £140,000 from the Denmark Liberation Fund. This money came from fundraising in both the UK and Denmark to enable British veterans to attend the 50th anniversary of Denmark's liberation from German occupation. The Society used these funds to establish a trust supporting British postgraduate students studying in Denmark. The Denmark Liberation Fund ceased to exist in 2005, when according to the terms of the Fund, any money not allocated was donated to The British Legion Widows' Fund.



PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY

A life-changing opportunity

From 2000, the Society has benefitted from the generosity of the Ove Arup Foundation which sponsors an annual scholarship for postgraduate studies within the built environment.

Peter Sherwin, for example, a recipient of the Ove Arup award for the 2019-2020 academic year, studied for a two-year Nordic MSc in Cold Climate Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark. His studies took him to Greenland and Svalbard where he explored the challenges of sustainable development in Arctic communities.

The scholarships have also enabled musicians to flourish internationally and to perform for members of both the Danish and British royal family. Recent examples have included Mina Haghbin who graduated with a Masters in Performance, Violin, from the Royal College of Music, Emma Oemann, a classical singer who graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Benedicte Adrian who gave an outstanding cello performance at our recent AGM in May.

Other notable scholarship recipients have included:

MAGNUS PLEJDRUP MØLLER, WHO UNDERTOOK A MASTER'S IN ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING AT THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND BECAUSE NO EQUIVALENT SPECIALIST COURSE EXISTS IN DENMARK.

HELENA-CÉLINE STEVELT, WHOSE MPHIL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INVESTIGATED HOW BABIES' BRAINS DEVELOP DURING THE FIRST MONTHS OF LIFE, WORK THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.

BENJAMIN FISCHERMANN, WHOSE ENROLMENT AS A DOCUMENTARY DIRECTOR AT THE NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL IN THE UK, ENABLED HIM TO CRAFT TWO FILMS, ONE OF WHICH WAS AWARDED THE TITLE OF BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY AT THE BARNES FILM FESTIVAL IN LONDON.

The Society is also grateful to William Charnley whose support through the William Charnley Anglo-Danish Scholarship assists postgraduate students at Hughes Hall, Cambridge. Marcus Nuñez Seneca's Distinction for his MPhil within the field of Education, secured him the Godwin-Raffan price.

The list of past scholars illustrates the enormous range of subjects supported by the Society. We have helped to fund research into Brexit and national identity, quantum physics, neuroscience, immunology, fisheries ecology, robotics, philosophy, theology, climate change, nanoscience and medical research. We have even learned more about cardiovascular longevity disease thanks to Ewan Camplisson and his research into Greenland sharks.

Our scholarships are deliberately broad in scope. There are no restrictions on academic disciplines nor are there any restrictions on the university where the research is conducted provided applicants can demonstrate why studying in the other country offers a unique opportunity, contributes to Anglo-Danish cultural exchange or is of relevance to both Denmark and the UK.

Our scholarships testify not only to an investment in individual talent but also to the enduring links between Denmark and the UK. Long may they continue.

Katie Schwarck
Vice Chair & Scholarship Secretary
Chair of Scholarship Committee


PHOTO: GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHY

The Danish YWCA's Christmas Bazaar

The Danish YWCA in London warmly invites you once again to the traditional Danish Christmas Bazaar in **Hampstead on 28th November and 29th November 2026.**

At the Bazaar you'll find:
Traditional Danish Christmas goods and delicious food as well as a Christmas Lottery.

OPENING HOURS:
Saturday 28th November from 11am until 5pm
Sunday 29th November from 11am until 4pm.

ADDRESS:
43 Maresfield Gardens, NW3 5TF, London

ADMISSION:
£3 per person, pay on arrival (children under 6 go free).

You can pay with both card and cash at the stalls and in the restaurant.

Please note that there is limited parking available in the area, as all parking is on the street. On Saturdays there are parking restrictions until 1:30pm. During this time, you may only park in marked spaces (pay by phone). After 1:30pm on Saturdays and all day Sunday, parking is free.


PHOTO: DANISH YWCA

Events

GUIDED TOUR OF THE GUILDHALL ART GALLERY & LONDON'S ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE : FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA

WHEN: TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2026 AT 1PM.

WHERE: THE GUILDHALL ART GALLERY, GUILDHALL YARD, LONDON EC2V 5AE



PHOTO: GEORG EIERMANN ON UNSPLASH

Please join us for an interesting private guided tour of two gems in the City of London, i.e. the Guildhall Art Gallery & the Roman Amphitheatre.

Our guide will meet us at the Welcome Desk at the London Guildhall Art Gallery at 1pm and show us around the Gallery as well as the Amphitheatre while telling us about the history of the place and its importance. The tour will take approx. 1½ hours.

THE PRICE FOR THIS GUIDED TOUR IS £15 PER PERSON FOR MEMBERS AND £18 PER PERSON FOR NON-MEMBERS.

Afterwards we would like to suggest that we take afternoon tea at Fortnums at the Royal Exchange - only a short walk from the Guildhall. This is an optional extra and a standard, traditional afternoon tea is currently £45 per person (+ service charge).

Grateful if you could sign up via e-mail to events@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk by Tuesday 13th October 2026 and let us know whether you'd also like to join us for afternoon tea after the tour.

BOOKING EVENTS

Please check availability and book before making your payments. Further up-to-date information about events is also available at www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk and on Facebook.

PAYING FOR EVENTS

After your booking has been accepted, please arrange direct bank transfer payments to the Anglo-Danish Society's account - Bank: Natwest, Sort Code: 55-70-13, Account No.: 78325285

Please mark your payment with the name and date of the relevant event for easy identification.

For international payments:
IBAN: GB43 NWBK 5570 1378 3252 85
and SWIFT: NWBKGB2L

Bank fees to be paid by payer's account in order that the Anglo-Danish Society gets the full amount for the benefit of our Charity.

Membership News

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr & Mrs Lew & Barbara Cramer
Mr Gonzalo Alvarez
Mrs Jette Boysen
Mr Nicholas Wendland
Ms Monica Kemp
Mrs Sarah K. Pedersen & Mr Martin Seebach
Mr Robert White
Dr Anne Rigg
Mr Christian Sparr

DECEASED

We are very sorry to report the deaths of:

Mr John Taylor
Mr Søren Dyssegaard

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

Turner's visit to Copenhagen

If you were fortunate enough to visit the excellent John Constable & J.M.W. Turner Exhibition at Tate Britain recently, you may have been pleasantly surprised to discover that England's greatest landscape painter made some delightful sketches while in Copenhagen in 1835, aged 60!

Born in 1775 in London's Covent Garden - the son of a barber - Turner not only travelled extensively in England, Wales and Scotland, but after the end of the Napoleonic wars he was among the first to cross the Channel to Europe. He mostly visited France, Switzerland, Germany and Italy - "On the Wing" - as he described his extraordinary twenty or so trips - culminating in his brilliant paintings of Venice. By comparison, his almost exact and great contemporary, John Constable (born in Suffolk) never ventured further south than Brighton.

From these - often hazardous - journeys Turner would fill hundreds of small sketchbooks with rapid drawings which are all in Tate Britain's Clore Gallery, which houses Turner's works that he bequeathed to the nation on his death in 1851.

Turner's visit to Denmark seems to have been a brief detour of a visit to Germany as the drawings are in two small sketchbooks entitled "Hamburg to Copenhagen" and "Copenhagen to Dresden", 1835. They are mostly of churches, towers, palaces, and the famous tower of the Stock Exchange. Turner was obviously attracted to the many steeples in Copenhagen.

In 2004-2005 there was a major exhibition entitled "Turner and Romantic Nature" at Copenhagen's National Gallery of Denmark, which featured Europe's greatest landscape painters. The late Kasper Monrad, Chief Curator, wrote in the Catalogue: "In early September 1835 Turner arrived in Copenhagen and spent a few days wandering the streets of the city, diligently drawing sketches of buildings. He also visited Kongens Nytorv and sketched the Charlottenborg Mansion which housed the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts."

There is a sketch of Amalienborg and the delightful sketch of the North East side of Kongens Nytorv, with the equestrian statue of King Christian V of Denmark, was apparently done from one of the top floors of the Hotel d'Angleterre!

Sadly, J.M.W. Turner didn't produce any known paintings from his visit to Denmark.

Jane Vaughan, née Knudtzon
A-DS member



From Hamburg and Copenhagen Sketchbook [Finberg CCCV], Group of People Seen in Hamburg; Copenhagen: The North-East Side of Kongens Nytorv from an Upper Storey of the Hôtel d'Angleterre, with the Equestrian Statue of Christian V in the Foreground; The Giethuset and King's Theatre (in Sky Above), 1835, Joseph Mallord William Turner. Tate, accepted by the nation as part of the Turner Bequest 1856. Photo: Tate. Photo reversed to focus on Kongens Nytorv.

FOR OVER 100 YEARS



We've been having fun

Developing understanding and friendship between Britain and Denmark through social and cultural events since 1924.

On the cheap

Entirely run by unpaid volunteers and with a low membership fee.

While doing something useful

Investing in our youth since 1959 with a charitable Scholarship Programme for British and Danish postgraduate students.

Join us now @ www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk/join-us/

ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY EST 1924