



Oxford and Cambridge Society of the Netherlands Newsletter – Winter 2018

Dear friends and fellow alumni,

Another great year to look back on, and my last as President of the Society. It is time for me to step back and give the reins to our younger (in heart if not in body) and active committee. To that end, two new members have volunteered to strengthen the core team, Emma Brown and Sam Lawley, and Peter Lewinski will take our social media under his capable hands. I shall remain nearby for support and guidance as needed, but my life is taking a different path because of Brexit, so it is time for change. The Society grew again, with new members being added throughout the year, and held a range of familiar events and new initiatives like the member's workshops.

Next year we hope that our members will continue to provide ideas for events, contributions to events like Candlemas (coming up soon on Feb. 2nd) and support for internships and expanding our name recognition and membership. Not only do we exist for our members, we have great potential that is only starting to be tapped. Since the Boat Race next year (Apr. 7th for your calendars) is/are early, we shall have time for a longer AGM before the dinner to talk about what we would like (or don't like) about the Society and suggestions for the future. Help us shape the Society together! We look forward to a good turnout.

As usual, by means of this newsletter we wish to review last year's events. We hope this newsletter finds you well both professionally and personally. In addition to this newsletter, we invite you to learn more about our Society by visiting our website <http://www.oxbridge-nl.com> as well as our dedicated Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Oxford-and-Cambridge-Society-of-The-Netherlands-228320630642223/> and LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4658750>.

The Oxford and Cambridge Society of the Netherlands aims to provide you, regardless of your college or subject affiliations, with a network of people, events and news to help keep you in touch with other Oxford and Cambridge alumni here in the Netherlands. If you have any suggestions or requests for the future, we'd love to hear from you.

If you are not yet a member but would like to join, you can [download the membership form here](#) (the <http://www.oxbridge-nl.com> "Join" page) and return the filled-in form to Matthias Schmidt via secretary@oxbridge-nl.com. Please "like" us on Facebook. And have you joined our LinkedIn group yet? For more information, contact Johannes Hohlbein via j.hohlbein@gmail.com.

Alison Fisher (President 2016-2018, Secretary 2006-2016)

2018 in reverse

Xmas Dinner at V Hotel

On December 15th, members of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of the Netherlands attended a Christmas dinner organised by the Harvard Club at the V Hotel in Amsterdam. After pre-dinner drinks in the bar, we were treated to a three-course meal in the hotel's contemporary restaurant, "The Lobby." There was a warm and friendly atmosphere and it was lovely to see both familiar and new people present.

Day of the Dead Celebration - joint alumni event

On Nov. 3rd, intrepid people wended their way through the darkening afternoon (perfect atmosphere) to meet up in Terragon at the edge of Amsterdam for a Day of the Dead celebration, a Mexican tradition that invites the loved ones who passed away to become part of the festivities. We enjoyed the food, good company and the bonfire.



Annual Dinner at Zeist

The Annual Dinner was held at Slot Zeist on October 12th, with over 50 participants, some of whom are from our sister alumni societies. The excellent 3-course dinner was served in the elegant dining room, where we were seated at large round tables. Our speaker, the British ambassador Peter Wilson, gave a very entertaining talk, followed by Q&A.

Uber tour

A joint alumni event held on 21st Sept, this tour of Uber revealed some of the secrets of the Amsterdam business environment with booming companies housed in communal buildings full of young people aiming to change the world. An atmosphere of hope and inspiration was palpable. The tour was limited to 15 people and quickly filled up, so there is clearly interest in such ventures. We saw everything from the lobby to the rooftop terrace, and finished with a drink in their own bar.



Admissions Fair

On Sept. 15th, the annual admissions fair was held at the Barlaeus Gymnasium in Amsterdam. With well over 200 attendees and an inspiring talk from the Oxford admissions officer, we hope that even more students will try applying to the universities.

Pottery and wine-tasting event

On Sunday, September 16, 2018, the Oxford and Cambridge Society of the Netherlands hosted a pottery and wine-tasting event in The Hague. One of our members, Sam Lawley, is an experienced potter and demonstrated several pottery wheel techniques at his studio, before the event participants were invited to try for themselves. In addition, to make sure all creative juices were flowing properly, the group was able to try out a selection of natural and organic wines, as part of a collaboration with the wine shop Vino Vero. By

the end of the event, all participants were suitably muddy and, in due course, several were later able to take away their glazed and fired pots.

Freshers' Parties

In September, prospective students at the University of Cambridge were welcomed at the home of Huib Gerrits where they were met to discuss their upcoming adventure as students at the University, and prospective students at the University of Oxford gathered at a home in Amsterdam. This has become a great tradition where former attendees of the party have returned to act as speakers for the new generation of students.

Prinsengrachtconcert - joint alumni event

On August 18th, we gathered at our rented boat, which was much easier to reach than last year because it had failed to get into the waiting area around the stage, despite having a ticket. So instead, we unpacked the delicious goodies and opened the bottles, and departed for a tour of the canals. Near the time of the concert we returned to a location nearby and could hear some of it, and we managed to get away without having to wait in the traffic jam. All in all, a delightful evening despite the disappointment, and one we hope to repeat.

Annual Barbecue, Leiden

On 23 June, over 20 members of the Society gathered in Leiden for our Midsummer Barbecue. The event was kindly hosted by Catharine Stip, with culinary support being provided also by Victoria Twist. As members also brought their children, partners and friends, there was perhaps one of the widest age ranges for a Society event yet: from just a few months' old to over 70 years' young.

Royal Archive Tour

On 24th May members toured the Royal Collections of the Netherlands in the Hague including the archives of the House of Orange-Nassau. As well as the personal papers of individual members of the houses of Nassau and Orange-Nassau, these include archives of royal estates and former estates in the Netherlands and overseas, those of the Royal Household and some third-party archives.



Boat Race Dinner and Annual General Meeting, Heemstede

On March 24th, many members met to watch the 164th Boat Race, for the second time at our excellent new venue, the Boat House of the Royal Dutch Rowing and Sailing Association in Heemstede, located on the Spaarne river. First raced in 1829, the Race is one of the oldest sporting events in the world. This year, Cambridge won both the men's race and the women's race, their first clean sweep since 1997. The AGM took place between the races, and a tasty three-course dinner was served afterwards.

Candlemas Evening, Leiden

This year we returned to our traditional venue at Emile van Leenen Pianos in Leiden for our February 3rd Candlemas evening. Guests were welcomed with a glass of Glühwein and circulated among the pianos before climbing the steep stairs to the small concert hall at the top of the warehouse. The programme was, as usual, a potpourri of musical, literary and other items contributed by the members themselves.

John MacFarlane continued his tradition of entertaining us at Candlemas, not only by accompanying on the piano. He had also made us an entertaining quiz.

Peter Loader, accompanied by John, impressed us with his countertenor.

Interesting anecdotes and stories were told by Rachel Van der Wilden, Emma Brown, Jacques Zonneveld, and Paul Mercken. These, along with other contributions and an informal buffet supper, helped to make the evening truly delightful.



Upcoming events in 2019

Feb. 2nd – Candlemas, Leiden

Apr. 7th – AGM & Boat Race dinner

That just leaves us to wish you all a most prosperous and successful 2019!

From the Committee of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of the Netherlands.

