

# THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

[www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](http://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk)

Reg. Charity No 313202



Photo: MARIE MØLLER

## THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II

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HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, GCVO

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HE René Dinesen, R1, Danish Ambassador

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Wayne Harber, OBE, K  
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### Membership Subscriptions

Single membership £25  
Family membership £40  
Corporate membership £200

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The Anglo-Danish Society is a member of  
COSCAN (The Confederation of  
Scandinavian Societies)  
Www.coscan.org.uk

# Dear Members & Friends

At this time of year, we look back on what has been as well as looking forward to the coming months. There have been plenty of ups and downs and there is no doubt that the year has been saddened by the passing of good friends in the Society. But the death of our Patron, Her Majesty the Late Queen Elizabeth, was the hardest of all to bear. She was a constant in our lives and will be greatly missed. At the time of writing, we do not yet know if His Majesty The King will kindly agree to be our new Patron.

On the Council, a number of members have left. In particular, I should mention Bette Petersen Broyd. She was a first class Honorary Secretary and gave outstanding support to the Society, organising things efficiently and maintaining a positive momentum for the benefit of members. Although we have been struggling to find replacements, I am pleased to say that some volunteers have heeded the call to assist on the Council and have come forward. But we need more and we are planning to meet up with potential new members in February at Drapers' Hall, so please get in touch if you are interested in helping us run the Society.

The few remaining members of the Council continue to work hard for the Society and have taken on extra tasks in order to produce the Newsletter and arrange future events. On events, we have enjoyed another varied and interesting programme over the past year. Although we were unlucky that the planned Jubilee Garden Party had to be cancelled due to problems with building works at Drapers' Hall and we were not able to celebrate together, HM Queen Margrethe did visit the UK and some members were able to see her at other events.

We also welcome our new Honorary President, the Danish Ambassador, René Dinesen and his wife Camilla and look forward to seeing them at future events. The Ambassador has kindly agreed to continue holding an annual reception in his residence after the AGM in May.

I have provided an update on the Memorial to Fallen Danes in the Newsletter. The project has been a marvellous example of positive collaboration between our Anglo-Danish groups. And the generosity of members of our community, both individuals and organisations, never ceases to impress me as the fundraising appeal has been met in full, which is wonderful.

Congratulations also go to Dorte Bille Harding, a member and previously the Chair of the Danish Church Council, who has been made a Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog for her impressive work on the Church renovation project. The award was made by the Ambassador at a ceremony in his Residence at the Embassy.

Finally, I want to thank Members for their continuing support and to wish you all a safe and prosperous 2023. I look forward to seeing you at future events in the coming year.

Wayne Harber  
Chairman



# In Memoriam

Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, took over her Patronage of the Anglo-Danish Society from her father after his death and we were honoured to have her as one of our two Royal Patrons for 70 years. She played a significant role as a figure-head for our Society and we celebrated her milestones as a Society. In 2002 when she celebrated her Golden Jubilee, a large-scale event was organised at St James's Palace for many of Her Late Majesty's Patronages, including our Society. Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen, who has been on the Council for many years, remembers being at the event and enjoying the honour of speaking to Her Late Majesty.

In 2016 when Queen Elizabeth turned 90, a number of members of our Society participated in the Patron's Lunch – a Picnic on the Mall together with thousands of others. Lisbeth Ehlers, former Honorary Secretary, remembers it as a very special and enjoyable day despite some rain. The weather cleared up shortly before Her Late Majesty and other members of the Royal Family went out on to the Mall to greet the well-wishers. And apparently the picnics were delicious!

In 2022, we were planning to celebrate and commemorate Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee as well as our other Royal Patron, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark's Golden Jubilee, at a garden party at Drapers' Hall. Although we had to cancel the event due to unforeseen circumstances at the venue, the event would have been cancelled anyway as it had been planned for the middle of September which would have coincided with Queen Elizabeth's death.

Although we were not able to celebrate the Jubilees, Bette Pedersen Broyd, former Honorary Secretary, was able to attend the Party at the Palace, a huge concert in front of Buckingham Palace in celebration of Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Tickets were donated by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, the Protector of the Scholarship Programme and Bette reported on attending the event in the last Newsletter.

The Danish and British Royal families have always had a close bond. Their close ties have been nurtured on many occasions from the then Princess Elizabeth's wedding to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1947 where Their Majesties of Denmark, King Frederik IX and Queen Ingrid, were in attendance, as well as during their subsequent state visit in 1951 (during His Majesty King George VI's reign) to further state visits in both countries.

In 1957 Her Late Majesty went on her first state visit to Denmark; in 1974 Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of



Denmark undertook a state visit to the UK; in 1979 Her Late Majesty's second state visit to Denmark took place and in 2000 Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark's second state visit to the UK took place as well. In 2012 the then Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall also visited Denmark to mark Her Late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

Until recent times, whenever Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark went to London, Her Late Majesty would invite her for lunch and a catch-up. Naturally, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark accompanied by HRH Crown Prince Frederik also attended Her Late Majesty's funeral service to say their farewells.

Given the closeness between our two countries and our Royal families, we hope to continue our connection with His Majesty King Charles III.

God Save the King.

Wayne Harber and Lone Mohr Curtis

# Operation London Bridge



“You should be in post by 5am”. And with that the streets of Westminster were filled with blurry eyed civil servants, military, police, delivery drivers walking through pre-dawn streets lined with people over-nighting ahead of Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral.

How was a Dane walking with these people? By replying yes to an email asking for volunteers for Operation London Bridge years before. As my day job I work for



the British civil service communicating the issues of the day from the Ukraine, Covid to climate change. It is an organisation which prides itself on representing the people it serves, so as a Dane I am one of the nationalities employed from across the world.

The funeral day marked the end of an era for a nation, everyone coming to terms with speaking of the King and years of planning and 10 days of intense work. From a note being handed to the Prime Minister in the Commons, quietly, slightly shocked ‘Bridges’ volunteers started to huddle, finalising the pre-prepared statements, rotas and waiting with sadness for the anticipated announcement.

On the morning of the funeral my role was to look after the group of world photographers at Horseguards Parade. I had been lucky enough to be given a front row seat on history.



It was an amazing experience where everyone knew their role. The tractor drivers watering the parade ground preventing dust when the canons, horses and military would march across this perfectly raked parade ground later. The officers and sergeants constantly checking the uniforms of the young men and women, whilst showing a touching duty of care. The crowds chatting, meeting strangers from all over the world, people they had served with or friends they had not seen for years, whilst keeping up morale cheering as troops and police marched into position. Then the silence of the crowds as the funeral was broadcast across a sun soaked central London.

A silence only broken by the drumbeat of hundreds of troops being moved into place for the moment when the funeral cortege would start its journey to Windsor. Everything perfectly timed, done with immense pride and a moment that it was a genuine privilege to be a part of.

Marie Møller



# Operation London Bridge



All Photos: MARIE MÖLLER



# Past and future Scholarships



Photo: SOPHIE DAVIDSON

**“Denise Rose Hansen, PhD student, UCL, London. Entitled *Minor Happenings: The 1960s British Art Novel*, Denise’s thesis suggests that the emergence of a myriad of new art forms and movements in the 1960s had seismic effects not just within the world of art but also for a group of loosely connected British writers.”**

If you have been following the Anglo-Danish Society’s Scholarship awards over the past many years, you will know that we have helped to fund a wealth of research projects in a wide diversity of fields at British and Danish universities. We hope to continue to do so over the coming years and to attract applications from students who are looking to broaden their cross-cultural awareness while taking a deep dive into their chosen subject.

The years lost to Covid proved particularly challenging for some, but for PhD candidate Simon Koplev, whose area of study is cancer research, he used the time for introspection and 'sustained focus'. Indeed, taking Isaac Newton as his role model, who had two productive years in exile from Cambridge during the Great Plague of 1665-1666, Simon was able to make progress

in his efforts to establish his own independent laboratory and publish some of his research findings in five prestigious journals.

## MIND AND MATTER

For Signe Marie Thøgersen, an MPhil student in Textile Conservation at Glasgow University, her studies involved the conservation of a child’s romper suit, a 17th century lady’s evening bag and a panel of Arts & Crafts’ silk embroidery – all objects in need of scientific analysis, chemical treatment and manual stitching to preserve their respective stories. Signe’s MPhil, therefore, enabled her to contribute to the preservation of our cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, i.e. the skills required to produce the textiles and knowledge of the historical context in which they were used.

By complete contrast, PhD candidate, Tinne Amalie Damgaard Nissen, examined Neuro-Immune Interactions in Health & Disease at King’s College in London. Tinne explains: “For many years it was believed that humans were born with a fixed number of brain cells, so-called neurons. However, in recent years researchers have discovered that throughout our life we keep generating new neurons.

“Adult neurogenesis is critical for memory formation and mood regulation and is shut down in many diseases, such as Alzheimer’s and depression. My PhD project investigates how inflammation affects the ability of



Photo: Courtesy of Dumfries Museum and camera obscura

**“Signe Marie Thøgersen at work on textile conservation”**



# Past and future Scholarships

brain stem cells to generate new neurons. We hypothesise that inflammation can be a common mechanism in these diseases, negatively affecting neurogenesis, which can potentially explain some of the symptoms such as memory loss and dysregulated mood. Therefore, this thrilling avenue of research has implications for an enormous patient group that currently has limited therapeutic opportunities.”

Simon, Tinne and Signe are all extremely grateful for the support they received from the Anglo-Danish Society – as are our other scholarship candidates. In turn, we are deeply indebted to the Ove Arup Foundation and to William Charnley for continuing to support

the scholarship fund.

## NEW APPLICATIONS

The closing date for the coming academic year's applications is March 1. Full details and application forms can be found at our website

<https://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk/>

You are welcome to contact Katie Schwarck at [Katie@schwarck.co.uk](mailto:Katie@schwarck.co.uk) if you have any questions.

Katie Schwarck  
Hon. Scholarship Secretary

# They shall never be forgotten



In the Spring 2022 edition of the Newsletter we mentioned that the Danish community in London were coming together to erect a memorial in remembrance of the Danes who have fallen in the service of their country.

## THE MEMORIAL

To celebrate their lives and their memory, and to commemorate both civilians and military service personnel, The Anglo-Danish Society, The Danish Church in London, The Danish Royal Guards Association, and the Danish-UK Association will together erect a memorial in the grounds of the Danish Church in London. The memorial is a stone, approximately 1.5 meters tall and made from granite. The stone will be erected in the garden of the Danish Church in London at a cost of approximately £12,500.

The project has taken longer than expected, mainly due to finding the right piece of stone for the memorial. Nevertheless, through the generosity of individuals and organisations the necessary funding has been raised and the memorial is planned to be installed by April next year.

The memorial will be unveiled on Sunday 7th May 2023, close to Denmark's Liberation Day, with a Church service, and it is intended that this will become an annual event.

Please reserve the date and further details will be forthcoming nearer the time.

Wayne Harber



# Danish Fair 2023

This year's Danish Fair will take place in the Danish Church on **SATURDAY 20TH MAY FROM 11AM TILL 5PM** and is one of the main fundraising events for the church.

There will be stalls selling Danish design, crafts, embroidery, books, antiques, pastries and grocery goods. In the gardens you will find the restaurant selling open faced sandwiches, salads, and layercake. The famous Danish hot dogs and 'frikadeller' will be sold from street stalls.

Everyone is welcome to visit and enjoy the joys of the best of Denmark.

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



Photo: IBEN LA COUR

# Sombre commemorations at Windsor

On Thursday, 8 September 2022 when my husband and I heard that the entire Royal family were on their way up to Balmoral, we knew that unfortunately it would only be a question of time before we would hear about the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. And sadly, she already died at mid-afternoon before her entire family had even arrived. The whole nation was in shock and it felt as if we had all lost our mother or grandmother.

That evening, we went into Windsor in order to pay our respects and commemorate Her Late Majesty, although she was obviously still at Balmoral. We stood outside Henry VIII Gate at Windsor Castle for a bit while chatting to others before walking over to Cambridge Gate where people had already begun laying floral tributes with messages, Paddington Bears etc. The atmosphere was sombre and you could sense that everybody was processing the sad news, thinking about the Queen and her family as well as all the happy memories from almost a century.

On the Saturday we went back to the Long Walk with some flowers and at that point there were tons of flowers, teddy bears, children's paintings, flags and so on. Everyone was respectful and just wanted to pay their respects and commemorate an amazing person, who meant an awful lot to most people. We were all wondering what life would be like without her, as many of us had not known any other Monarch.

Naturally, elaborate floral tributes were also laid out at Buckingham Palace and Green Park as well as at Her Late Majesty's other residences.

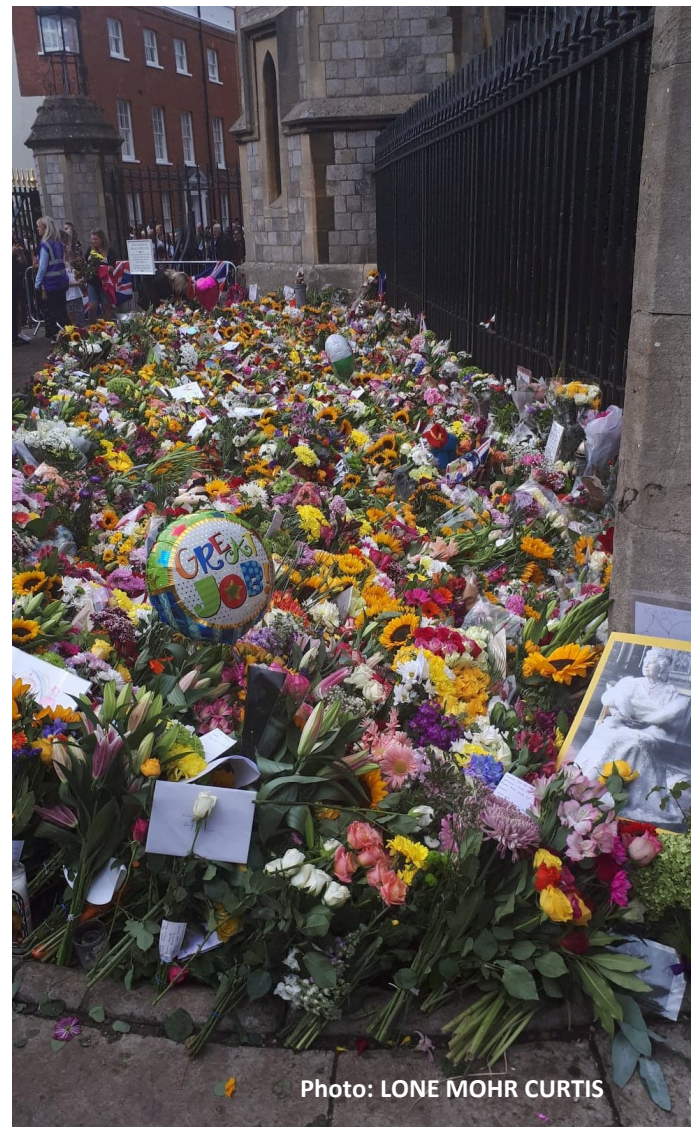


Photo: LONE MOHR CURTIS



# Christmas Lunch 2022

Exactly one month before Christmas on November 24th a large group of members met in The Danish Church for the annual Christmas Lunch. The event started in the church with carol singing and lessons read by Pastor Flemming Kloster Poulsen.

A traditional Danish lunch was served at festively laid tables and the menu included herrings, gravad lax, prawns, plaice fillets, duck, roast pork, liver paté, cheese and rice pudding. And the food was of course accompanied by Akvavit and Tuborg Xmas Beer.



All Photos: PALLE BAGGESGAARD PEDERSEN



# New Honorary President

We extend a warm welcome to our new Honorary President, The Danish Ambassador to the Court of St James's in the UK, His Excellency René Rosager Dinesen.

René Dinesen took up the appointment as Ambassador on 1 September 2022. He is an experienced diplomat with a strong background in international affairs. He has held a number of management positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen and has also travelled with diplomatic appointments in Romania and United Nations in New York as well as ambassadorial postings in Afghanistan, South Africa and Austria. In Vienna he was also Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations and to the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Ambassador to Slovakia, Albania, Kosovo. René Dinesen was previously also the first CEO and Executive Director of the KR Foundation, Copenhagen, a new philanthropic foundation working internationally on climate change and sustainability.

He has a BA and MA in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Copenhagen. René is married to Camilla Follin Dinesen and they have two daughters.

He has been very busy since he arrived, which seems to be normal for our new Ambassadors! Ambassador Dinesen says:

“Oh yes, the last three months have been full of important activities.

In the first three months, we had two visits of HM the Queen, a visit of HRH the Crown Prince, a visit by HRH the Crown Princess, a bilateral visit of the Danish Prime Minister as well as numerous business delegations. At the same time, I was fortunate to be able to visit Scotland and Northern Ireland – as well as numerous cities in England. The state funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth II was a particularly moving experience. Both in terms of the sheer extent of the event and the huge importance of the late Queen to the British people and the rest of the World.

For a Danish Diplomat it is certainly a very particular privilege to be appointed ambassador to the Court of St James's. The relations between our two countries are so diverse, so intense, and so close. I meet nothing but open doors and interest in working closer together on everything from defence, energy, life-science, tech, food and agriculture, shipping, and culture.

One of my more pleasant and interesting appointments is of course Honorary President of the Anglo-Danish Society. I am looking forward to meeting members as well as engaging with the Anglo-Danish community.





# HM Queen Margrethe : The Danish Church



Photo: Anne-Grethe Jensen

**“Sebastian Nedregaard presents flowers to HM Queen Margrethe on arrival to The Danish Church”.**

## **HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II'S VISIT TO THE DANISH CHURCH IN LONDON**

The Second Sunday of Advent, the 4th of December 2022, became an important day in the history of the Danish Church because Her Majesty paid the Church a visit.

Her Majesty took part in our special service in celebration of her Golden Jubilee and this was also the Queen's first opportunity to see the chasuble in use, which she very kindly designed, embroidered and gifted to the Church two years ago.

The Church was full to the brim and yet many people had to go back home instead of joining us for the service, as there were simply no spaces left. In addition, 60 people joined us via Zoom.

It was a special moment when Her Majesty was escorted to her seat by Bette Petersen Broyd, the Chair of the Church Council, who had spent a lot of time planning this visit.

For me personally, it was an enormous honour to see the Queen taking part in our service and not least to be wearing the chasuble she gifted to the Church.



Photo: Michael Harrit

It was also moving to hear the beautiful singing of psalms by a full church. The church choir and the organist also sang and played exceedingly well, for instance, in the motet where Emilie Bokor Ingram played the violin.

After the service, the Queen had a look at the Church Hall where she met the manager and manageress of the church before heading over to the vicarage. On her way over, she also saw the new layout of the patio area and the garden.

In the kitchen of the vicarage, the Queen enjoyed a glass of champagne while she met with small groups of members of the Church Council, our staff, our organist and choristers, the managers of our language schools as well as a few others, who have provided substantial financial backing to the Church.



Photo: Michael Harrit



# HM Queen Margrethe : The Danish Church



Photo: Michael Harrit

It was very special for my wife, Hanna, and I to have the Queen visiting our kitchen. Her Majesty sat in Hanna's parents' beautiful, old desk chair and listened intently to the many different stories about the life and people at our church.

It all went very quickly and pretty much precisely two hours after the Queen's arrival at the Church, she headed off again.

The Queen appeared to be happy and comfortable throughout her visit, as she smiled a lot, and as for the rest of us, it was a huge pleasure and honour to have her visiting our Church.

Flemming Kloster Poulsen,  
Pastor at the Danish Church in London



Photo: Michael Harrit



Photo: Michael Harrit



Photo: Michael Harrit



# Membership News

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Mrs Hanne Akester, Richmond  
Mr Matthew Holden, Hartford  
Ms Suzanne Schiller-Yeh, London  
Mr Jens Vexo, London  
Mr Brent Smith, Hitchin  
Ms Lisbeth Pedersen, Cobham

## DECEASED

We are very sorry to report the deaths of:

Mrs Corinne Fisher  
Mrs Robin Hambro  
Mr P. R. C. Davis, OBE (Vice Chairman)

May they all rest in peace.

## Artist : Erik A. Frandsen

In August 2022 an art installation by the renowned Danish artist, Erik A. Frandsen, was added to the permanent collection at The Møller Institute at Churchill College, University of Cambridge.

Erik A. Frandsen has exhibited widely abroad and in major museums in Denmark such as Aros, New Carlsberg Glyptotek and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art. His art is also part of the collection at the royal palace, Amalienborg, in Copenhagen. The eight Scagliola globes which have been installed at The Møller Institute is Erik A. Frandsen's first major commission in the UK.

The Møller Institute has works of art by some of the most esteemed modern artists, such as Albert Irvin RA but also works by emerging artists such as Ragna Mouritzen who won the Danish Embassy Art Prize in 2014.

Barry Phipps, Director of Visual Art and Fellow of Churchill College: "By placing art in the working environment, the Institute has become an innovative way to showcase values as well as to support culture."

<https://erikafrandsen.dk/>



# Tracing the steps of Arne Jacobsen

As Arne Jacobsen's grandson, Tobias Jacobsen grew up surrounded by the globally acclaimed architect's designs. Here he describes how a discovery of fabric and pattern designs helped him understand his grandfather's artistic sensibilities, love of nature and organic form universe.

## Childhood

I grew up surrounded by my grandfather's design; more as unconscious sensory impressions than as something I really thought about. I remember leaning back on and toppling the three-legged Ant chair, and I remember how tricky it was to handle our knives and forks – the AJ cutlery. I remember losing myself for hours in my grandfather's watercolours. To me, they were simply pictures on the wall. I clearly recall a picture of an Italian village square with a small café and a tower ruin with a clock where I could see all the pencil lines that he used to get the clock and the hands into the correct perspective. There are many people milling about, and power lines are strung between the buildings. The pictures fuelled my imagination, inspiring big stories about the city, its people and secret rooms and dungeons.



All Photos: PALLE BAGGESGAARD PEDERSEN

We lived in one of my grandfather's houses, the Kube-flex. A system of room-sized elements for holiday cottages, designed for the standard-house manufacturer N. S. Høm in 1969–70. Kube-flex was never put into production, but we lived in the show house near the beach in a summer cottage area in southern Zealand. A

stringent, cubist house that was flooded with daylight. It stood out among the other 'cigar-box' cottages in the areas, and the locals called it 'the public toilet' because the wall panels toward the road were windowless and made the house look uninhabited. On the garden side, however, there were lots of windows and light.

## A Home of Cubes and Colours

The interior design was minimalistic. There was virtually never any mess, because we simply did not have room for it. A sense of order permeated our home and the way we lived. There were lots of colours in the house – green, red, white and yellow surfaces. The Vola bathroom fittings were orange. The house was full of chalk drawings my grandfather had done, for example a scene depicting a Swedish cottage with mountains and a fiord that I dreamt of rowing out on. My mother had got hold of some of grandfather's fabrics, produced in Sweden, with red and green leaves. She used the fabric to sew both curtains and covers for our seat cushions.

That was my childhood home, with all his watercolours, fabrics and colours. When my friends visited, they thought our home was very different. They struggled to use the cutlery and tipped over on the three-legged chairs. They thought it was odd that our home looked the way it did. We definitely stood out in the small town where we lived – but we never spoke about grandfather. During the 1970s he was extremely famous—not to say world famous. We learned, from an early time, to keep a low profile to avoid giving the wrong impression. It was an atypical childhood, a balancing act, to live so differently without discussing why.

For me, the major shift in perspective occurs when I begin my apprenticeship as a goldsmith at 20 years of age. Gradually, I come to realize what a great and amazing man my grandfather is, and what he has accomplished. His design and architecture become a direct inspiration, and some of my jewellery designs look like tiny modular buildings. Overall, the expression and names of my small creations bear clear references to architecture, for example 'Sydney' and 'Towers of Siena', the latter referencing the tower in my grandfather's watercolour that I looked at as a child.

## THE ATTIC

### Going to Sweden in a Rowing Boat

To understand my grandfather, you have to delve into the box in the attic with the patterns from Sweden. At some point as a young adult, I go into the attic in my parents' house. Here I find cardboard boxes full of fabrics and pattern designs. Created during grandfather's stay in Sweden where he sought refuge during the



# Tracing the steps of Arne Jacobsen

Second World War. In 1943, as a Danish citizen of Jewish descent, he had to leave for Sweden, fleeing across the Øresund strait in a rowing boat. Also on the boat were his new wife, Jonna, and his good friend Poul Henningsen, a well-known Danish designer and social critic. Another good friend, the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, helped the Jacobsens find a flat in Stockholm. In his exile, my grandfather began to paint watercolours and patterns, working on an easel, the same way he had painted the pictures I saw on the wall as a child. Designing patterns on an easel is a technically demanding task requiring a steady hand and a systematic approach where the canvas is divided into a grid. Due to the war-time austerity, people were wearing second-hand clothes, and the dominating colour scheme was black and brown. In contrast to this drab backdrop, his fabrics are extremely colourful, floral and organic, a far cry from the functionalist architecture he was known for at the time.

## 'If I Get a Second Life, I Want to be a Gardener'

The fabrics in the cardboard box were a surprising discovery for me. They were nothing like my grandfather. And then again ... His use of light and the organic shapes from nature are at the core of all his works. He was a passionate horticulturist and is quoted as saying, 'If I get a second life, I want to be a gardener'. His sketches of flowers and leaves do not conjure up some fantasy universe but are correct botanical reproductions, complete with Latin names added in pencil in his neat hand. He was an important landscape architect.



Many of his architectural projects include a garden. The best known is probably the garden he created for his own terraced house in the Søholm development in Klampenborg (1951) on the coast north of Copenhagen. Covering just 300 square metres, it has an almost labyrinthine distribution of open spaces and passages and contains 300 different species of plants. But he also created gardens in more unusual settings. For example, my grandfather included a Japanese-style atrium garden in his design of Danmarks Nationalbank (1971). The garden complements the stringent, almost

fortress-like building, which does not simply appear as a solid cube but has light-and-shadow effects throughout the building that give rise to an almost transparent expression. When he designed St. Catherine's College in Oxford (1960–63), he was almost more preoccupied with the design of the park than of the building itself.

## Playing with Light

The box in the attic contained qualities I never previously associated with my grandfather: sensuous tactility, lush natural forms and light. In the many patterns he plays with light and seeks to depict reflections in water and the way tiny water creatures stand out as bright flashes of light. Perhaps inspired by the hours he spent in the rowing boat on Øresund on a starry night, constantly worrying about being caught due to the large amounts of phosphorescence swirling around the boat in the dark water.

In creating these botanical watercolours, which he painted on location, in nature, he spends a long time working out the shadows and giving them the exact shape he wanted, precisely as if he had been working on a design or an architectural project. He does not simply draw things but seeks to reproduce the surrounding space.

## WORK

### The Most Beautiful Pattern in the World

The fabrics in the attic and the watercolours were created by a gifted artist. Working with surfaces and depths and the colours of nature comes naturally to my grandfather. The earthy organic colour palette is quite evident in his fabrics and wallpapers but also in his buildings. Take the SAS Hotel in Copenhagen (now the Radisson Collection Royal Hotel), where the interior orchid garden, illuminated by skylights, uses hanging orchids as room dividers. And where the delicate glazing bars in the facade imbue the building with daylight, textural qualities and transparency, bringing out the beautiful green colour of the building itself and the stunning pattern formed by the tiny shadows and vertical lines. Some called it 'the punchcard', comparing its appearance to the cards used for data input in early digital computers, and he actually did not mind the nickname. Take a look at the building; it has the most beautiful pattern in the world.

## An Artist's Palette

My grandfather had an artist's sensibilities and began drawing from a young age. I have seen drawings he made when he was 12 years old: vivid representations of a residential neighbourhood at winter time, perfectly correct in its representation of architecture and perspective and with naked, bone-like trees. It is quite



# Tracing the steps of Arne Jacobsen

apparent that he wants to be an artist, but his parents were convinced that architecture was a better choice, and so that was the path he took.

The watercolours and pattern designs give my grandfather an outlet for his artistic talents. His grasp of reflections, colours and the interplay of light and shadow gives his fabrics a vivid, textural, almost three-dimensional feel with a sense of depth and perspective. His total environmental designs, such as the Bellevue Theatre (1935), the SAS Hotel (1956–61) and St. Catherine's College (1960–63), clearly reflect his desire to bring light, shadow and textures together in a harmonious architectural expression. I think that grasp stems from his artistic sensibilities and his painter's hand.

Many are convinced that Arne Jacobsen preferred white walls. However, his own terraced house in the Søholm development is full of experiments with the effects of coloured walls. Personally, I have always seen my grandfather's colour palette as earthy notes of green, grey, red and blue – both in furniture and on walls. This view is expanded when I see the colour palette for the Munkegaard School in Gentofte (1957) and Rødovre Main Library (1961–69). Bright green and orange create an almost childish palette and demonstrate that my grandfather was capable of creating learning environments in a surprising orgy of colour. He fully embraces the naive and childish colour universe with bright, cheerful hues – a far cry from more common and aesthetically 'appropriate' colours.

## My Grandfather's Evil Eye

My grandfather passed away many years ago. For the past 30 years I have managed his legacy, making sure that products are not modified or produced in new colours without my personal approval. I think of myself as my grandfather's 'evil eye', as I try to maintain painstaking quality standards rather than just going along with proposed ideas and changes. It is clear to see that even a minor change to my grandfather's designs can cause the entire design to come apart. To see that, one has to move past the fascination of the form itself and examine the design in depth: right here he did something – why did he do that? I have these conversations with him daily, even though he is not here anymore. Over the years, I have learned to understand what he is trying to accomplish.

The process is like going through that box in the attic. I keep discovering new things he drew or painted – landscapes, portraits, sketches of new chairs or lamps. In Arne Jacobsen Design I/S, we have initiated the establishment of a digital library of his work, where fabric and pattern designs alone account for nearly 100

different items. It is difficult to find the watercolours that his patterns are based on, but fortunately, many of them have been preserved by collectors. In Sweden, some of the manufacturers who produced his fabrics have kept and preserved the originals. Something new is discovered on an almost daily basis.

## LIGHT AND SHADOW

### Playing with Mathematics

Something happens after the war. My grandfather returns from Sweden, and there is a change in his fabric patterns. He turns to graphic and geometric designs and plays with mathematics. Angles and Ypsilon (1963) are examples of his later pattern designs.

As always, he is fascinated with light and also creates several lamps, including AJ Floor and AJ Table (1959). In their geometric form, based on cones and cylinders, they show a clear kinship with his contemporary fabrics. In stark contrast to the colour scheme, transparency and textural qualities of his architecture, these lamps appear almost as a pattern in an expanse of colour.

### The Egg – an Homage to Nature

His chairs span the same range from stringent to organic form. To me, the Ant (1952), Series 7 (1955) and the Egg and the Swan (1958) are homages to nature. Geometric but also very organic, with soft, rounded shapes that relate to nature. My grandfather managed to imbue his designs with an organic feel referring back to his time in Sweden with its beautiful, romantic forms.

The Egg has been called the most beautiful chair in the world. I think it is because the design makes us see and appreciate the entire space around the chair and not just the chair itself. The Egg captures light and shadow and shapes the space around it. The chair brings beauty to even the ugliest space. Whatever size or shape you are, you will look great in this chair. The Egg's organic shape and name draw a straight line back to his Swedish exile during the war, when he lived out his inner artist and gardener. So to understand my grandfather, you have to delve into the box in the attic with his fabrics from Sweden.

Tobias Jacobsen  
[www.tobiasjacobsen.dk](http://www.tobiasjacobsen.dk)



# Great Dane Reunion



There was plenty to talk about and reminisce over at the recent 70th anniversary get-together of the Student Section of The Anglo-Danish Society. A couple of people even came over from Denmark to join in the celebrations which were held at The Old Bank of England Pub in Fleet Street.

Those present had been members of 'The Club' in the heydays in the 70's and 80's. The club, which began as a subsidiary of A-DS in 1952, folded by the 90's. The Central London address of 56 Davies Street was the weekly Tuesday evening meeting point. Young Danes and Brits, officially under the age of 30, met in the bar for an evening of convivial interaction, fun and dancing.

After closing time at 11 pm, groups of Anglo-Danes would regularly relocate round the corner to the Rhinegold Club in South Molton Street for more dancing into the small hours. Girls, mostly hard-up Danish au-pair girls, were given free entry.

The annual highlight was the 10-day long trips to Scotland over Easter where a couple of minibuses with Anglo-Danes would set off for Loch Awe, the Highlands or Mull of Kintyre for self-catering fun.

The reunion was a jolly occasion where colourful tales of exploits from back then and from subsequent years were shared. There was a resolve to repeat the event again soon. Rumour has it that a former chairman, now living in Australia, will visit London in the spring and so there may well be another reunion then.

Bette Petersen Broyd



All Photos: Bette Petersen Broyd



# Arne Jacobsen & St Catherine's College

During the last weekend in August, a small number of Anglo-Danish Society members attended a conference at St Catherine's College in Oxford in celebration of its 60th anniversary of opening. The conference gave us insights into Arne Jacobsen's work at St Catherine's College both in its 1960s context and from a present-day perspective of both the UK and Denmark.

The conference started with a warm welcome by the present Master, Kersti Börjars. Central to the conference was several talks from members of Arne Jacobsen's studio about their working relationship with the architect and their role in the design and construction of the College. The grandson of Arne Jacobsen, Tobias Jacobsen, treated us to a fascinating talk about his personal memories of his granddad and you can read about his memories on pages 14-16 in this newsletter.

It was special to have breakfast and lunch served in the main dining hall together with fellow Arne Jacobsen fans from as far away as Japan. In the evening a reception was held in the Senior Common Room, followed by dinner served in the amazing Long Dining Room.

A weekend immersed in everything Arne Jacobsen, what an experience!

Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen



Photo: PALLE BAGGESGAARD PEDERSEN

## Events

### AGM & AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION

**WHEN:** Thursday 11th May 2023

**TIME:** 17.00 – 20.00

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

Join us for the Annual General Meeting at The Danish Embassy. After the brief AGM we gather for the popular Ambassador's Reception where we enjoy a few convivial hours amongst friends and fellow members in the Ambassador's official residence.

HE Ambassador René Dinesen is looking forward to meeting our members while we enjoy drinks, canapes, good company and the views from the balcony over Chelsea.

This event is strictly for members only. Please book by contacting Lone Mohr Curtis via [info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk)

### BOOKING EVENTS

Please check availability and book before making your payments. Further information is also available at [www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](http://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 account:

Bank: NatWest

Sort Code: 55-70-13 Account No. 78325285

Name: The Anglo-Danish Society

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

IBAN code: GB43 NWBK 5570 1378 3252 85 (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.) Only members 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.



# Events

## 'QUEEN ALEXANDRA: LOYALTY AND LOVE'

### A BOOK EVENT WITH THE AUTHOR, FRANCES DIMOND

WHEN: Monday 6th March

TIME: from 6pm till 9pm

WHERE: The Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ



Photo: LONE MOHR CURTIS

A significant link exists between The Anglo-Danish Society and Queen Alexandra. The Society was founded on 17th December 1924 with the encouragement of the Queen, formerly Princess Alexandra of Denmark and the eldest daughter of Denmark's King Christian IX, who married Queen Victoria's son and heir, King Edward VII. On 10th March 2023 it will have been exactly 160 years since the then Princess Alexandra married King Edward VII and became Queen Alexandra.

Queen Alexandra was the first to sign the Society's guestbook in April 1925. She died at Sandringham in November that same year.

Frances Dimond is a member of the Anglo-Danish Society and has a keen interest in Queen Alexandra. She has spent many years researching her book, including in the Royal Archives, determined to attempt to rectify the negative or dismissive attitude towards Queen Alexandra which had gained credence in some other works. Her book aims to show the Queen's true character and accomplishments.

We shall meet up on Monday, 6th March 2023 at 6pm for a talk about Queen Alexandra by Frances Dimond, followed by a Q&A session about the book and the Queen.

At about 7.30pm, a finger buffet will be served with refreshments when we can mingle and catch-up. Frances Dimond will also be selling – and signing – her book at a very favourable price of £20 each on the night.

Tickets are £30 per person for members and £35 per person for non-members.

Should you have any questions about this event, please contact Lone Mohr Curtis via [info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk).

We would be grateful if you could please sign up - and pay for - your attendance at this event by no later than 1st March 2023.

Payments should be made by bank transfer to our account: Sort Code: 55-70-13, account number: 78325285. Please use your name and the event as references for your payment.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

# Our Centenary Celebrations in 2024

The Anglo-Danish Society was founded in December 1924, which means that we'll be celebrating our centenary milestone next year, in 2024. Thus, we're starting to prepare for and look forward to our grand centenary celebrations.

We encourage you to keep an eye out for ways of engaging with us regarding the build-up to these celebrations during the course of the coming year. Although we're not quite there yet, we're already looking forward to celebrating this significant occasion with you all.





The Anglo-Danish Society

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM & BANKER'S ORDER

**Annual Subscriptions: Individual: £25 Family or Partnership: £40 (incl. children under 18) Corporate: £200**

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

Jan to March £21 / £35 April to June £16 / £26 July to Sept £9 / £15 October to Dec £0 / £0

I have transferred via BACS £ ..... / enclose a cheque made out to The Anglo-Danish Society

**Please fill in the forms below:**

Title/s ..... Name/s .....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Telephone ..... Mobile/s.....

E-mail/s .....

Date ..... 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 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 of future changes.*

**For future annual subscription payments every 1<sup>st</sup> January, please fill in the Standing Order below.**

### STANDING ORDER TO:

(Name and address of your bank):

.....  
.....

**Please pay to: The Anglo-Danish Society, NATWEST, Tunbridge Wells Branch**

**Account No: 78325285 Sort Code: 55 70 13**

**(Swift Code: NWBKGB2L IBAN Code: GB43NWBK55701378325285)**

The annual sum of: £ 25 / £40 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January ..... (year) and on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 completed form should NOT be sent to your bank, but via regular post to**

**Alan Davey, Hon. Treasurer, THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY, 40 Princes Way, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 2JW**

**hon.treasurer@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk**

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