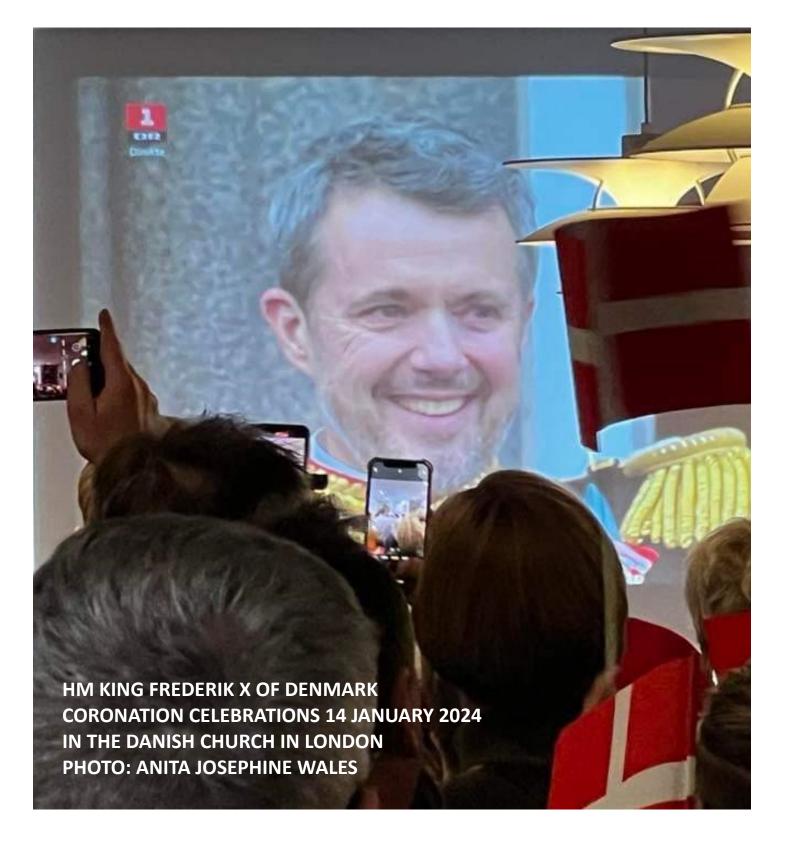
# THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk Reg. Charity No 313202





### THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

**Protector of the Scholarship Programme** HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, GCVO

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Kate Sanderson, Head of Representation of the Faroe Islands in the UK

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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**

Best wishes to all our readers in what is already an eventful New Year.

2024 started with the announcement by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe that she would be abdicating on 14 January, 52 years after becoming Queen. The news was met with a mixture of emotions: sadness that she was standing down but also joy at the Crown Prince's accession to the throne as King Frederik X, with Queen Mary at his side.

The day itself was a splendid affair that included both ceremonial style and simplicity. Those of us who watched the event on television were able to get a sense of the occasion, with the poignancy of Queen Margrethe leaving the room after the act of abdication and the emotion of the new King and Queen waving to the enthusiastic crowds from the balcony at Christiansborg Palace.

As part of their coverage of the day's events DR, the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, showed various video messages of goodwill to Queen Margrethe that included one from myself as Chairman. All of these short messages have been passed to the Queen for her to see. I also wrote a letter thanking Her for being our Patron and sending best wishes on behalf of the Society.

One of the announcements about the royal transition was on patronages. We were informed that all of these ceased on 14 January and that decisions will be made over several months about which patronages would continue and the allocation thereof. So, we are currently without a Patron and, as with the succession of King Charles, we await news of any future arrangement.

2024 is, of course, also our Centenary Year and we are looking forward to celebrating this milestone birthday in addition to our normal events programme. On Friday 6 December there will be a Gala Dinner held at Drapers' Hall for members and their guests to enjoy our 100th Birthday with lots of good food, great entertainment and excellent company, all in magnificent surroundings - so save the date in your diary!

In our Centenary year, we are conscious of including all areas of the Kingdom of Denmark and, as such, we welcome Kate Sanderson, Head of Representation of the Faroe Islands to the UK, as our Honorary Vice President. We are also very pleased that Sandi Toksvig OBE has kindly agreed to be an Honorary Member, which formalises her long-standing relationship with the Society. Finally, I want to extend a warm welcome to our new rector at the Danish Church, Karsten Møller Hansen and hope that he will enjoy his time in the UK.

I look forward to meeting up with many members at the various events during 2024.

Long Live the King!

Wayne Harber Chairman



# A Century full of Highlights

Looking back at our milestones, our jubilees and royal visits stand out, but there were many other grand occasions in between these major events. Our annual dinner dances and galas tended to be White Tie, so the ladies were wearing beautiful ballgowns and tiaras. Imagine if you could have been a fly on the wall just watching and perhaps listening in to the conversations, the speeches and the music.

I've been in touch with John de la Cour, the grandson of Lady Beauchamp, who was our Vice Chair and Chair for some 20 years. John has kindly supplied me with some interesting, historical details about our Society some of which I'd like to share with you here - from Lady Beauchamp's scrapbooks. Lady Beauchamp was a close friend of Their Majesties King Frederik IX and Queen Ingrid as well as Prince Georg, who was the Defence Attaché at the Embassy for many years, and his wife Princess Anne. But one of the stories, which I enjoyed hearing the most was the one about how the young Princess Margrethe came for dinner at Madresfield Court, the Earl & Countess Beauchamp's residence near Malvern, and on one occasion she went up to the nursery to meet John and his sister, Annette. However, his sister didn't believe that Margrethe was a princess, as she wasn't wearing a crown! As you all know, that's the ultimate test.

Other significant events include the following:
On 21st September 1955, we hosted a dinner dance at the May Fair Hotel in the presence of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Denmark. 300 members and guests were present. A 15-year-old Princess Margrethe also attended and opened the dance floor with a quick-step with Mark Jeffries. The menu, which was in French as was the done thing, was as follows: Tassette de Terrepine au Sherry, Paillettes Dorées, Filet de Sole Elysée, Quartier d'Agneau rôti, Sauce Menthe, Petits Pois au beurre, Pommes Rissolées, Péche Cardinal, Biscuit Glacé Vanille, Friandises, Café. What a magnificent evening that must have been.

On 29th May 1956, our annual dinner dance took place at the Dorchester Hotel with Professor Niels Bohr, who gave a speech, as the Guest of Honour.

The charitable side of our Society is thought to date back to just after the Second World War, but the first Anglo-Danish Society scholarship was granted in 1959 thanks to a gift from the Lord Inverforth Endowment Fund.

On 21st October 1964, we celebrated our 40th anniversary at the Dorchester Hotel where Princess Margaret and her husband the Right Hon. Lord Snowdon,



Princess Elisabeth of Denmark, Prince Georg and his wife Princess Anne were in attendance with more than 350 guests in total. The guests also included Dame Adeline Genée-Isitt, who had been a ballet dancer with the Royal Danish Ballet and then at Covent Garden and who also lobbied successfully for royal recognition of the art of ballet in the UK, as well as Frank Herbert of the Danish Bacon Company, both from the original Anglo-Danish Society Council. The reason why Princess Margaret and her husband had been invited was that they had recently taken part in the 'British Week in Denmark' and according to their thank you letter, they enjoyed the evening immensely.

In order to mark the wedding of Princess Margrethe and Henri de Laborde de Monpezat in 1967, £330 was collected amongst our members for a wedding present, which consisted of a pair of Famille Roses vases and a plate of the same pattern dating from 1750. We duly received a letter of acknowledgement and thanks from Their Royal Highnesses.

Spring of 1968 was a very busy time, as Their Majesties the King and Queen of Denmark spent time in the UK e.g. promoting the 'Denmark in Britain '68' initiative. On 26th April there was a reception at the London Guildhall, on 29th April a Luncheon took place at the City Hall in the gracious presence of Their Majesties and hosted by the Lord Mayor. On 30th April a Banquet

### A Century full of Highlights

and Ball was held in the Grosvenor House where Their Majesties the King and Queen of Denmark as well as the Duke of Edinburgh were present.

'Denmark in Britain '68' took place in April and May and London celebrated all things Danish by, for instance, decorating Regent Street and Oxford Street with Dannebrog flags, the Tivoli Guards played at Trafalgar Square, the viking ship 'Imme Gram' was rowed up the Thames by Danish scouts, there was a Royal Danish Ballet Gala at Covent Garden attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, and the Radio Symphony Orchestra performed at the Albert Hall in addition to several trade exhibitions taking place.

In 1974, we celebrated our Golden Jubilee and Her Majesty the Queen and the Prince of Denmark made a three-day state visit to the UK arriving on 30th April. On 1st May, a Luncheon took place at Hampton Court Palace. Later in the day there was a Reception & Banquet in honour of Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark and The Prince of Denmark organised by the Corporation of London and hosted by the Lord Mayor at the Guildhall. Following that, a Dinner was hosted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Claridge's Hotel.

On 2nd May, the Danish Ambassador hosted a reception at Banqueting House and a dinner was held at Claridge's Hotel in honour of Her Majesty the Queen and The Prince of Denmark.

On 3rd May, a dinner was held at the House of Lords hosted by Lord McFadzean, Chairman. Guests of honour included Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark, Prince Henrik and Prince Richard of Gloucester. The menu was as follows: Avocado pear, Fillet of Sole Waleska, Escalope of Veal Marechale, Petits pois, Pommes Anna, Praline Souffle, Coffee. In tandem with this dinner, a Golden Jubilee Dinner & Dance was also held at the Royal Garden Hotel.

On 7th December 1982, Sir Robert Bellinger, Chairman, hosted The Royal Garden Hotel Gala Dinner with Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe and the Prince of Denmark, in attendance as well as about 400 guests.

On 1st November 1984, a Gala Dinner took place at the Savoy Hotel to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee. Her Majesty Queen Ingrid and Princess Alexia were in attendance plus, of course, the Chairman, Sir Andrew Stark (former British Ambassador to Denmark, Chair from 1983 – 1995 and then Hon. President until his death in 2006) and a total of 344 members and guests. At this point our Royal Patrons were Her Majesty the Queen and Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark just as until recently.

I'll focus on some more recent milestones in our next newsletter. In the meantime, we're currently looking very much forward to our Centenary Gala Dinner on 6th December 2024.

**Lone Mohr Curtis** 

### Danish Fair 2024

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

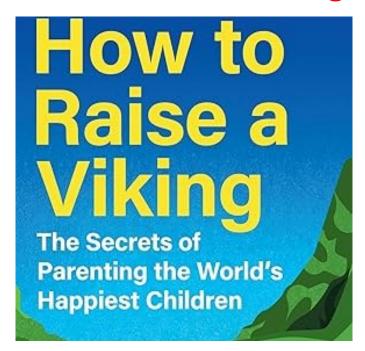
There will be stalls selling Danish design, crafts, embroidery, books, antiques, pastries and grocery goods. In the gardens you will find the restaurant selling open faced sandwiches, salads, and layercake. The famous Danish hot dogs and 'frikadeller' will be sold from street stalls.

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

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



# How to Raise a Viking by Helen Russell



Wadden Sea Project

The Danish Wadden Sea Project was a very special collaboration between the Wadden Sea National Park in Denmark and the Society of Wildlife Artists.

Two week long residencies, one in the autumn of 2019 and the second in May 2022, allowed artists to spend time in the landscape observing wildlife and working in response to their experience.

The Wadden Sea is an UNESCO world heritage site and stretches from Denmark through Germany into The Netherlands. Recognised as of exceptional importance to migrating birds and as a breeding ground for many species, the project ensured that the two groups of artists could get a taste of how crucial these wetlands are for wildlife.

The artists spent time working with local schools and sharing their experience of the place with the community through workshops and talks.

Writer Colin Williams used his time on both residencies to explore the history, landscape and community of this special place. The beautiful book "Haunted by the Last Tide" brings his words together with the art from the project.

Artists Carry Akroyd, Kim Atkinson, Marco Brodde, Dan Cole, Brin Edwards, John Foker, Federico Gemma, Bob Greenhalf, Kittie Jones, Wynona Legg, Julia Manning, Harriet Mead, Nik Pollard, Darren Rees, Jane Smith, Esther Tyson, Chris Wallbank, Ben Woodhams and Darren Woodhead took part. The result was over 400

From the bestselling author of 'The Year of Living Danishly' comes her newest publication 'How to Raise a Viking'.

After spending a decade in Denmark, Helen Russell has observed differences in raising Nordic children. Their eating habits, learning approaches, and love for outdoor activities in challenging weather intrigued her.

In How to Raise a Viking, Russell delves into the parenting practices in Denmark and the other Nordic nations. From parental leave policies and the school structures to screen time regulations, she explores the unique aspects of Nordic parenting culture.

Available now in most bookshops.

works by the 19 artists.

An exhibition of the artworks was held at The Mall Galleries in London in November which was opened by the Danish ambassador René Dinesen.



### New Centenary Logo for 2024

First of all, we would like to thank those of you, who submitted your sketches and logo suggestions to us as part of our centenary logo competition. It was clear that you had spent time planning out your designs, including as many Danish and British references as possible as well as the fact that it was to be used during our Centenary year.

Having carefully considered the logo suggestions, we have selected this one, which is an excellent representation of our values, combining the colours and designs of our flags plus our usual logo. This logo was designed by Mr John Fairley and we're very much looking forward to welcoming him and his guest to our Centenary Gala Dinner on Friday, 6 December 2024. We'd like to wish John many congratulations and say a massive thank you for his work on this logo.

You'll notice our new Centenary logo on our website, facebook as well as in printed versions throughout the year.

Lone Mohr Curtis



# Obituary: Sir James Mellon KCMG

Jimmy Mellon loved Denmark so much that he wrote three books about the country, the second of which, 'Og Gamle Danmark' ('Old Denmark') in 1992 was in Danish. "It got to No 4 in their bestseller list, believe it or not. It was only for three weeks. Never mind, world famous in Denmark'..." So opens the obituary to Sir James Mellon published in the Times newspaper in October.

Sir James died on 2 July 2023 aged 94. He was a Life Member of the Anglo-Danish Society with a long association and love of Denmark. As a student at Glasgow University he worked on farms in Switzerland where he became friendly with a Dane who encouraged him to visit Denmark. He then won a scholarship for postgraduate study at the University of Aarhus which was cut short after three months when he passed the Civil Service exam. He then qualified as a Danish interpreter while serving in the RAF during his period of National Service.

He was the agricultural attaché to Denmark in 1960 and during his time there discovered the 400 churches containing remnants of wall paintings from the Middle Ages. He wrote about them in his first book 'A Danish Gospel', published in 1986. He was also the only Danish speaker in the embassy at the time. The absence of Danish speakers was not ideal. "I do not think you can do your job if you cannot read the newspapers, if you can't conduct a conversation," he said. Many years later, as Ambassador to Copenhagen, he insisted that everybody at the embassy learnt Danish, "and they did."

Beyond the UK, he served in Brussels, East Berlin and Senegal and was Britain's High Commissioner to Ghana (which also doubled as Ambassador to Togo) and Consul-General in New York. A most notable achievement was keeping the Concorde aircraft project alive when heading the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's scientific and technology department. He was the Ambassador to Denmark from 1983 until 1986, which was the appointment that he had really wanted for some time. While Ambassador, he included tours to both Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

He was knighted in 1988 and, like most diplomats, he retired at 60. But he remained very active and energetic and, in addition to working, he took up scuba diving, ran 35 marathons over a 20 year period and published his third book on Denmark 'Jesu Liv I Kalkmalerier'. He also studied for an Open University degree in mathematics in his eighties. He joined the Anglo-Danish Society as a member of the Council in May 1998 and was very enthusiastic about, and a generous supporter of, the Scholarship Programme. He was well known by members for his warm and vibrant personality.

Two of his daughters were born in Denmark, one of whom is married to a Dane. Our sincere condolences and best wishes go to his widow, Philippa, Lady Mellon, and all of the family.

Wayne Harber

# St Alban's Church in Copenhagen

St Alban's Church in the central but peaceful Churchillparken in Copenhagen, is the only Anglican church in Denmark.

The church took two years to build and in September 1887 the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Tsar and Tsarina of Russia and the King and Queen of Denmark were all present at the consecration. The building was designed by Sir Arther Blomfield, though construction was supervised by a Danish architect. It is Early English in style, but despite its extremely English appearance, only the roof tiles are English. No English stone was used until the tower - which houses a set of tubular bells – was restored in 1999 and Portland stone had to be used because the original quarries had closed. The stone of the tower comes from Öland in Sweden and the flints and stone of the rest of the building from quarries south of Copenhagen. The site next to the lake and by the harbour meant that the church had to be built on piles.

The only change to the original layout of the church came after the Second World War when pews were removed from the North Transeps, which was made into a chapel in thanksgiving for the maintenance of worship throughout the German occupation.

The font beside the nave door was made and given by Doulton's, a famous English company. The reliefs portray children: Moses in the bulrushes, Samuel presented to Eli, Jesus' birth and his blessing of the children. The English organ was installed by Walker's in time for the consecration. The Lamb of God is the centrepiece of the "Alexandra" altar frontal. It is thought perhaps to contain some work by Queen Alexandra.



English churches and congregations have been established on the Continent since before the Reformation. In 1663 all foreign churches were placed under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London. Anglican dioceses and then provinces were later formed in all parts of the world outside the UK.

In 1883 a suffragan bishop was appointed and he was later given the title of Bishop of Fulham, to supervise the chaplaincies in north and central Europe. In 1980 a single diocese was formed and named the Diocese in Europe.

The Church of England maintains friendly relations with other Christian churches in mainland Europe and is committed to the quest for the full visible unity of the Church. If you would like to visit St. Alban's Church in Copenhagen please check: www.st-albans.dk

Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen

### News

#### **DECEASED**

We are very sorry to report the deaths of:

Mr Hans Mørck Mrs Dorthe O'Hanlon Sir James Mellon K.C.M.G. Mr Ole Jensen

May they all rest in peace.

# SHARING IS CARING SPECIAL MEMORIES AS REGARDS OUR SOCIETY

As a way of celebrating our Centenary year, we'd like to hear from you if you'd like to share your most treasured experience or stand-out memory as regards our Society in our next newsletter, e.g. maybe you were introduced to one of the Royals at a dinner party or perhaps you met your best friend or partner at one of our events.

Please drop us a line via e-mail to Lone Mohr Curtis at hon.secretary@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk.

# Studying the Greenland Shark



In October we were very pleased that our Coronation Scholar, Ewan Camplisson, was able to give a presentation on his studies of the Greenland shark. The research is part of his PhD in cardiovascular sciences at Manchester University titled 'Investigating Cardiac Longevity in the world's oldest living vertebrate, the Greenland shark.'

Ewan began by explaining that in 2016 the Greenland shark was discovered to have a lifespan of at least 272 years and possibly up to 500 years. His work is in association with the 'Old and Cold Project', a programme based at the University of Copenhagen which aims to investigate the Greenland shark to better understand the species and thus help to protect them. The team invites other researchers on expeditions approximately every two years to study the animals around Greenland, Scandinavia and Svalbard.

A PHOTO OF EWAN IN THE UK EXAMINING THE LOWER PORTION OF A GREENLAND SHARK'S JAW THAT HE BROUGHT BACK. HE PLANS TO DONATE IT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER MUSEUM.

Ewan's expedition was made up of 13 members, including 4 Danish researchers, 4 from the UK, 3 from North America and 1 from France plus a Danish medical doctor. The trip started on the 15 May 2023 with a flight to Copenhagen, followed by a further two flights to get to Ilulissat in Greenland. The research team then utilised the University of Copenhagen science vessel, the Porsild, to ferry them across the vast Disko Bay through some extremely rough seas to get to Disko Island and the settlement of Qegertarsuag where they were based at the University of Copenhagen Arctic Research Station. This was created by the Arctic biologist Morten Pedersen Porsild in 1906 with a fully equipped laboratory and high quality living quarters and attracts some 150 researchers from around the world annually. Days would begin at 7:30am, often working until the early hours of the next morning, before again starting at 7:30am, although there was some free time to relax.



The majority of Ewan's work was completed in the laboratory, but first they had to catch the sharks by longline fishing to a depth of 150-200m which limited the risk of catching other species. Large female sharks were released and the rest were either tagged and released or euthanized for research. Ewan used the blood to test for DNA damage to see if these long-lived animals are more resilient to the effects. If they are, then this may be a factor which aids in their extreme longevity. Other researchers on the trip were using fresh samples to investigate mitochondrial activity and the heart in greater detail.

The talk finished with a long Q&A as there were many questions about the trip and the research and we are very grateful that Ewan was able to come to London to talk to members. Ewan commented: 'Without the generous contribution of the Anglo-Danish society this trip would have been far less feasible for me and I may not have been on the expedition.'

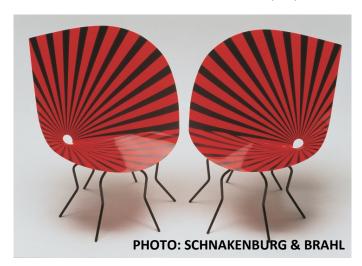
# Nanna Ditzel: Taking Design to New Heights



Recently a new special exhibition opened at the Trapholt Museum in Denmark. The title of the exhibition is "Taking Design to New Heights" and celebrates the genius of Nanna Ditzel, the greatest female Danish designer of the 20th century. For the first time ever, Nanna Ditzel's universe of inspiration and ideas unfolds when the museum presents her entire body of work in a sensory-saturated exhibition of furniture design, jewellery, textiles, and total installations.

Nanna Ditzel combined a solid craftsmanship approach with artistic and cultural inspiration, resulting in unique and universally acclaimed design icons. She felt an urge to challenge conventions and go against the norms

and, in an interview, called Danish furniture "very nice, but equally boring". Nanna Ditzel had a special love for colours, and her approach to the design profession was curious and investigative. She loved life and found inspiration for her furniture, jewellery, and textiles in nature, architecture, fashion, and in other people.



She distinguished herself from her contemporary designers from the beginning of her career, not only because of her gender but also because of her persistent insistence on exploring new ways of design and her ability to work with spaces and furniture in a new and innovative way. Ditzel was educated at the Royal Academy and, like other legendary designers such as Børge Mogensen and Hans J. Wegner, was taught in the functionalist tradition of master architect Kaare Klint. However, she quickly detached herself from these strict and formal design rules and gravitated towards a more poetic and sculptural expression.



# Nanna Ditzel: Taking Design to New Heights

The exhibition celebrates the fact that Nanna Ditzel would have turned 100 years old in 2023 and tells the story of how one can unfold and develop when in touch with the inspiration that art, culture, nature, and everyday life offer. More than any other Danish designer, Nanna Ditzel prioritized the perception of everyday living environments and was the designer who took the visions for design culture to new heights.

#### **ABOUT NANNA DITZEL**

Nanna Ditzel was born in 1923 and in the autumn of 1943 she met her husband Jørgen Ditzel at The School of Arts and Crafts in Copenhagen, where both were students.

In the summer of 1946, when Nanna and Jørgen had finished their studies at the art school, the two new graduate furniture architects married. Later the same year they established their own design studio in Copenhagen

By that time, they had already worked together for a couple of years making designs and participating in exhibition together.

The period from 1946 to 1961, when Jørgen passed away at the age of only 40, was very productive for the couple, designing a varied range of products: furniture, textiles, wallpaper, jewellery and utility objects. In this period they took part in and won several competitions and in 1956 they were awarded the Lunning Prize.

After Jørgen's death in 1961, Nanna Ditzel continues their joint project alone; it was the way she thought it should be - it was the only way: continuing! Many new products were designed in the following years.

#### **A TRUE ANGLO-DANE**

In 1968 Nanna Ditzel married furniture dealer Kurt Heide who was resident in London. In August 1968 Nanna Ditzel moved herself and the design studio to North London, where Nanna and Kurt jointly established the company Interspace, which quickly became internationally recognised. From the showroom Kurt Heide dealt in Italian Furniture and the furniture and textiles created by Nanna Ditzel. Notable among Nanna





Ditzel's designs from this period are some exciting experiments with furniture made of fibreglass.

Despite the fact that the address for the next 18 years was London, Nanna Ditzel continued working with several Danish companies such as Georg Jensen and Kvadrat.

In 1985 Kurt Heide died. The previous year they had sold Interspace. After a brief period of reflection Nanna Ditzel decided to return to Denmark and establish a new design studio in Copenhagen and for a further 20 years she experimented and created exciting designs.

Lines may no longer be drawn in Nanna Ditzel's design studio but her three daughters, Dennie, Lulu and Vita continue the legacy and manage the existing work.

The special exhition at The Trapholt Museum in Kolding, Denmark can be seen till 11 August 2024. For more information please see www.trapholt.dk

Thank you to Trapholt Museum & Nanna Ditzel Design. Photos courtesy of Trapholt Museum

Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen

### Danish Prisoners of War

REMEMBERED AT FELTHAM PRISON 11 NOV. 2023 I had the honour of being invited to Remembrance Day 11th November at the Danish War Memorial erected within Feltham Prison in memory of 4 Danish minded prisoners of war laid to rest there shortly after the end of WW1.

They were part of approx. 300 Danish minded German prisoners of war interred at Feltham Prison of War after the Great War, more commonly known as World War I. I write "Danish minded" as they were forced to fight on the German side during the war as they were living in Northern Slesvig, which back then was a German part of former Southern Denmark. They however, felt Danish and were Danes in their hearts and minds. They did not have a choice but to serve in the German army, as the alternative would have been execution.

For me it was a particular honour to attend. As many of you will know, I come from that part of Denmark, which until only about 100 years ago belonged to Germany.

The question of course is, why do we still commemorate people who passed away over 100 years ago? A question I posed myself, too.

There are probably many reasons, including reasons why it should be left in the past.

For me, it is a matter of principle. The reason the soldiers did not make it home after the Great War, was that they were not meant to have been there in the first place. They were drafted by an occupying force against their will to fight a war that was not theirs.

Unfortunately, this still happens today and thus we must not forget them – for the sake of the four in Feltham Prison of War – and the many others who have been or are in the same situation.

It must not be silenced, nor forgotten.

The commemoration at this Danish War Memorial, situated within Feltham Prison (now better known as HMP & Young Offenders Institution), happens every 5 years, and is led by the Danish Church in London. The last 5 times, remarkably, it has been led by Bent Baggersgaard, former Chair of the Danish Church in London. He is now stepping back from an active role, though it is the full intention to keep this Commemoration and the War Memorial going. Thus the baton of organising this has been passed on to Church Council member Mads Birkeland, and I.

Below you can read more about the background from an article written by the Chair of the Danish Church Bette Petersen Broyd.

Gunnar P Larsen



Written by Bette Broyd, inspired by articles written by Bjarne Nørum, Journalist, Kristelig Dagblad and Bent Baggersgaard. (Translated from Danish to English by Gunnar P. Larsen/any mistranslation unintentional)

During the First World War a Danish Seaman's Priest worked to help imprisoned Danish minded "Sønder-jyder" who had forcefully been drafted by the German forces. The German soldiers, of which many were Danish minded, were held as prisoners of war at Feltham Prison. Still operating as a prison today, within its walls you find a small piece of Danish history, a memorial commemorating the Danish minded Sønderjyder, that ended up as prisoners of war during the First World War.

When peace was finally a reality in 1918, approximately 300 Sønderjyder could return from Hull by steamship to Copenhagen, Denmark.

Though, despite the jubilation at the end of the war, there were also sad tidings, as 4 prisoners of war had to be left behind. They had been struck by the Spanish Flu.

# Danish War Memorial at Feltham Prison



Attending the Remembrance Day 11th November 2023 (from left to right):

Catherine Franklin, The Danish Embassy Bent Baggersgaard

**Gunnar P. Larsen, DKUK** 

Bette Petersen Broyd, Chair of The Danish Church in London

**Mads Birkeland** 

Margith Pedersen, Interim Pastor, The Danish Church in London

Karen Maibom, wife of Bent Baggersgaard and Chair of The Danish YWCA in London

Three of them died before the end of the year, whilst the 4th died in September the following year, due to food poisoning.

The reason why there is such a Danish War Memorial within the prison grounds, what is today the high security Feltham Prison and Young Offenders Institution, is largely because of the then Danish Seamen's priest in Newcastle, L. A. Troensegaard-Hansen.

"He tried to make it clear to the British that not all prisoners of war were necessarily German. He visited the British Ministry of War and got them to gather all Danish prisoners of war in the same prison, namely Feltham", Bent Baggersgaard explains. Bent is former Chair of the Danish Church in London and has lived in Great Britain for over 50 years and been the connection between Feltham Prison and the Danish community.

L. A. Troensegaard-Hansen started early on during the war visiting the prisons of war to find the Danish minded Sønderjyder, to ensure they obtained the same status as prisoners as those from other German occupied areas such as Poland, Czech and Slovak Lands, and Alsace—Lorraine. It took time, but he succeeded and all Sønderjyder were interred at Feltham Prison of War.

"They were treated better, and they had the attention from Denmark, but also from Queen Alexandra of Denmark" Bent Baggersgaard informs us, referring to the Danish born Queen who had married King Edward VII, who reigned in the period 1901-1910.

The grave of the 4 in Feltham gained a lot of attention in Denmark after the war, and thus a memorial stone of granite was created and placed there. The interest over time, however, waned. In 2002, when the prison officials wrote to the Danish Embassy in London informing them of plans to remove the memorial, to make place for a planned extension of the prison, the Danish Church was consulted and Bent Baggersgaard took the initiative to organise a commemoration day every 5 years.

"I am a Sønderjyde from Haderslev, and both my grandparents were drafted by the German forces," Bent tells us. He took the initiative to have the memorial stone cleaned and the names of the 4 men touched up. The Memorial was revealed anew in 2003.

Since then, every five years there has been a commemoration coinciding with Remembrance Day 11th November, to mark the end of World War I – and to remember the 4 who survived the war but did not return home.

During the commemoration, the Ambassador gives a speech in their memory and places a wreath. The Danish Pastor says the "Our Father", and the Prison Chaplain prays in English. The hymn 'Abide with me' is sung and ends with the Danish hymn 'Altid frejdig når du går'.

The Sønderjyske Prisoners of War interred at Feltham:

CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN LUND, born 3rd July 1883, Ruruo. Died 19th / 20th November 1918, Feltham

**KONRAD CHRISTENSEN**, born 20th December 1888, Blans. Died 30th November 1918, Feltham

**ANDREAS JACOBSEN**, born 12th January 1889, Vennemose. Died 26th December 1918, Feltham.

**PETER ANDREAS PETERSEN**, born 18th March 1897, Bruunsholm. Died 19th September 1919, Feltham.

# Playing with Fire: Edmund de Waal & Salto

BRITISH BORN EDMUND DE WAAL CURATES EXHIBITION OF ACCLAIMED 20TH CENTURY DANISH CERAMIC ARTIST AXEL SALTO

The exhibition is the result of a collaboration between Edmund de Waal, CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, Denmark, and Kunstsilo, Norway. It opened in Denmark in October 2023 and will move on to Norway in 2024 and finally in 2025, it will be shown at The Hepworth Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Born in Copenhagen in 1889, Axel Salto was a radical polymathic figure who crossed boundaries from one discipline to another, producing an extraordinary body of ceramic work alongside paintings, wood-cuts, drawings, book illustrations, and textiles. After studying at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts where he became intrigued by modernism and a progressive aesthetic, Salto travelled to Paris, where he met Picasso and Matisse.

An accomplished poet and author, he founded the influential Danish art journal Klingen (The Blade), an important forum for critical thinking in Denmark. Salto is internationally renowned for his highly individual and expressive stoneware inspired by organic forms, characterised by budding, sprouting, and fluted surface textures that appear to ripple and burst with life.

This exhibition brings together a significant number of Salto's ceramic works from the collection of CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, Denmark, and The Tangen Collection at Kunstsilo, the world's largest collection of Nordic modernist art. Salto's ceramics are shown alongside lesser-known and unseen works on paper, illustrations, writings and textiles, with a major new installation by de Waal reflecting on Salto's enduring





influence.

Edmund de Waal said:

"Axel Salto is one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century. He created a unique body of ceramic work that continues to fascinate me. His sculptures seem to be on the point of change: glazes are caught in flux. Vases swell as if to burst. He cared about the ways that patterns change course, shift energies, how an animal becomes a person, a man metamorphoses into a stag. Ovid ran powerfully through his life. That moment of change, transformation, is the moment when poetry occurs."

The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated book, published by Forlaget PRESS exploring the dialogue between the two artists. The book contains a wide range of excerpts from Salto's extensive writings, an interview with de Waal, as well as a new essay in which de Waal investigates the concept of metamorphosis and the fusing of clay and words.

#### **EDMUND DE WAAL**

Born in 1964 in Nottingham. He lives and works in London. Edmund de Waal is an internationally acclaimed artist and writer, best known for his large-scale Instal-

# Playing with Fire: Edmund de Waal & Salto



lations of porcelain vessels, often created in response to collections and archives or the history of a particular place. His installations have been made for diverse spaces and museums worldwide, including the Musée Nissim de Camondo, Paris; The British Museum, London; The Frick Collection, New York; Canton Scuola Synagogue, Venice; Schindler House, Los Angeles; Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna and V&A Museum, London. De Waal is also renowned for his bestselling family memoir, The Hare with Amber Eyes (2010), and The White Road (2015). His most recent book, Letters to Camondo, a series of haunting letters written during lockdown was published in April 2021. He was awarded the Windham-Campbell Prize for non-fiction by Yale University in 2015. In 2021 he was awarded a CBE for his services to art.

#### **AXEL SALTO**

Born in 1889 in Copenhagen where he died in 1961. Axel Salto graduated in 1914 from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts as a painter. Multitalented as he was, he also worked as a designer, editor and writer. In 1917-20 he founded the avant-garde journal Klingen (The Blade). His career as a ceramicist began in the 1920s when he designed porcelain vases and bowls for the Danish manufacturer B&G (Bing & Grøndahl). From 1929 he was linked to the stoneware studio at The Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Factory.

Salto had numerous solo-exhibitions in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and France. He was awarded the "Grand Prix" at the World Expo in Paris in 1937 and at the Milan Triennale in 1951. In 1961 he received a gold medal at the international ceramics exhibition at Musée des Beaux-Arts in Ostend, Belgium. In the 50's his ceramics and textiles played an important role in promoting Danish design and crafts, known as Danish



Modern, in North America.

#### **CLAY MUSEUM OF CERAMIC ART DENMARK**

This is the largest museum in the Nordic countries for ceramic, art, crafts, and design. Beautifully situated close to the waterfront on the island of Fünen. It started out on the initiative of a group of Danish ceramicists in 1994, in a stunning old villa from 1857 built by the owner of the nearby castle. Since then, the relatively young museum has evolved with rapid haste, not least because the museum received the enormous historical collection, The Royal Copenhagen Collection, which includes a large number of works by Axel Salto. This addition to the collection led to an extension of the building with large subterranean exhibition halls and a pavilion in the park. This year, only seven years later, yet another building is being added. This was officially opened in October by HM Queen Margrethe and with the exhibition - Playing with Fire: Edmund de Waal and Axel Salto.

Www.claymuseum.dk

### How it all began...

As we're celebrating our Centenary, it's only natural that we're also reflecting on the history of our Society – and there have been many highlights over the years.

Our Society was founded on 17th December 1924 with the encouragement of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra of the United Kingdom (formerly Princess Alexandra of Denmark).

As Sir Andrew Stark, Chairman, stated in his speech at our Diamond Jubilee Gala Dinner at the Savoy in 1984: 'A group of Danish and British gentlemen presided over by Count Ahlefeldt-Laurvig had decided that Anglo-Danish relations, having proceeded favourably for over 100 years, should be further developed and encouraged by the creation of an Anglo-Danish Society in London.' The meeting was held at the Danish Legation.

Queen Alexandra was the first to sign the Society's guestbook in April 1925. She died at Sandringham in November that same year. Her son, King George V, signs on 4th February 1926 followed by King Christian X, Queen Alexandrine and Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark (later King Frederik IX) – our first Royal Patrons.

During the following years members of our two royal

families and dignitaries from the worlds of Politics, the Armed Forces, and the Arts were actively involved.

The famous ballet dancer, Dame Adeline Genée-Isitt, became our first lady chairman (1931-1933). Names like Lord Alexander, Clement Attlee, Sir Anthony Eden, Christmas Møller, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Victor Schiøler and many more spring from the pages.

We have been very privileged to consistently have two Royal Patrons, most recently Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. In addition, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (born Prince Philip of Denmark and Greece) was an Honorary Member until his death in April 2021.

HRH the Duchess of Gloucester GCVO has been the Protector of the Scholarship Programme since 2011.

At present, we're waiting for both of the Royal Households to review their patronages and keeping our fingers crossed that we'll continue to have the privilege and honour of two Royal Patrons in the future.

**Lone Mohr Curtis** 

### **Nordic Noir**



On 28 September, a joint event was held with the Anglo-Finnish Society, exploring the Nordic Noir genre in films. We all gathered in Soho to listen to Pauliina Stahlberg who was a co-producer of the successful 'Deadwind' series. Pauliina introduced the talk with some historical background on the development of the genre and the characteristics that make Nordic Noir different to other crime thriller productions, notably the lack of colour or monochrome tones of the photography and the often preeminent position of women in the programmes. This all sounded familiar to those of us who have become addicted to such series since 'The Killing' and 'The Bridge' were released some years ago. However, there were some in the audience who knew little or nothing about Nordic Noir and, even more interesting was how the genre was interpreted in other

countries. For example, outside Europe, the use of colour was stronger and a lot of countries thought the portrayal of strong women in positions of leadership was total fiction!

Just as fascinating was to hear some personal insights from Pauliina about the making of Deadwind and one or two insider tips that explained different aspects to the aficionados in the audience — which I can't pass on to our readers!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting presentation and a very successful joint event with our Finnish friends. We look forward to doing more together in the future.

Wayne Harber



### **New Honorary Vice President**

KATE SANDERSON: HEAD OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE FAROE ISLANDS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Kate Sanderson was appointed head of the Representation of the Faroe Islands in London on 1 February 2021.

The Government of the Faroe Islands has had a diplomatic Representation in London since 2022, with offices located in the Danish Embassy on Sloane Street, where the Faroese flag, "Merkið", waves proudly sideby-side with "Dannebrog". The Representation of the Faroe Islands in London promotes and facilitates cooperation between the Faroe Islands and the United Kingdom, in all areas of mutual interest. The Head of the Representation is a senior diplomat appointed by the Government of the Faroe Islands and accredited to the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, as well as being the Faroese Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization.

"I am both honoured and delighted to be appointed Honorary Vice President of the Anglo-Danish Society. I look forward to engaging with members, and I am sure the Society will be a valuable forum for strengthening connections between the UK and the Faroe Islands. While Faroe Islanders are not Danes, and the Faroe Islands are not a part of the EU (like Denmark), our constitutional position as a self-governing nation within the Kingdom of Denmark naturally makes us a close partner with Denmark, with many similar issues in our respective post-Brexit relations with the UK. We are all good neighbours and friends, but it is sometimes forgotten that the Faroe Islands are actually the UK's closest Nordic neighbour."

Kate began her career with the Faroese Government in

### **Events**

JAZZ, DINNER AND DRINKS AT DRAPERS' HALL

WHEN: Wednesday 28th February 2024

TIME: 18.30

WHERE: Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue,

London EC2N 2DQ

We are very pleased to announce that the Drapers' Company has – once again - invited us along to their spring concerts and dinners. Please note that we only have a limited number of tickets for this event, so tickets will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets are for our members and their guests only.

Please join us for an exquisite evening of jazz, dinner



1986 and has since gained extensive and diverse experience in international relations. Over the years, Kate has represented the Faroe Islands and headed Faroese delegations and negotiations in a range of regional (Nordic, North Atlantic, Arctic) and global (UN and other) bodies, dealing in particular with sustainable development, cooperation on marine resources and international trade. Kate was Head of the Mission of the Faroes to the EU in Brussels from 2012 to 2018.

Born in Glenelg, South Australia in 1961, Kate completed a BA Honours degree with First Class Honours at the University of Sydney in 1983. She moved to the Faroe Islands in 1985, where she studied Faroese and carried out postgraduate research for a MPhil thesis on whaling traditions in the Faroe Islands, for which she was awarded a University of Sydney Medal in 1993. In 1986/1987 she spent a year in Reykjavík studying Icelandic at the University of Iceland.

Kate is married to the Faroese writer, Carl Jóhan Jensen (b. 1957) and together they have two sons and one granddaughter.

and drinks. Young musicians from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama will be introducing us to the future of jazz where they will be seeking new modes of expression. Our social call for the evening will be Erin Bradley, a sing-songwriter who fuses jazz with the RnB genre, Ben Liu on the keyboards, Toby Snowden strumming the guitar, Jemima Whyte soulfully on the saxophone and Manuel Filgueiras impeccably drumming away.

A night not to be missed starting with informal predinner drinks at 6.30pm followed by performances and a two-course supper in the Livery Hall. The concert starts at 7pm and supper will be served in between

### **Events**

sets. Carriages at 10pm.

Tickets are £70 per person for members and £80 per person for non-members. Please sign up via e-mail to events@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk by Wednesday, 14th February 2024. Dress code: Lounge Suits and Smart outfits

#### **DRAPERS' MUSICALS & OPERA CONCERT**

WHEN: Tuesday 9th April 2024

TIME: 18.30

WHERE: Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue,

London EC2N 2DQ

Please note that we only have a limited number of tickets for this event, so tickets will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets are for our members and their guests only.

Students from Trinity Laban's musical theatre course are excited to present 'Musical Theatre: Through The Ages', under the guidance of fellow student Archie McMorran, as Musical Director. They will take the Drapers' audience through the history of musical theatre, performing from 1950s Golden Age numbers from shows such as Guys and Dolls and Singing in the Rain, showcasing diverse musicals from the 1970s through to the 1990s – Company, Sunset Boulevard and more – finishing on current and contemporary shows such as Come From Away bringing the audience up to the present day. Join us for a truly wonderful evening of musical storytelling!

Archie, originally a pianist and composer, has fallen for musical theatre in the last couple of years and has the privilege, around his studies at Trinity, of being Assistant Musical Director with Lambert Jackson Productions, working frequently with Musical Director, Adam Hoskins, on productions such as The Secret Garden, Annie Get Your Gun and Doctor Zhivago at London's Palladium.

There will also be performances from the Drapers' De Turkheim scholars from the various conservatoires supported by the Drapers' Company. The repertoire will be announced nearer to the date.

A night not to be missed starting with informal predinner drinks at 6.30pm followed by performances starting at 7pm and a two-course supper in the Livery Hall. Carriages at 10pm.

Tickets are £70 per person for members and £80 per person for non-members. Please sign up via e-mail to

events@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk by Tuesday, 26th March 2024. Dress code: Lounge Suits and Smart outfits

### EXPLORE CLERKENWELL & THE MUSEUM OF THE ORDER OF ST JOHN

WHEN: Wednesday 10th April 2024

TIME: 11.00

WHERE: Farringdon Tube Station

We hope that you'd like to join us for our spring walking tour with our usual guide, Grethe Hauge. Grethe's guided tours have become a very popular tradition as part of our events programme.

We'll meet up at Farringdon Tube Station at 11.00. The walk will take about one and a half hours, including a visit to the areas of the Museum of the Order of St John which are open to the public, and the tour will finish at Exmouth Market. We will suggest a good place for lunch afterwards and a chance to catch-up over a bite.

The price for this walking tour is £13 per person for members and £15 per person for non-members. Please sign up via e-mail to events@anglodanishsociety.org.uk by 5th April 2024.

#### **ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC AT DRAPERS' HALL**

WHEN: Wednesday 1st May 2024

TIME: 18.00

WHERE: Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue,

London EC2N 2DQ

A two-course supper will be served at 6pm, the concert starts at 7.15pm and carriages will be at 9pm.

When Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor is played at the Proms it is guaranteed to be a sell out at the Royal Albert Hall. So book early in order to hear it at Drapers' Hall along with Dvorak's Piano Quintet, an acknowledged masterpiece.

Solo Piano: Sherri LunIsla

String Quartet:
Mio Takasho (Violin)
Kynan Walker (Violin)
Catherine White (Viola)
Danushka Edirisinghe (Cello)
Charles Campbell-Peek (Double Bass)

Programme:

### **Events**

DVORAK Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Op. 81 CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor Op. 21

Tickets are £55 per person for members and £65 per person for non-members. Please sign up via e-mail to events@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk by Wednesday, 17th April 2024. Dress code: Lounge Suits and Smart outfits

#### **AGM & AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION**

WHEN: Tuesday 14th May 2024

TIME: 17.00 - 20.00

WHERE: The Royal Danish Embassy, 55 Sloane Street,

London SW1X 9SR

Please join us for the Annual General Meeting at The Danish Embassy in this our Centenary year. 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, Honorary President of the Anglo-Danish Society, is looking forward to welcoming us and treating us to drinks and canapes.

This event is strictly for members only. Please book by contacting Lone Mohr Curtis via hon.secretary@anglodanishsociety.org.uk no later than 7th May 2024.

### **BOOKING EVENTS**

Please check availability and book before making your payments. Further information is also available at <a href="https://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk">www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk</a> 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.

### THE UNITED KINGDOM SIBELIUS SOCIETY

WHEN: Sunday 19th May 2024

TIME: 14.00

WHERE: Burgh House, Hampstead, London NW3

The Sibelius Society has invited members of the Anglo-Danish Society to join them for their concert with Gina McCormack (violin), Jane Hyland (cello) & Lionel Friend (piano). Ticket Price £15. Please apply with name, address and number of tickets to: 51 Vernon Avenue, London SW20 8BN

The programme for the concert can be found on our website.

Payment by bank transfer to The Sibelius Society's Nat West A/C No 21418136 Sort Code 608008. Please email confirmation of payment. Or by cheque payable to The United Kingdom Sibelius Society.

#### **CENTENARY GALA DINNER**

WHEN: Friday 6th December 2024

TIME: 19.00—23.00

WHERE: Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue,

London EC2N 2DQ

We're very proud of our heritage and the impact that our Society has had on our community during the last 100 years and we intend to celebrate in style. Naturally, we'll also be toasting the future success of our Society, including our Scholarship Programme, for many more years to come.

We're planning to celebrate this significant milestone by means of a Centenary Gala Dinner at Drapers' Hall in the City of London on Friday, 6 December 2024 from 7pm – 11pm and we would love to see you there.

We start off by enjoying a drinks reception before moving into the grand Livery Hall itself for a delicious dinner, including entertainment and speeches. The dress code will be Black Tie and decorations.

More details will be published nearer the time. We're hoping to start the ticket sales this spring, so please keep an eye on our website and/or our FaceBook profile.





### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM/BANK STANDING ORDER

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

Pro-rata rates apply in the year of application according the calendar quarter you join membership (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 to The Anglo-Danish Society £ ...... / enclose cheque

### Please fill in the forms below:

Title/s	Name/s		
Address			
		Date	Signature
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For fu	uture annual subscription payments every $1^{ ext{st}}$ January, please fill in the Standing Order below.		
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	The Anglo-Danish Society, NATWEST, Tunbridge Wells Branch Account No: 78325285 Sort Code: 55 70 13 (Swift Code: NWBKGB2L IBAN Code: GB43NWBK55701378325285)		
The annual sur until otherwise	m of: £ on the $1^{st}$ January (year) and on the $1^{st}$ January every succeeding year e instructed.		
Payment referer	nce (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 The Hon. Membership Secretary, The Anglo-Danish Society, 52 St John's Avenue, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0BB hon.membershipsecretary@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

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