

## The British Club at 90!

It began in 1928 as a Club for “British Ladies who Lunch” - and this tradition of lunching together has remained a focal point of the British Club throughout its long life. Through thick and thin, increasing and decreasing membership, various changes in venue, the Club has remained a fixture of ex-pat life in The Hague and its surrounding area.

2018 has been a momentous year for us – apart from a few years during the Second World War, we have met continuously for ninety years, and have enjoyed a wide variety of activities, outings, talks and lectures, discussions on many topics, lunches, and celebrations of national and local events. Lasting friendships have been formed, support and help given to those in need, good times and bad have been shared; in short we have been everything that can be expected of an ex-pat group. The membership of the Club has evolved, and now embraces many different nationalities. Men have been welcomed as members since 2006, and although the majority of members are women, the men are a vital and interesting part of the Club. The only conditions for membership are that a prospective member has to have an interest in things British, and to speak English at our weekly meetings.



As the exact inauguration date in 1928 has been lost in the mists of time, we decided to celebrate this special anniversary with a series of events, big and small, throughout the year. An Open Forum was held at the end of 2017 at which members voiced a lot of ideas. Many of these ideas have now come to fruition, and there are still one or two to come. We focussed on talks and events involving participation by as many members as possible, and the variety was enormous. From a short comic play written by a member entitled “1928 and All That” and read/acted by a group of us, a morning of Mozart chamber music in which two Club members played, talks given by members on their work or pet subjects, a Literary Quiz organised by the librarians, to an International Lunch at which dishes from fourteen different countries were cooked by members from these countries: all these events were enjoyed by everyone who came. An Exhibition entitled “The Club’s got Talent” is planned for 2 November, and the variety of talent and skills is amazing. The exhibition sounds exciting, not to be missed!

Our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will end with a special lunch to be held at the Kurhaus in Scheveningen – a nostalgic place for some of the long-standing members, who enjoyed Club lunches there many years ago.