

On Friday 16 February 2018 the members were treated to a very interesting and amusing talk by **Jan Piet Kleiweg de Zwaan**, retired Dutch Ambassador.

Ambassadors do not always have the final say in where they are posted, and certainly as a more junior diplomat he had to go where he was sent. Family life in various countries, sometimes war-torn, sometimes primitive, but always interesting, had a number of ups and downs. The education and health needs of his three children to be considered, and upheavals every 4-5 years were quite a challenge: once he even had to play midwife and deliver his own son. Playing the violin was always important to him, and his instrument went with him everywhere: at a posting in India, he was the only European member of a local orchestra. He ended his talk in a very thought-provoking way – the moral dilemma many countries face when confronted by the need to juggle issues such as reconciling the sale of arms with the need to trade.

