

## Newsletter 1-2017

### From the English Section of Levende Talen



#### Editorial

Dear members,

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2017.

The National Conference of English 2017 in Ede is coming up on Friday 17 March and it is fully booked. We hope to meet many of you on this St. Patrick's Day at our Levende Talen stand, to pick up our brand new bookmark. All LT members and those who join us as a member that day can also collect their present at our stand.

In this Newsletter The British Council in the Netherlands presents itself and its activities and there is news about public speaking using information from the English-Speaking Union.

The Erasmus scholarships now have extended their funding for primary and secondary education and this news is announced in this Newsletter.

The Annual Conference 2017 of the IATEFL in Glasgow is also approaching fast and Patricia Rose provides the attendees with some useful tips for this event. Christien van Gool focuses on one of the SIGs, the LitSIG and the Pre Conference Events in Glasgow.

We do continue to request you to submit your comments, ideas, announcements, articles, reviews, events, etc., etc. for our newsletters to: [secretaris.engels@levendetalen.nl](mailto:secretaris.engels@levendetalen.nl)

You can also find us on social media, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LevendeTalenEngels> and Twitter: @LT\_Engels. Our webpage: <https://engels.levendetalen.nl> is kept up-to-date by our webmaster Dave, and input can be sent to him as indicated on the webpage.

***We wish you all a lovely Spring season and we hope to meet you at the NCE or other events!***

The board of the English Section / 'Het Sectiebestuur Engels', Levende Talen

## From the Chair

Dear colleagues,

By the time you read this edition of the Newsletter we will already be firmly rooted in Spring.

The recruitment of new board members is in progress but please do not hesitate to contact me in case you are considering joining the team, especially if you are good at and like using social media.

We look forward to meeting many of you at the National Conference of English on 17 March 2017 in Ede. Please come and see us at our stand. I am happy to announce The British Council and the English Section of Levende Talen will present a joint bookmark promoting both of our organisations. Look out for it and collect your own personal copy.

For those of you who are interested in news about Onderwijs2032 you will be happy to know that Deputy Education Minister Sander Dekker has issued a letter in response to the second round of consultation. He has decided that schools and teachers should be involved in the decision-making process and has consequently promised funding. The name for the new plan has changed to: *Een curriculum herziening in het primair en voortgezet onderwijs*. Below an excerpt of his letter about English:

“Engels: Om met vertrouwen te kunnen participeren in een mondiale samenleving waarin het Engels de tweede taal van steeds meer mensen wordt is een goede beheersing van deze taal van groot belang. Er zijn momenteel grote verschillen tussen po-scholen in de mate waarin ze aandacht aan Engels besteden. Hierdoor bestaan er aanzienlijke beheersingsverschillen tussen leerlingen bij de start van het voortgezet onderwijs. Daardoor zien leraren Engels in het vo zich genoodzaakt om weer van vooraf aan te beginnen. Door duidelijker te beschrijven welk niveau aan het einde van het po wordt verwacht, kan de aansluiting op het vo worden verbeterd. Conform de motie Bisschop behouden scholen de vrijheid om te bepalen wanneer zij beginnen met onderwijs in het Engels”.

I hope you will enjoy reading the Newsletter.  
Willemien den Hollander, [w.denhollander@xs4all.nl](mailto:w.denhollander@xs4all.nl)



## Welcome to the NCE 2017!

The National Conference of English 2017 in De Reehorst in Ede is fully booked. Hopefully, many of you will be joining us this Friday – 17 March – for this inspiring day on St. Patrick’s Day!

The full programme has now been published on our website [www.nationaalcongresengels.nl](http://www.nationaalcongresengels.nl) and will be included in your conference folder too of course.

Our theme in 2017 is: *The Twentieth Century Learner*. Keynote speaker is David Crystal and the title of his keynote speech is: *The Future of Englishes*.

Looking forward to meeting you all on Friday!  
The NCE Organising Committee



## Practise public speaking through the English-Speaking Union

In this school year, I know that some of you are organising your own mini-public speaking competition at your school. For anyone who would like to have some more ideas on how to practise public speaking with their students we have good news.

The **English-Speaking Union** has published some excellent teaching ideas on their website. These resources focus on all different areas of oracy, but you can filter so that you can just see public speaking resources. You can find them at

<http://www.esu.org/our-network/oracy-network/resources>

Here you can find lesson and activity plans, guides and motion ideas for debating, public speaking and performance. If you are looking for an oracy boost in your classroom, this page contains lots of ideas to support your teaching. These resources are continually being added to. I hope that these prove useful in the run up to your school or regional competitions.

Also, the **GNE Awards website** <http://www.gneawards.nl> is still available for you to browse the teaching and coaching ideas, marking sheets and examples. We have even given you a suggestion for a speaking theme: "Peace is not an absence of war".

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [info@gneawards.nl](mailto:info@gneawards.nl)

There is a vast wealth of English-language talent in schools in The Netherlands. Let's not lose that wealth and organise your own competition.

With our very best wishes,  
on behalf of the Organising Committee,

**Ingrid de Beer**, chair



## Extended funding by the Erasmus scholarships

The possibilities for funding by using the Erasmus scholarships has been extended, as can be read on the website

<http://www.erasmusplus.nl/actueel/nieuws/flinke-budgetverhoging-voor-het-po-en-vo>

Erasmus+ will give people the chance to study, train, undertake work experience and volunteer abroad with the aim of boosting skills and employability, particularly amongst young people, in The Netherlands.

Erasmus+ will also support transnational partnerships among Education, Training and Youth institutions and organisations to foster cooperation and bridge the worlds of Education and work in order to tackle the skills gaps we are facing in Europe. It will also support Dutch national efforts to modernise Education, Training and Youth systems.

More information for opportunities

- for schools, please contact [erasmusplus@epnuffic.nl](mailto:erasmusplus@epnuffic.nl)
- for vocational education and training, please contact [erasmusplus@cinop.nl](mailto:erasmusplus@cinop.nl)
- for higher education, please contact [erasmusplus@epnuffic.nl](mailto:erasmusplus@epnuffic.nl)
- for youth, please contact [erasmusplus@nji.nl](mailto:erasmusplus@nji.nl)
- for adult education, please contact [erasmusplus@cinop.nl](mailto:erasmusplus@cinop.nl)

## IATEFL news



<http://conference.iatefl.org/index.html>

SEC: Scottish Event Campus: <https://www.sec.co.uk/visitor-information/how-to-get-here>

The IATEFL International Annual Conference & Exhibition each spring is one of the main events in the English Language Teaching calendar. Attended by over 2,500 ELT professionals from more than 100 countries, it involves a 4-day programme of around 500 talks, workshops and symposiums as well as a vibrant social programme. This offers delegates a unique opportunity to meet leading theorists and writers, and exchange ideas with fellow professionals from all sectors of EL.

Patricia Rose is our Associate for the Netherlands at IATEFL and for those of you who are going to attend the forthcoming Annual Conference in Glasgow, she has some useful tips to make the most out of your visit to this event and your IATEFL experience.

### **1. Planning your speakers and activities by using the conference app.**

The app is available for iOS and Android devices; to download the relevant version, please follow the links below. If you live outside of the UK, I recommend downloading and installing the app before you leave your home country in order to reduce potential download costs and time. The app is easy to download before you go so you can already plan your speakers/workshops. Or plan a day or an afternoon earlier and get signed in at the venue, you receive the “paper” version of the programme. You can also combine the two. While using the app during the conference you don’t need to bring the heavy programme book with you all the time.

Per day per time slot choose a maximum of 3 workshops you would like to join.

Usually the evening before I choose the ones to go to, but don’t delete the others, it might be helpful to keep them in mind. When you have a hard time in making a choice, be practical and go the nearest one. Sometimes you don’t have much time to change rooms and don’t walk too much unless you have to.

If you’re with a group, try to go to as many different speakers as you can and organize a moment to share during the conference, or after while enjoying a drink and maybe some snacks. Or go in pairs, two remember more than one.

Plan some “downtime” after a full 2 days of presentations/workshops, you’ve heard a lot and your head might be spinning, so don’t overdo it, but just enjoy the experience!



[Available here for iPod, iPhone and iPad](#)



[Available here for Android](#)

**2. My favourite speakers:**

David Crystal/ Jamie Keddie/ Russel Stannard/ Jim Scrivener/ Nik Peachy/ Gavin Dudley  
Ken Wilson/ Joe Dale/ Nicky Hockley.

**3. Other famous names in ELT:**

J. Harmer / S. Thornbury/ M. Mc Carthy/ D. Willis/ M. Swan/ K.Walters/ P.Ur

**4. The Pre-conference day.**

Don't miss it and go to a SIG (Special Interest Group) on this day 3rd April.

Meet the experts and join their network. Or plan to go to SIG events or to the SIG speakers. Every SIG has a cluster of workshops on a certain day and the rooms are near to each other. So you can take a deep dive in something you're interested in.

IATEFL's Special Interest Groups (SIGs) give teachers professional development opportunities including the chance to share knowledge and best practices in key areas of English Language Teaching and Learning. Teacher support includes dedicated forums and newsletters, plus a busy programme of teacher training events and workshops organized around the world each year.

**5. Don't miss an evening programme:**

- Macmillan Party (buy your card at the Macmillan stand, money goes to charity)
- British Council network meeting.
- Pecha Kucha night (not every year).

**6. Live streaming and webinars.**

If you're interested but you're not able to travel to Glasgow you can follow the event through live streaming: When it starts on the 4th of April go to Glasgow online.

<https://iatefl.britishcouncil.org>

All the plenaries will be broadcasted live and a selection of speakers/plenaries. So go to the website and join the conference live from your home or school. Or look at it at a later time. Broadcasts from previous conferences are also available on this website.

Furthermore, there are a number of webinars available to both IATEFL members and non-members which can help you with your conference experience.

You can find out more about the conference experience by going to the YouTube channel: [IATEFLtalks](#)

 Why not view some of the photos from previous conferences via our Flickr account [IATEFL in pictures](#)

Hope to meet you there!!!

Patricia Rose

Any questions or want to meet up in Glasgow?

[patrose64@gmail.com](mailto:patrose64@gmail.com)

### Pre-conference Events (PCEs) 3 April Glasgow

Before the IATEFL conference in Glasgow from 4-7 April 2017 ([www.iatefl.org](http://www.iatefl.org)) there are all kinds of pre-conference events in which you can take part. These are one-day events devoted to particular subjects, organised by the SIGs (=Special Interest Groups).



The LitSIG (=Literature SIG) for example has a PCE on *Using films for English Language Learning*. The day will offer participants a series of talks and workshops on how to explore films with English language learners. The presenters will share ideas on how films can be used both inside and outside the classroom to promote language awareness, critical thinking and the development of the four skills as well as tools for the fostering of learner autonomy and independent learning skills. This is a joint event with the Creativity Group (C Group).

Speakers include Alan Maley, Kieran Donaghy, James Clarke, Jamie Keddie and many more. You can register for this one day only as well.

Go to [www.iatefl.org](http://www.iatefl.org) to find all the details for registering or to <http://litsig.weebly.com/> to learn more about the LitSIG and the film programme.

Christien van Gool

### Find out about the work the British Council do in the Netherlands

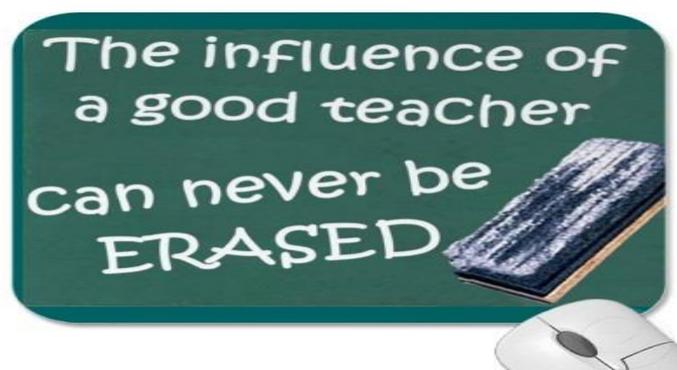
The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. What does this mean for the work we do in the Netherlands?

The British Council team in Amsterdam allowed the cameras into the office for a day to give you the insight on the work we do in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society.

Find out more and meet the team in the Netherlands in our latest About Us video. Watch it now via our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Theresa Costello

[Theresa.Costello@britishcouncil.nl](mailto:Theresa.Costello@britishcouncil.nl)



The Vedocep is busy with the planning for the next meeting which should be taking place on Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>. At that time we will be discussing the progress for the new body of knowledge (Kennisbasis Engels voor de Pabo) and the results of the Aptis test which was carried out on third year students at a number of primary teacher training colleges around the country last month. The results of the Aptis test will be used in advice to the governing bodies and might, therefore, also form part of the compulsory body of knowledge. You will notice a number of “conditionals” in this paragraph – this is deliberate as much as yet to be determined but the good news is that things are moving. We will keep you posted on all developments!

Recently a number of students from the Hogeschool van Amsterdam and Universitaire Pabo van Amsterdam carried out some research into the transfer from primary to secondary education – something that was also written about by Christien van Gool in the latest LT magazine and formed part of the discussion in Ton de Kraay’s PhD. We are all aware of many of the issues children and teachers have with the huge differences between children’s level of English when starting secondary school. There is, as yet, no definitive solution, but the UPvA students had some excellent ideas for local solutions. As you read above, the ministry has decided that English will not be compulsory from group 1 in primary education so the differences in pupils’ English entering the 1<sup>st</sup> year will remain but perhaps some good practice examples of primary and secondary schools working together on a joint vision or joint transfer document such as set out by the UPvA students might help many of you. Feel free to contact me for further information.

As many of you may be aware – there is a prize every other year for the best research into early language teaching (VVTO). This is aimed at ALL languages, although the majority of the theses to date have concerned English. If you have carried out bachelor research into the field or know someone else who has done so and might be interested in money and eternal fame, as well as contributing to the body of knowledge on the topic and perhaps helping other schools and students with your results, then please read the information behind this link: <https://www.epnuffic.nl/primair-onderwijs/talenonderwijs/vroeg-vreemdetalenonderwijs-vvto/onderzoek-vvto-onderzoeksprijs>

Thanks for reading! Beannachd leat.

Louise

[L.a.taylor@hva.nl](mailto:L.a.taylor@hva.nl)

