

ST. NICHOLAS FAIR

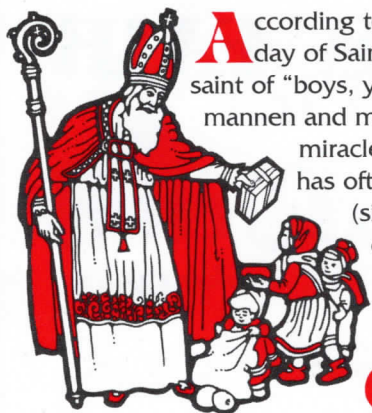
at the

Rembrandt Dutch Club

87 Dunheved Circuit St. Mary's



28th-29th November 1998



According to the calendar, the sixth of December is the special day of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor. The patron saint of “boys, young men and sailors” (in Dutch: “jongens, jonge mannen and matrozen”) has according to legend performed many miracles; he probably lived in the fourth century A.D. and has often been identified with Nicholas, Bishop of Pindara (situated close to Myra) who died in 564, the sixth century A.D. Thus it has been assumed that the details relevant to the bishop of Myra’s life are, in fact, a summary of both namesakes.

Originally a popular saint in the Eastern Christian Church, during the Middle Ages his fame spread to the west (notably Italy where, in the year 1087 his relics were taken by South Italian seafarers) and finally, by means of trading contracts of the Hanseatic merchants, to the North as well. This explains how the Dutch city of Amsterdam came to adopt Saint Nicholas as its city patron in the fourteenth century.

There is no country in the world where the festival of ‘Saint Nicholas’ is celebrated in quite the same way as in Holland and, to a certain degree, in Flanders, the Dutch speaking half of Belgium. One afternoon, late in November, when the European winter is already making its presence felt, ‘Sint Nicholas’ arrives from Spain by small steamer, usually a tug, right opposite the large ‘Sint Nicolaas Kerk’ (Saint Nicholas Church) in Amsterdam.

In the days between his arrival and the evening of 5th December every child in the country makes sure to be a ‘good girl’ or a ‘good boy’. Sinterklaas is the friend of all children without distinction; the religious aspect is totally absent, and this is what makes the Dutch version of Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra, so unique. At night every boy and girl places one shoe or stocking under the chimney stack with or without some grass or carrots for the horse. And hopefully, the next morning on arising, the shoe or stocking is filled with a small present or coin thrown down from the chimney by one of the ‘Black Peters’ while “The Good Saint” passed over the rooftop on his white mare, during the night. An empty shoe or stocking could be a foreboding of Saint’s anger with a ‘naughty’ child!

The culmination of this period is the evening of the 5th December, commonly called Sinterklaasavond (St. Nicholas Eve), or sometimes called Strooiavond (Sprinkle Eve) when the whole family are gathered around the living room table in expectation for ‘De Sint’ (The Saint) to call.

So the evening is spent unwrapping presents, often accompanied by a little rhyme or personal message. Usually everyone gets his or her initial as a chocolate letter. There is something for everyone..... EXCEPT the ‘naughty’ children and adults who are held in suspense until the last moment. In the end nobody has been forgotten.

COME AND CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL EVENT WITH US:



Two days of fun and games for young and old.

Lots of stalls such as:

- Dutch and Australian food
 - Big garage sale
 - Showbags
- Jumping castle
 - Pony rides
- Face painting and lots more....

Start: Saturday 28th November
10:00am till 12.00 midnight
(including Saturday night jam).

Sunday 29th November 10.00am till 4:00pm



Rembrandt Dutch Club

REMBRANDT DUTCH CLUB

The Rembrandt Club is situated at St. Marys
87 Dunheved Circuit.

We are a social club and open every Friday night from 7.00pm

At the club we have:

- The Rembrandt Male Choir
 - The Biljard Club
- The Klaverjas Club (Dutch game of cards)
 - Table Tennis
 - Sjoelbakken
- A Well Stocked Bar
- A Kitchen that provides the necessary food
and
any other social activity that you would like to do.

The hall can be hired any other time by anyone.

Please ring: (02) 9623 2569

We have a dance night on the last Saturday of each month.