



ANGLO-NORSE SOCIETY/
NORSK-BRITISK FORENING

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Anglo-Norse Society Newsletter 1/2017

Welcome to 2017! I hope that all had a wonderful Christmas and that the New year has got off to a good start. Last year I opened the first Newsletter of 2016 commenting on the green landscape, and bemoaning the thermometer's constant rise and fall, leaving most of us a little bewildered as to the time of year. "Plus ca change" for 2017, but with a remarkable lack of snow in Oslo one cannot but commiserate with those proper Norwegians, who view a weekend without skiing as a weekend lost. Even if I was a global warming sceptic, I would wonder if those scientists were right after all. One more green winter and even Donald Trump might have to accept the idea that "somthin' ain't right" and start taking some action. Speaking of which, it was a real political game changer in 2016, what with Brexit, Trump etc. to keep us worried or amused.

"Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room."

From "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou

The end of 2016 saw our Christmas Party return to its traditional venue at the British Embassy Residence, thanks to the kind invitation of the British Ambassador Sarah Gillett. After three years waiting for the renovations to be planned approved, funded and finally executed it proved to a return worth waiting for, The Residence really is one of Oslo's most beautiful and prestigious houses, and lends itself to grand entertaining. And grandly entertained we were by international opera star Ingebjørg Kosmo. Last year we enjoyed Fifty Shades of Grieg, and I wondered if it was possible to top that. I do not think we did but we certainly equalled the standard and entertainment value. A real treat, amidst the parlour coziness of the Residence. Where do we go from here? Well just wait and see! I tried to outwit all with the Chairman's prizes, so those who sat on chairs believing they were the lucky positions were in for a shock as I had Lawrence with his top hat full of the names all present, from which were drawn the winners. Again, I shall have to be ready to find another way of making you winners in 2017.

For those who made it to the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree felling, it was, by your accounts, a good morning out, despite the somewhat unkind weather. It is a ceremony that is so quintessentially Norwegian with English understatement, a real Anglo Norse gathering, that I commend it to anyone. Fun, friendly yet centered on ties between the nations forged in the darkest of hours. It is also worth taking a trip to London to see the tree in situ. Any excuse to catch up on pre Christmas shopping and if you time it right a visit to our sister Society in London. They are the people who are responsible for the Anglo Norse Review, but don't always believe what they say as STOP PRESS. Our next meeting is not on 7 March but next week, on 7 February. Note also the change in venue to Schafteløkken.

We have a lot on offer for this year. Please see over for the full program so far. NOW REMEMBER: to enjoy the program we need SUBSCRIPTIONS, and now is the time of year to pay. We have higher subs now as approved last AGM: NOK 500 for the family, and NOK 350 for an individual. See over for the details. With mounting costs for our meeting place, and for speakers please act now and avoid a rude letter from me later!

Michael Brooks, Anglo-Norse Chairman.