

Anglo Norse Newsletter: Summer 2013

When last I sat down to write an Anglo Norse Newsletter, Summer was an anticipated event, the more so as a long winter drew to a welcome close. The joy of summer is I think encapsulated by Henry James:

“Summer afternoon-summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language”

He says so little, but yet who cannot agree, as one immediately recalls long and languid days in the sun? And it is on such an afternoon I write, Oslo enjoying the longest and warmest spell of what started as a cool wet season.

Looking back to the start of our year, all those who did not make it to the Annual General Meeting in March will be kicking themselves. Not that the AGM was out of the ordinary, but the rest of the evening was, as Chris Maile gave us a wonderful Whisky evening, complete with bagpipes, a history of the spirit and a most enjoyable tasting experience. Who would have thought that education could be such fun! And as predicted by Chris, the finest noses belonged to the ladies who easily won the tasting competition.

Women having set the lead, it was reinforced by a fantastically energetic and entertaining Bee Rowlett, the BBC journalist and author, who gave the April meeting an insight into the early feminist, Mary Wollestonecraft. Reading extracts from her forthcoming book, Bee took us back to Mary's journey to Norway in search of love and treasure. As it turned out she found neither, but her contemporary descriptions of southern coastal towns and their inhabitants caused a few knowing nods from some of the current visitors to these shores. (Not all the descriptions were flattering)!

The summer outing was a tour through Frogner, led by Truls Aslaksby who introduced us to “Harald Hals and the English Quarter “. We ended with wine and strawberries at Kristinelundveien 22, once a shipowners mansion but later home of the Gestapo officers club and Court room in the darker days of 1940-45. One can see why, with an ability to pick the best buildings, the occupying powers chose this one.

So a great start to the year's events, and if you turn over you will find the program for Autumn. It starts with our wine and cheese evening in September. With last years event proving very popular with quiz and raffle (which will be repeated) come early to get your place. See you there!

Anglo Norse Society: Autumn/Winter Program 2013.

Monday 2 September: 19:30 Frogner Kirkestue. Wine and Cheese

Following the fun last year's event we aim to make this even better. There will be a quiz (with prizes), and a raffle. Again we will have a raffle. If you would like to bring something to add to the prizes, that would be welcome, but it is not at all necessary to bring any thing at all. Just come and win! We had a good selection of donations last year, all well worth winning. There will be a cover charge of NOK50 for non-members, and to gauge catering needs please fill out the attendance slip below.

25 September: The English Chamber Orchestra is playing at the Oslo Konserthus. The ECO is one of the foremost chamber orchestras. There may be an opportunity to meet some of the orchestra after the performance, and if members let me know if they intend to attend, I will follow up this opportunity with the Orchestra. You must buy your own tickets!

Tuesday 22 October: 19:30 Frogner Kirkestue.

Our speaker will be **Knut Langeland**. Knut is a designer of gardens, and has great historic knowledge of famous and less well known gardens. His talk entitled "**A visit to some of the most beautiful gardens in the world**" should be a delight for the historian, gardener and those who just appreciate the finer things in life.

Sunday 10 November: 14.15: Vestre Gravelund: Annual Remembrance of the fallen of World War II at the Commonwealth Graves and War Memorial, and thereafter at **15:00** at Frognerkirke. **15:45** Tea at the British Embassy Residence afterwards.

Thursday 21 November: 19:30 Assembly Rooms Mogen Thorsens Stiftelse, Niels Juelsgate 19:

A treat is in store as ANS will be entertained by the renowned harmonica player **Sigmund Groven**. Sigmund, who really needs no introduction, is a composer and player, who has enjoyed (and well deserved) a fabulous international career as one of the world's leading harmonica players. Sigmund will be accompanied by pianist, Ivar Anton Waagaard. There will be a cover charge of Nok50. Refreshments after the concert.

November: Annual Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree Cutting: Date, time and venue to be advised (when the Mayor has decided!)

December: Annual Christmas Party: Date to be advised.

Anglo Norse Wine and Cheese Evening: Monday 2 September 2013

YES! I/Wewill be attending the Social Evening and will be bringing.....guests.

Please respond by **27 August** by either e mailing or returning this slip to Michael Brooks (mbrooks@nordisk.no or Nils Collett Vogts vei 7, 0766 Oslo