

ANGLO NORSE NEWSLETTER Winter 2013

As we turn and close the door on 2012 and open that of 2013, who like me still thinks that the Millennium was but the year before last and yet in a blink it will be summer? Let us try to stop the march of time and tarry in winter.

*“When men were all asleep the snow came flying, In large white flakes falling on the city brown,
Stealthily and perpetually settling and loosely lying, Hushing the latest traffic of the drowsy town;
Deadening, muffling, stifling its murmurs failing; Lazily and incessantly floating down and down.”*

From “London Snow”, by Robert Bridges.

And what a winter we have had at Anglo Norse! Congratulations to all those who saw the Christmas Tree for Trafalgar Square start its journey from a wind whipped hillside east of Oslo. You braved not only the weather but perhaps the most confusing and conflicting set of instructions from the Mayor’s office on how to get there. Advice of a 12 km walk from the car park given to some Members was balanced by your Chairman being guided to a car park within 200meters of the event! Now we know the routine I hope more will make it this year. We enjoyed roaring fires, hot chocolate, speeches, children singing iced buns, lamb stew, and the tree, all before 12 noon. We left with a warm glow and the sense that Christmas was really on its way.

Harald Herresthal’s talk on Delius focusing on the composer’s friendship with Grieg and love of Norway should not have been missed. The musical excerpts were excellent, but I suppose we should have expected no less from a man of Harald’s knowledge and enthusiasm. I was particularly fascinated by Delius arrangement of the Norwegian National Anthem, much to the horror and even anger of the contemporary Norwegian citizen. I doubt that a musician has succeeded quite so adroitly at annoying others save perhaps when Jimi Hendrix with his electric guitar did a similar job on the United States National Anthem in 1969!

We also enjoyed one of the best Christmas Parties, didn’t we? Jane Owen’s warm welcome set us up for a cracking cabaret led and organized by Sybil Richardson. Why she has only been on your Committee for a year if she can put on that kind of show is a mystery to me. The food was excellent and all of you in good voice for the carolling. Prizes beneath seats and surprises for two members **Basil Cowlshaw** and **Geir Uthaug** who were awarded thoroughly deserved Honorary Memberships of the Society for past (and we hope future) support. Indeed Geir as part of the Cabaret was earning his award even at the party. As usual the tremendous venue of the Embassy Residence and the helpful staff sealed the success.

Note: It is time to pay your subscription for 2013! Remember, the subs were increased at the last AGM to **NOK 300** for a single and **NOK 450** for a family membership. Please remit your subs now to the account of ANGLO NORSE SOCIETY with DnB; Account number: **7020 2002143**

Michael Brooks/Chairman

Anglo Norse Society: Calendar of Events Winter/Spring 2013

7 February: 19:30 Frogner Kirkestue

A presentation on the pros and Cons of **Scottish Devolution** from the United Kingdom; presented by **Atle Wold**. A potentially devastating change for both sides of the border, and with the referendum due in 2014 there is no time like the present to hear the issues,--and offer your own opinions.

14 March: 19:30 Frogner Kirkestue

Annual General Meeting. Your chance to hear what the Committee has to report, ask questions and possibly stand for the Committee!

We will follow the AGM with a **Scottish Whisky Evening**. This will be presented by Whisky expert **Chris Maile**, a member of the Keepers of the Quaich, and will include some history, anecdotes and of course **TASTING**. As Chris will need to calculate the volume of whisky to bring along, please see the prospective Attendance slip below.

25 April: 19:30 Frogner Kirkestue

We currently await the confirmation of English author **Bee Rowlatt** that she has been able to sort out her travel arrangements from England to come and speak to us on her latest book, one on Mary Woolstencraft, the English writer, philosopher and advocate of women's rights. She was also the mother of Mary Shelley, the author of Frankenstein. Bee has fallen for Norway on previous visits, so we hope there will be a good attendance to keep her enthusiasm at a high level.

13 June 18:00 We have the historian, **Dr. Truls Aslaksby** guide us through "the English Quarter" in Halfdan Svartes gate and surrounding area. Come and learn from this specialist in architecture, who has worked with the Cultural Heritage Management Office in Oslo with responsibility for culturally important buildings, and who has recently published a book on the area that we will tour. See how Oslo (in parts) may be a piece of Olde England! This will be a walking tour (not too far) and end with a glass of wine and strawberries at 22 Kristinelundveien, which as the SS Club in World War II has not always been the address to which Norwegians or English have welcomed an invitation!

Meet at: The bus stop in **Olav Kyrres Plass, Bygdøy Alle** at **18:00 hrs.**

Whisky Evening: 14 March: For guidance only:

I/We intend to come

Advise by e mail to: mbrooks @nordisk.no or send to Nils Collett Vogts vei 7, 0766 Oslo