

Welcome to the New Year. Looking back I admit that the weather forecast in the poem opening my last Newsletter was as accurate as the Met. Office. It predicted a "Season of ice". Yet we have experienced the warmest, wettest November and December on record. Describing events to his Grandfather in England my son accurately summed it up. "Christmas", he said "was too grassy"

*This is the weather the shepherd shuns, And so do I,
When beeches drip in browns and duns, and thresh, and ply;
And hill-hid tides throb, throe on throe, And meadow rivulets overflow,
And drops on gate-bars hang in a row. And rooks in families homeward go,
And so do I.*

From "Weathers" by Thomas Hardy

It is rare that one gets the opportunity to hear a true musical great, but that was the treat for those who attended the November "House Concert" given by Sigmund Groven. A wonderful harmonica player of world renown, Sigmund demonstrated why his reputation is so well deserved. Moving musically from country to country, from the baroque to modern day, from the music of others to his own compositions, all delivered with affability and charm. It was particularly effective in the intimate setting of a lounge, where no one was more than a few meters from the maestro. For those who missed it, Sigmund has promised to return for the 2014 Christmas Party, provided that we can find a compatible date. I am looking forward to this already.

Sigmund will however have a deal to do to make the Christmas Party better than the one which drew our 2013 program to a close. We always have a good time, but I cannot recall when so many of you told me it really was the best yet. Of course the setting of the Embassy was perfect, with its many Christmas trees, decorated by children after the Oslo tree departed for Trafalgar Square to add that special Anglo Norse touch. Petter Richter's guitar was magnificent, whilst Geir Uthaug's selected readings from Dickens, put us firmly in the Christmas spirit. I praised the cook for his mince pies, and as I left he gave me a few extras to take home!

Enough of looking back! What will 2014 bring?

First, the bad news. Yes it is time to pay your 2014 subscription. It is currently NOK 300 for a single membership and NOK 450 for a family. Please send your subscription to our account with DnB, Account number **7020 20 02143**. Don't forget to add your name as payer so that we can trace each subscription.

The good news is that we welcome several new members who have joined in 2013!

The best news is our 2014 Programme, which you will find overleaf. I look forward to seeing you all.

Michael Brooks; Chairman, Anglo Norse Society

Anglo Norse Society: Programme of Events: Winter/Spring 2014

4 February : 19:30: Frogner Kirkestue: An illustrated talk on **John William Edy** 1760-1820. English artist, printer and possibly the James Bond of his day. Was he spying on Norway? Come and find out. Presented by **Stein L. Meyer**

11 March: 19:30: Annual General Meeting. Followed by **An Introduction to Wine, presented by Debbie Price.** Debbie has had an interest in wine for many years. She has run a wine club in Oslo which seeks to find the best wines available and spread the word. Her aim is to show how wine should enhance life. Come and get her expertise. There will be tastings!

8 April : 19:30: Frogner Kirkestue: Edward Dean, organist at St. Edmund's Church was going to give a concert on this evening. Unfortunately, Edward Dean has to be abroad. We will come back to an alternative programme.

27 May: In this special year of the Norwegian Constitution, an **Outing to Hovedøya.** This will include a guided tour by **Karl Gervin** and weather permitting a **picnic.** Please watch your e-mails and the website for details of where to meet, and when.

10 June: 19:30: Frogner Kirkestue: a presentation by well known journalist **Ulf Andenes,** who will share some of the ups and downs of life as a journalist and the breaking of news.

To assist in determining the quantity of wine for tasting etc after the AGM, please advise (if possible) if you intend to attend, by e mail to mbrooks@nordisk.no , by post to Nils Collett Vogts vei 7, 0766, Oslo, or phone/text to 915 35 605.