

Anglo-Norse Society Newsletter 3/2015

As we move into the late Autumn, and Remembrance Day approaches it is appropriate I think to recall that it is now 70 years since the largest conflict in history came to an end. Norway saw an end to occupation and all with family away fighting, be it Allied or Axis, breathed a sigh of relief that they would come home, as many sadly did not.

“And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts, at peace under an English heaven.”

From “The Soldier” by Rupert Brooke

This is perhaps a fitting introduction to my reminder that the annual wreath laying will take place at the Commonwealth War Graves in Vestre Gravlund on Sunday 8th November. Full details are overleaf. However this year there will not be a Service of Remembrance at Frogner kirke. It will be at St. Edmunds Church, Møllergata at 11 am. Please note this change and alert anyone whom you know who is likely to wish to attend. Parking is usually easy on a Sunday, and I am sure the Service will be as rewarding as ever. I can offer no explanation why the arrangements, which have been in place for so many years, have been changed somewhat abruptly, by the British Embassy, particularly in this important anniversary year.

Still looking back, but not nearly as far as 70 years, indeed less than 70 days, to our annual Cheese and Wine Party. I thought I would be travelling, but fortune smiled and I made it. Yet again I received scowls and rough remarks as those present battled to win the quiz. I am always told it is too difficult, but if you know the answers it was easy. Who would have known that Jane Austen really did go Squirrel riding before breakfast! In the end we had a very closely fought contest with only a few marks between first and last. Anyway you all must be having fun or be gluttons for punishment as this year we had the biggest turn out yet. The prizes must be too good, or the wine too free flowing. My sincere thanks to all those who donated prizes to the raffle. There were some really good ones, and my sons were really impressed with the Mercedes Benz travel mugs that I won. Now I just have to afford the car to go with them!. My thanks too to all who helped on the night to set up and clean away after the revelers had departed. They are all too often unsung heroes.

The anniversaries flew thick and fast this year, and for some Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth becoming the longest reigning British monarch ranked at the top of the list. For those lucky enough to have been at the meeting on 13 October we were treated to a film “A Monarch for all Seasons”. A record turnout sat beneath Union Jack flags, dined on English fare and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It took us through events of The Queen’s reign, both major and minor. One has to be impressed by the total dedication she has given and continues to give to the peoples of the UK and the Commonwealth. Most of us would have thrown in the towel long ago and reached for the proverbial pipe and slippers. Long may she reign!

Our upcoming events are overleaf as usual. I look forward to seeing as many of you at each event as possible.

Michael Brooks, Chairman.



NOVEMBER 8th Remembrance Day, 11am Remembrance Service; St Edmunds Church ; Møllergate. The service will be led by the Senior Chaplain the Reverend Brian Russell, with last post sounded, and refreshments at the Church afterwards. **Wreath laying at Vestre Gravlund at 2pm.** The graveside tribute to the fallen will be led by Brian Russell and attended by H.M.British Ambassador Sarah Gillett , together with many of the Ambassadors or Consuls from the countries of the Allied forces. Veterans from Norway will be on parade.

NOVEMBER 10TH, 7 pm. Frogner kirkestue. NOTE THE EARLY START .We we will be showing the epic film “ Waterloo” to commemorate the famous battle which saw Old Boney put in his place 200 years ago this year. The film is a veritable “Epic”. They just don’t make ‘em like that any more (A bit like most of our members?!) Come and enjoy Christopher Plummer crossing swords with Rod Steiger, as Virginia McKenna looks on.

NOVEMBER 18th. Annual Trafalgar Square Christmas tree felling. The location will not be disclosed until nearer the event. This will be posted on our web site. Members with e mail will receive this direct. For those not as yet up to speed with modern technology but who are interested to attend are kindly asked to get in touch with our secretary, who will put you on her list and telephone you as soon as we have received information from the Embassy or Mayor’s office. Sybil Richardson 41510840. It is a thoroughly worthwhile event,, with bonfires, children’s choirs, hot food and drinks, and of course is a perfect event for The Anglo Norse, cementing those ties across the North Sea.

DECEMBER 8th CHRISTMAS PARTY! 7.30-10.30pm at “**Schafteløkken**”, Zahlkasserer Schafts plass 2 (between Frognerplass & Bygdøy Allé). There is an elevator from ground level. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have booked the lovely “Schafteløkken” mansion for the event, since the restoration work at the Embassy Residence is still in progress. As always the event opens with a concert, and we are thrilled that this year the internationally renowned pianist **Tor Espen Aspaas** will be entertaining us with his programme “*Fifteen Shades of Grieg*“ . Tor Espen is one of the most outstanding pianists of his generation in Norway and also one of the youngest professors at the Norwegian Academy of Music. His worldwide recital tours have brought him great success and he made his US debut in Carnegie Hall in 2103, which was received with standing applause. He is the initiator of the “**Winter Chamber Music Festival**” in Røros. Tor Espen has just returned from participating in the concert series “**Pianists of the World**” which took place in the beautiful church of **St.Martin-in-the Fields** in the heart of London. Quite how we managed to secure him remains a mystery, but who cares! Come and join the fun. The concert will follow with the usual delicious Christmas fare and wine and will conclude with carol singing around the grand piano. Don´t forget the prize Christmas pudding which will be shipped in especially from England soon. We hope as many of our members as possible will attend what is usually the most popular event of the season. Guests are heartily welcome!. The price of the entrance tickets will be **kr 300.-** which will contribute to the rent of the venue, food, wine and entertainment. It is cheap at the price !

SIGNING UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY: DEADLINE December 1st. Please note:

MEMBERS with E-MAIL: For those who are on e-mail, please send a message stating your name and how many wish to attend to Hanne Wong: anglonorse@gmail.com. Your e-mail will then be acknowledged by return e-mail and you will be put on the guest list.

MEMBERS who use POST: should sign up by telephoning our secretary Sybil Richardson on **41510840** and you and your party will be automatically put on the guest list.

PAYMENT: As in the old days, the payments will be collected at the door. Thus relieving us all of bank transactions and postage. We would be most grateful if guests could bring the exact amount.

All registered bookings will be considered as confirmed. Any cancellations after December 1st will be invoiced and the same will apply for those who have booked, but do not attend. We apologise for having to enforce this strict rule, but are sure everyone will understand our commitment to Schafteløkken and the caterers, etc.



ANS - 2016 EVENTS CALENDAR February- June.

Please note for your diary that all events in 2016 will start at 7pm.

Tuesday FEBRUARY 9th at 7.00 pm Frogner kirkestue:

“Stranger in a Strange Land-the move to Norway” as told by a remarkable storyteller: **Georgiana Keable** who has been a pioneer for the renaissance of storytelling in England and Norway. In 2002 she started **Fortellerhuset** with eight storytellers from three continents. She has been teaching storytelling at Oslo University for eighteen years and is also the Director of the Norwegian Storytelling Festival. She received the Oslo prize for outstanding contribution to Art in Oslo in 2015.

Tuesday MARCH 8th at 7.00 pm: Frogner kirkestue:

Anglo-Norse **AGM** to be followed by a talk on **“Thor versus Christ- the Battlefield of Scandinavia”**. We are very happy to be able to welcome Associate Professor **John McNicol** from the Dept.of Archaeology, Conservation and History at Oslo University. John is an authority on Viking and Medieval history. He was awarded the Oslo University prize for outstanding teaching in 2014.

Tuesday APRIL 19th at 7.00 pm: Frogner kirkestue.

A talk by Professor **Ian Damerell** who works at The Norwegian Institute for Technology, Art and Design. Ian, educated from the Royal College of Art in London is a cosmopolitan artist and teacher who works in Norway, England and Lithuania. His works are on display in museums and galleries in England, Norway, Sweden, Japan and Wales. He will give a talk on **“A new look at art”** about his ideas around how to educate artists. Ian is in great demand as a lecturer and is known for his inspiring fresh approach to the world of art.

Wednesday MAY - 11th or 25th . Concert at St.Edmund’s Church (to be confirmed)

After last year’s success we will be continuing our collaboration with St. Edmund’s Church in presenting a concert of the highest quality for all our members, with refreshments served in the crypt afterwards. Further details in the first newsletter of 2016.

Tuesday . JUNE 14th at 7.00 pm

Guided outing. Strawberries and sparkling wine. Details to follow.