

Anglo-Norse Society Newsletter 3/2016

It is difficult to believe that summer is fading fast and autumn pressing its nose against the window pane. Not that this summer was anything special if you determine success by the level to which the thermometer rises and the hours of sunshine recorded at the Meteorological Institute. Oh, on that basis summer was a damp squib.

“Leaves, summer’s coinage spent, golden still are all together whirled,
sent spinning, dipping, slipping, shuffled by heavy handed wind,
shifted sideways, sifted, lifted, and in swarms made to fly,
spent sunflies, gorgeous tatters, air drift, pinions of trees.”

From “The Lapwing” by Rex Warner

Were we not in autumn in July? Perhaps, and yet it was a memorable summer. I, along with 9,999 others, positively revelled in the English rain which greeted those who had the luck to attend the Queen’s Summer Street Party. Thrown to bring the celebrations for the Queen’s 90 years to an end, invitations were sent to all charities, societies and organisations of which The Queen was Patron. And as Anglo-Norse enjoys the right patronage, I, and a number from our sister society in London, found ourselves queuing in the light drizzle to gain access to the Mall. By the time we actually passed the security there was a steady drumming on the umbrella. A shame, as the security staff confiscated the umbrellas as threats to public safety. Quite what they envisaged is unclear. James Bond style rifles concealed in the shaft; a trigger in the handle? Still, in true British fashion all gloom was banished by the provision of buckets of PG Tips whilst we collected individual hampers for the picnic lunch. The rain continued to fall as if someone had pulled the plug on some heavenly bathtub until....the Queen arrived. Out came the sun as if by Royal command. Weather? Oh that was then and now we have sun! And so it continued until the end of the speeches, Royal walkabouts, military bands, processions, dancing and a march past of banners naming all the attending societies, and as all were in alphabetical order there was Anglo-Norse, happily in the front row. The rain resumed as the tail of the procession disappeared into Bird Cage Walk, but who cared? Long may she reign!

Pre summer we enjoyed a run of interesting and well attended talks and outings. One event not to have missed was the performance of “Two Gentlemen of Verona” to which Anglo-Norse were able to secure tickets at a substantial discount. We do not often see Shakespeare performed in English in Oslo, and this play, being an early one in the repertoire, is not often performed anywhere. However, within the walls of Akershus, and competing with the public showing of Euro 2016 in the square behind the Town Hall, those attending were treated to a lively performance by the Globe travelling company. Afterwards we, with the Shakespeare Society, hosted a reception for the cast which went on until all the wine and canapés were gone. Another memorable evening and one I am pleased to say had over 30 of the Society’s members attending.

I should mention the other talks and events, but as the bottom of the page draws closer, you must await the Annual Report for those. Suffice it to say we are entering autumn with a full and varied programme, all of which is set out overleaf. We start in barely two weeks’ time with the visit of Lionel Carley from England. I hope as many of you can attend to make his trip memorable.

Michael Brooks, Anglo-Norse Chairman.

ANGLO-NORSE SOCIETY - 2016 EVENTS

AUTUMN/ WINTER

Tuesday SEPT. 6th at 7.00 pm

Frogner Kirkestue. Talk by Dr. Lionel Carley. Many members will recall the enthralling talk on Frederick Delius, given some years ago by Dr. Lionel Carley, President of the Delius Society. Dr. Carley has kindly consented to make a special journey to Oslo to talk about Delius' friend, Edvard Grieg, and his visits to Victorian England, based on his extensive research, which resulted in an acclaimed and highly readable book: "**Grieg in England**". Dr. Carley has much to tell us.

Tuesday OCT. 4th at 7.00 pm

Frogner Kirkestue. Our popular Cheese and wine / quiz/ raffle. This event is always great fun!. Donations to the raffle large or small, new or old will be gratefully appreciated, as will the buying of lots of raffle tickets. The cheese and wine are free.

Tuesday NOV. 15th 7.00 pm

Frogner Kirkestue. A talk on British Theatre and Music Hall titled "**A little bit of what you fancy does you good !** ": quote by Marie Lloyd the legendary Music Hall artist. Actor and theatre history buff: Andrew Raymond Barnes will take us back into the world of Music Hall, grand and not so grand theatres, eccentric performers, triumphs and disasters and some of the lesser known and unexpected avenues of British stage history from Shakespeare's time up until today, with a special focus on the audience. Not so much an academic stroll as a brisk, light-hearted canter and a peek behind the scenes.

NOV. Date & time t.b.c.

Remembrance Day & Tree felling. Information will follow in our Winter newsletter.

Tuesday DEC. 6th. 7.00 pm.

Arriving by 6.45 pm

Christmas Party at the British Ambassador's residence in Drammensveien. The annual Christmas Party is our most popular event, with top entertainment, english fare, drinks and carol singing. We are delighted to be coming "home" again to the residence after a two-year absence. Further details concerning the sign-up, admission price, etc. will be sent out in our next newsletter. In the meanwhile, please cross off the date on your calendar.

Please do not hesitate to contact our secretary: Sybil Richardson 415 10 840 : richardson.sybil@e-mail.com, should you have any enquiries.