

Anglo Norse Society in Oslo

Chairman's Annual Report 2013/14

My New Year is always celebrated by sitting down to write the annual report for the society, and this task appears to come around with ever increasing speed. However, with a successful year behind us it is no hardship.

First and foremost I must extend my thanks to all members of the Committee who do all the hard work, whilst I as Chairman take the public congratulations of a well done job. The Committee work has not been without its difficulties this year. We started off with no Treasurer, but appealed to Celia Syversen who should have retired last year. Celia kindly agreed to stay on as Treasurer for another term. Our Membership Secretary, Anita Kildal who has done a sterling service on the Committee also decided to step down. Finally Geir Uthaug who has given the Committee a fresh outlook has found that his commitments elsewhere prevent him from serving as he would like. I thank all three for their services.

It does mean that we would welcome new blood on the Committee. Eight is the minimum, so assuming that the retiring members who are prepared to face up to the task again are re-elected, the Committee will consist of 6. So volunteers please!. Eli Selven and Tom Kleppestø have indicated they may take on the task of Treasurer.

Committee members who have given their time and effort during 2013 are:

Michael Brooks - Chairman
Elisabeth Solem - Vice Chairman
Celia Syversen - Treasurer (co-opted)
Anita Kildal - Membership Secretary
Lise Høst: Hanne Wong; Geir Uthaug; Gerd Rosander; Sybil Richardson

Meetings

The Society held seven meetings and participated in two others, matching the frequency of the 2012/13 season. We started with the AGM, which was followed by a hugely enjoyable and educational evening on Scotch Whisky. Our speaker Chris Maile played the bagpipes to get us in the mood, taught us the history and science, and predicted that the winner of "Place that Scotch" would be a lady. He really knows his stuff. If that was a good start, then our April

event brought author and BBC journalist Bee Rowlett from England. She delivered extracts from her new book on Mary Wollstonecraft, with emphasis on her travels in Norway, looking for love and treasure (sadly she found neither). An enjoyable talk delivered with energy and enthusiasm. The meeting before the summer break was in the open, as Dr.Truls Aslaksby eruditely showed us around the English Quarter of Oslo, located on Halfdan Svartegate, with the afternoon completed with strawberries and wine at Kristinelundveien 22, a once feared address for the Norwegian Resistance, housing in unhappier times the Martial Court of the occupying German forces. It now retains a legal outlook, housing Nordisk Skibsrederforening. To start off the Autumn we had a repeat of our popular Cheese and Wine evening, complete with quiz, raffle and general bonhomie. Returning to the great outdoors, at least for the topic we had the well known garden designer Knut Langeland take us on a tour of great gardens of Great Britain, with unexpected pictures of the humble terrace cottages in contrast to the surrounding palaces. Next was a musical treat in November with Sigmund Groven on the harmonica and we ended the season with the Christmas Party in December, hosted by Ambassador Jane Owen at her official residence which is by far the best house in Oslo (although the Royal Palace may be bigger). Other events which were attended were the Remembrance Day wreath laying service and tea at the British Embassy to follow. The Trafalgar Square tree cutting in the woods near to Tryvannstua on a crisp November morning. I hope the current year will be as varied and entertaining.

Finances

This year the Treasurer reports a small deficit of NOK 8.618,58, incurred partly due to the investment in a new projector. The balance of the deficit was due to increased costs of the Christmas Party. This could easily be eradicated through either increased membership numbers, or charging slightly more for the party. There is no proposal to increase the membership subscription in 2014.

The Committee will ask the Society to adopt the accounts for 2013 and to approve the budget for 2014.

Membership

Membership numbers are relatively stable, although at first glance they may appear to have fallen. This has arisen following a review by the Committee of the old membership list with those who had actually paid their subscription.

Those who had not paid their subscription were subsequently contacted and the list now shows the correct membership figures. There are quite a few new members who have joined the Society in 2013. The overall effect we believe is a slight reduction in the membership list, but an increase in those actually participating. This figure should make the budget more accurate. However I do urge all members to endeavour to introduce new members during the course of the year. If we can achieve this goal our ability to attract more speakers, particularly from the UK would be significantly improved.

Catering

The catering, which enhances our meetings has been ably provided by the ladies of the Committee. The necessary tasks of shopping, food preparation and clearing up afterwards demands a great deal of time, and I thank all those involved for their efforts in this area.

ANS. Oslo Newsletter and Website

Our sister Society in London produces the Anglo Norse Review twice a year. After many requests I have seen a few articles whose authors are this side of the North Sea. Tim Gilbert who edits the magazine could do with more contributions from Norway. It is open to all to write on any Anglo Norwegian topic of their choice.

The ANS-Oslo newsletter is I hope keeping you all apprised of the events by providing the dates of the upcoming events for your diary and with the majority of our members receiving the letter on line, there is no excuse for not coming along !. Our brand new website, anglonorseoslo.com active since October 2013 is also an excellent way of keeping abreast with news, views and events and to send to friends and colleagues who may wish to join our Society. We are in the throes of expanding the website in collaboration with the London office & The London & Oslo Embassy, St.Edmund's Church etc; Any suggestions in connection with the website will be most welcome.

I hope that you have all enjoyed the last year and that the Anglo Norse will continue to provide entertainment, education and friendship. That is after all what our founder Fridtjof Nansen was hoping to achieve.

Michael Brooks
Chairman

**ANGLO NORSE SOCIETY - ACCOUNTS 2013
AND BUDGET FOR 2014**

Expenditure	2013	Budget 2013	Budget 2014
Meetings	8 084,90	9 000,00	8 000,00
Programmes	26 916,29	18 000,00	19 000,00
Newsletters	9 611,40	8 000,00	9 000,00
Creation website	2 105,23	0,00	0,00
Anglo Norse Review	5 462,22	6 000,00	5 600,00
Depreciation projector	0,00	0,00	1 400,00
Other expenses	2 915,10	5 500,00	3 000,00
Total	55 095,14	46 500,00	46 000,00
Deficit	-8 618,58	0,00	0,00
Total	46 476,56	46 500,00	46 000,00
Income			
Membership fees	40 600,00	42 000,00	42 000,00
Proceeds Raffle	2 050,00	0,00	0,00
Interest	3 826,56	4 500,00	4 000,00
Total	46 476,56	46 500,00	46 000,00
BALANCE SHEET			
Cash	2 284,50		
Stamps in hand	760,00	Creditors	7 160,00
Projector	4 144,00	Subs re 2014	1 000,00
General bank a/c	8 704,34	Flower fund	3 000,00
Special bank a/c (FTD)	129 156,75	Jubilee fund	30 990,00
Special bank a/c	26 075,43	Balance 1/1-13	138 053,60
Debtors	460,00	Deficit 2013	-8 618,58
	171 585,02		171 585,02
Michael Brooks Chairman	Auditor	Celia Syversen Hon. Treasurer	