

London Members' Centre

In aid of



Chairman's Newsletter

October 2024

(a Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC 027207)

Dear Members

This is the first issue of the email only 'mailing'. Yes, I know some members can't get emails, so they will still receive a copy in the post. If others want a paper copy of any particular item, please contact me, ideally sending a stamped self addressed envelope, so that I can put something in the post.

The good news first: The trip round the Royal Opera House, information sent only by email, was so enthusiastically welcomed that we now have a waiting list!

Sadly, the other two most recent events (West Horsley Place & the Harold Samuel Collection) only had just enough people to cover the costs of running the events. It is very disheartening for the Visit Organiser to spend a lot of their time in setting up an event to only have a small number of attendees. I speak from personal experience.

Only a couple of dozen members have so far booked to come to the Christmas Lecture & Lunch. Pre-Covid we used to have about 70! The booking form is again sent out with this mailing.

However, the bad news doesn't end here. My time in the position of Chairman is coming to an end - next May. Our Constitution sets a time limit of 7 years in this rôle. The sad part is that none of the present Committee want to take it on. So - is there a current member who feels up to the job? If such a person exists, they would be welcome to attend the January & April committee meetings to get to meet the existing committee and to acquire some idea of what happens at such meetings.

Of course, without a Chairman the London Members' Centre couldn't continue to exist, so I'm sure we will have a volunteer. Do remember the the word Chairman is a unisex word - our first in the rôle were female.

I am sometimes asked why we don't hold meetings in prestigious venues as we used to. The answer is we never did. These events, and I remember attending a few myself, were not run by us - the London Members' Centre - but by the NTS' London Committee which even employed a full time secretary. The Committee was abolished about 10 years ago since it was simply a drain on NTS' funds rather than contributing to them (as it was supposed to).

Our lack of Visit Organisers means we have no visits in October, but there are a number in the coming months:

21 Nov - Christmas Lecture & Lunch as previously advertised

28 Nov - Christmas Walk

8 Jan - Van Gogh Exhibition at the National Gallery

23 Jan - Brick Lane Music Hall Pantomime

6 Feb - Visit to Sadlers' Hall

Booking sheets for all these events are attached with this mailing.

Also attached is the information for the 2025 Spring Tour to Aberdeenshire. As you may know, the NTS has many properties in the area, but there are also plenty of other things to see as you can find out from the leaflet.

As mentioned last time, the St Andrews Book Festival is happening in November. A leaflet about the event is attached.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a loop and a horizontal stroke.

Charles Hope