

London Members' Centre

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Chairman's Newsletter

April 2020

(a Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC 027207)

Dear Members

As I'm sure you all realise our programme of events has been curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Sadly, we don't know when we will be able to start running things again, but we are hopeful that our November meeting with a speaker will be able to take place. That is also when we hope to hold our Annual General Meeting - 6 months late.

Those of you who are receiving this newsletter by email will know we now have our own website: nts-lmc.scot The paper issue is coming from my own computer and printer.

This has come into being because my test email of early April revealed that bulk emails with attachments don't work for everybody, so I had to come up with an alternative way of sending our newsletter. That is why you have received an email telling you to look at the website for what is normally mailed out to you. If this newsletter is all you've found, then look again. The Treasurer's Report & Accounts as well as the Chairman's Annual Report are also on line.

The website also comes with the ability for some of the committee to have relevant email addresses. As someone who is involved with other organisations, I find it very helpful to have different email addresses for my different 'hats'. So I'm now chairman@nts-lmc.scot. Some of you might expect a .uk address, but .scot. to my mind, identifies our Scottish connections.

From a purely financial standpoint, sending the bulk of our newsletters by email and use of the website will save £130 in stamps alone each quarter, and we need to add in the cost of printing and distribution to that - another £100 or thereabouts. This means will have more funds to donate to the various NTS projects that we support.

In January we passed over £50,000 to the NTS towards a major project (The Wind Garden) at Inverewe. This large sum was possible because of a bequest LMC had received from John K Anderson in the previous year. Sadly, we've been told that because of the lockdown, the project is going to be postponed until next year. The NTS have put about 80% of their staff on furlough.

Rusty recently passed me the news of the death at 102 of Mary Search, a former LMC member. Some of you might remember her. We also note the death of Sir Hugh Cubitt, husband of Linda Cubitt, a former Chairman, in February. The planned memorial service in late April has had to be postponed.

In the last newsletter I appealed for volunteers to join the committee and, wonders of wonders, I had an offer from Ian Caldwell to come on board. I met Ian at the end of January and had hoped that we would be able to co-opt him formally onto the Committee at our April meeting and then nominate him for the rôle of Vice Chairman at the AGM in May. I'd like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Ian to the Committee. Ian understands "social media" and hopes to be able to use it to attract new members to our ranks.

Sadly, nobody has offered to be our Visits Co-ordinator to succeed Bill Kemp who is retiring. Someone might get press ganged!

Past events

Feb 3rd Science Museum - Top Secret

Feb 28th Winter Walk - St Bart's Hospital

Mar 1st Arsenal Football Club

Mar 25th Tate Gallery - Aubrey Beardsley

Cancelled events

- April 1st Royal Institute of British Architects
- May 6th Walk - Old Highgate Village -
- May 13th AGM, Lunch & Lecture - NHS properties in Angus
- Jun 10th Spring Tour - Dundee & Angus -

We plan to operate the tour in 2021 instead. Details will appear later in the year.

It just remains for me to wish you well and hope that we all come out of this safely.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' or similar character.