

# London Members' Centre

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SCOTLAND**

## Chairman's Newsletter

July 2020

(a Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC 027207)

Dear Members

Your committee met recently in an on-line (Zoom) meeting. We took the decision to cancel our proposed lecture and AGM in November. Various reasons were involved in the decision; the hall isn't yet open and we don't know when it will be open; Social Distancing will reduce the numbers allowed in the hall, possibly to around 20; nobody will want to come into London by public transport, let alone the Underground.

So, with no lectures and no visits it is perhaps not very surprising that quite a number of you (nearly 20%) have not renewed their membership this year, but, if you are one of those, please think again. Once we are able to resume our activities, how will you know if you aren't a member? We do need membership income just to keep ticking over, and surplus will be sent to the NTS who do need our support. With all properties closed for over 3 months, their income totally dried up and, you may know that they launched a "Save Our Scotland" appeal, which has brought in a significant sum. However, staff will be laid off and some properties may never re-open. There are a few where the income raised does not cover the staffing and running costs. Your Centre had not yet put any funds into the NTS "Shopping List" for this year and we were able, therefore, to provide a significant sum for the SOS appeal - see next year's Treasurer's report for the details.

Those of you who attended our reception at the House of Lords last year and heard him speak, will probably be saddened to know that Neil Oliver has decided not to stand for re-election as President. That means that all three top rôles: President; Chairman and Chief Executive change over a six month period - not ideal in my view. The AGM in September will be an interesting event, especially as it's going to be a "virtual meeting".

I recently received the sad news that Jane Macalpine, widow of Bill, our long time IT expert, died in April. She had been living in a care home in Kenton.

### Spring Tour to Dundee and Angus

Inevitably, this year's Spring Tour to Dundee and Angus had to be cancelled. The good news is that it has been rescheduled for 9th - 14th June 2021 with, essentially, the same itinerary and at the 2020 price. The NTS has given an assurance that all three of its properties in Angus will have re-opened by then. Any members who have not already booked but wish to join the 2021 Tour should contact Travel Editions, preferably by email ([tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk)), or by post to 3, Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB. (Their office remains closed for the time being, with staff continuing to work from home.) Our Spring Tours raise funds for the NTS which, as we all know, is in dire need of financial assistance after this very difficult year. We hope that you will join us in 2021

Margaret Cund

Best regards