

London Members' Centre

supporting



Chairman's Newsletter

January 2021

(a Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC 027207)

www.nts-lmc.scot

Dear Members

"It'll all be over by Christmas" is what many of us thought, but that was not to be. We really don't know when we will be allowed to meet again, even though vaccinations are now happening. I'm due to get my first 'jab' at Epsom next week. So, we've decided that our AGM, in May will have to be a virtual one.

I know that about 30 of you will be getting this newsletter in the post since we don't have email addresses for you. It maybe that you have an internet connection and prefer to keep that to yourself, but it's become very obvious during the last year that if you don't have access to the internet, you are missing a lot of information and entertainment. The NTS are now providing monthly talks for Members' Centres and there's lots more. We hope that our AGM will be followed by a talk on NTS Properties in Angus that we should have received last May. Different speaker, since Jennifer Melville has moved on, but her successor is happy to talk to us instead.

If you don't have any way of getting internet access, ask a grandchild (assuming you have one) or a neighbour. In this household about 6 years ago, my wife saw our granddaughter using a tablet computer and asked what it was. "Oh, it's an iPad, Granny, you wouldn't understand." was the reply from a 10 year old. Actually, Granny got an iPad from Christmas, shortly after, and has never looked back. We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Virtual AGM. The actual joining information and other 'paperwork' will be available in April.

For the future, we are tentatively planning to re-start of visits programme in September. However, until our potential venues are able to take bookings again, we can't make any proper plans. As soon as we know anything positive, I'll let you know.

In my last Newsletter, I asked you for your thoughts on moving our lectures to St Columba's in Knightsbridge. Very few of you replied and certainly not enough to make us want to move from our present venue. So, when we can return to meeting in person, it will still be at Crown Court.

The Committee also decided not to renew our arrangement with the Caledonian Club where we have a small 'office'. Bill Macalpine used it a few days a week and created our newsletters on the computer & printer we have there. When I took over his role as Newsletter creator, I found that one commonly used document which came out twice a year took just over 90 seconds to print each copy - and we needed 50 ! - that's well over an hour. I can see why he spent so long in the office. We started using a commercial printer to create & mail out our newsletter. This also avoided holding the "stuffing parties" where 4 or 5 of us had to go to the Caledonian Club to mail out the newsletter and visits sheets - in a rented room. However, since lockdown, most people get the newsletter emailed to them (it's also on our website) and I print and mail out to the rest from home. So we are keeping our overheads as low as possible.

We recently learned that Patricia Farrant died in hospital on Christmas Day. Patricia joined LMC in 1984, some of you might remember her.

And now, on the next page: a couple of special events organised by the NTS:

Burns Big Night In
23rd January 2021, 7pm, online event from Burns Cottage

The Trust celebrates our bard in style, presenting some of the most exiting performers that Scotland has to offer, filmed from Burns Cottage, Alloway.

Burns Big Night In will bring together audiences, families and friends, for a much-needed evening of celebration. Expect music, song, poetry, banter, and a wee dram or two!

Hosted by radio personality, Edith Bowman and featuring many well-loved and talented Scottish artists, we're gathering people from across the UK and the globe to virtually cross borders. You'll be invited to 'take a cup of kindness' with us, moving from couch to ceilidh for Burns Big Night In. Expect a party like no other - we think Burns would have approved.

To find out more or to book your tickets please visit <https://burnsbignightin.org/>

The Virtual Burns Supper
25th January 2021, 7pm, online event

Only 150 tickets available!

We return to Burns Cottage, but for a more traditional Burns Night.

This event, hosted by our very own Friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, attracts some of the finest Burns speakers and performers in the country, and a chance to enjoy music played on the fiddle to which Burns learnt to dance.

Go down in history; everyone who joins in with this historic event will have their name added to the programme guest list, to be kept in the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum archives. This more intimate style of event has limited places, so book your ticket quickly. A £35.00 minimum donation can be made through Virgin Money Giving.

To book your tickets please visit <https://friendsofrbbm.org.uk/future-events/>

Remember to say you are a member of the London Members' Centre for both these events

I hope that my next newsletter will be in happier times,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' followed by a flourish.