

# London Members' Centre

In aid of



## Chairman's Newsletter

October 2022

(a Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC 027207)

Dear Members

The main news is that our next Spring Tour has been arranged. It's to Perthshire, staying in Dunkeld. Full details and a application form are enclosed. Brightwater Holidays, the tour organiser, would be able to arrange a coach Perth railway station to/from our hotel if required., but this would have to meet up with a particular London train - timetables not yet available. It would also incur a charge.

Good news is that my appeal last month raised the number of attendees for the November Lunch and lecture form 13 to 42 - which means it will go ahead. And, there's just time for others to join in.

Details of a visit arranged for the forthcoming months are also in this quarters' mailing. December sees a trip to the Poppy Factory in Richmond. As well as this visit details, you will find a membership card which has all the relevant addresses and contact details for the committee. February will see one of the popular London Walks, but details are not yet available.

On the subject of mailings, it has been suggested that many of you can't cope with the emails I've been sending out in between postal mailings. I've been working on the assumption that if you give us an email address, then you are happy for us to use it. Possibly that's not an accurate assumption and you'd prefer a paper copy. Do let Jennifer or myself know so that details get through.

Another 21<sup>st</sup> Century phenomenon is the decreasing use of cheques. Many younger people no longer use them at all - even I find the only cheques I write are to the LMC. In future, all visit ticket orders will allow the possibility of paying directly from your bank (by BACS). It is going to be very important that you quote the correct reference on your payment, otherwise we won't know who has paid - or for what. You will still need to send off the booking slip to the visit organiser - they don't see our bank details - and let the Treasurer that you have paid in this way.

On the subject of visits, you should all know that Bill Kemp retired as Chairman of the Visits Committee earlier this year. Rusty Love has provided the following tribute:

*Together with Joan Howe and myself Bill Kemp was one of the eight members formed in 2007 under the Chairmanship of Colin MacKay to organise LMC outings This was to replace Marilyn Arnott who, with some input from Paddy Colquoun, then Chairman, and Michael Broadbent, had organised events for 3 years, an activity which she told Bill, took up three days of her week. When she announced in 2007 that she would be retiring in 2008, not surprisingly, there were no takers for the post! Hence in 2007 the committee as we know it today was formed.*

*Colin Mackay chaired it, effectively from 2008, stepping down in 2010 when he handed the baton on to me. My chairmanship was quite short, however, as in October 2011 I was elected to "Temporary Acting Chairman" of the (General) Committee pending the return from accident of Joyce Darlington. So for two sessions I chaired the Committee's meeting in the morning and the V.L's in the afternoon. Happily, David Cripps then took over the V.L's Chair from 2011 to October 2013 when illness curtailed his chairmanship whereupon Bill took up the Chair from then till the present.*

*Bill took on the Chair while still serving as an acting organiser of outings. In fact Bill frequently, where the circumstances allowed, went beyond just arranging a visit but to arrange a pre-visit speaker, as in the National Portrait Gallery where a staff member gave us an illuminating talk on the "Gainsborough's Family Album" exhibition which we were about to see and this was just one of several such occasions.*

*Bill then produced an Aide Memoire for all new members joining the V.Ls and also produced six Appendices so that no V.L was unaware of the procedures to be followed and how to execute them.*

*Bill's other contribution was, at talks and lectures, to allow his wife, Rosemary, to join Mar Varela's catering team, dispensing refreshments clearing away and washing up while Bill himself relaxed by putting out and then stacking the venue's chairs.*

*Bill has therefore been on the V.L's committee effectively for 15 years, the last six of those as Chairman, holding the committee together during Covid and its after effects. He and his dear wife Rosemary have been stalwarts of LMC - certainly the best recruits I've ever had - and they're not even members of NTS!*

I, sadly, have to announce the death of Margaret Collings last month. Her sister Joan writes:

*Margaret had been a member of NTS/LMC along with me, from almost the start of the Centre and for many years had arranged and sold the NTS Souvenirs etc. at some of the monthly meetings and all the Christmas Party events, and had attended many of the outings and visits. We had both joined the NTS in 1978 or 1979 following a cruise on the "Uganda" and we continued to cruise on the "Black Prince" for some years after the "Uganda" (of happy memory) was lost to us following the Falklands War.*

**The LMC is in need of a replacement Hon Secretary.**

Shiona Robb has decided that her second term of office will come to an end in May - at the latest. The Secretary is a Trustee and the main duty is to take minutes at our quarterly committee meetings. Being computer literate is useful, as is being able to send and receive emails to keep in touch with other Committee members. We have a secretary@... address available so you can keep LMC mail separate from your personal mail, if you want. Please contact Shiona on: [shionarobb@btinternet.com](mailto:shionarobb@btinternet.com) or 01494763082 to find out a bit more.

The visit to the Brick Lane Music Hall Pantomime is going ahead on 19<sup>th</sup> January with a dozen of us attending. Rusty can get more tickets if anyone else would like to join us.

And, a long way ahead, for those of you with 2023 diaries, our Annual General Meeting in 2023 is set for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.



Charles Hope

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