

The Anglo-Swedish Year in Gothenburg

Report from the Chair – John Chaplin 27 Feb 2018



We have had an exciting and cultural year in the Anglo-Swedish Society. A new committee was appointed at the AGM in February 2017.

The **economy** is still stable with a result for 2017 of + 1314:-

Brexit has been of concern to our members throughout the year. We have arranged two Brexit Town Hall meetings in Gothenburg in association with the Society of International Affairs (Utrikespolitiska föreningen UF). The first was on 25th April with the British Ambassador, H.E. Mr David Cairns and the second on 16th Nov with the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr Aidan Liddle. Our moderator was Olof Larsson, post-doc in political science at GU. This provided an opportunity for members to learn the latest information concerning how Brexit will affect the rights of British citizens living and working in Sweden and the steps the British Government intends to take to guarantee those rights in the forthcoming negotiations.

The Queen's Birthday on 12 June 2017 was celebrated at the invitation of Lars Wiklund, Honorary Consul, British Consulate in Göteborg, together with the Ambassador H.E. Mr David Cairns.

Summer Mingle in the park. On 1 July we met in at Villa Belparc, Slottsskogen, together with the British Club and the International Women's Club of Gothenburg. There was an English-style treasure hunt.

We continued to update our **webpage** (www.angloswedish.se), and Facebook ([facebook.com/AngloSwedishGothenburg](https://www.facebook.com/AngloSwedishGothenburg)) and kept members informed via email and our **Newsletter**.

ANZAC day and Remembrance Day. We continued the tradition of laying wreaths at the British and Commonwealth and the German war grave sections at Kviberg Cemetery, Gothenburg. Following the ANZAC services, Jane and Dan Sten Olsson, Stena Line, hosted a reception. Following the Remembrance Day service, the Chairman of Västra Götalands Region hosted a reception at the Residenset, Södra Hamngatan.

English language theatre events in Gothenburg: We attended Musicalia, GEST, Gothenburg Drama Group, and NTLive plays from London shown at Bio Roy, where we enjoy a discount for members.

Not Quite a Cèilidh is our main event of the year and we had over 50 members attending; this year's theme was the 1000th anniversary of the marriage of King Canute and Queen Emma in 1017. A dramatic presentation of the beach incident and the wedding were performed by our Not Quite a Cèilidh ensemble, and we tested the DNA of eight English towns. In 2018 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the UK and the end of WWI.

ELB(A) book club continues to attract new members via the social networking site Meetup (<http://www.meetup.com/ELBexA/>). ELB(A) has met eight times during the year.

Talks. This year we invited Young Simon to give us a talk about his travels in New Zealand.

Christmas carols evening was held at Restaurant Solrosen in Haga. This is an especially pleasant evening for spreading Christmas cheer with English and Swedish Christmas carols. The St. Andrew's Church choir was in good form and we thank them and Ron for acting as choir master.

We have continued our close **cooperation** with the British Club, St. Andrew's Church and Business Region Gothenburg. The English Shop in Linnéstaden has helped to advertise the Society and provided the prizes for the treasure hunt in the summer.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 27 February 2018

Start 18:00 – Light buffet with wine 19:00, talk at 19:30

18:00

- .1. Election of Chairperson and Secretary for the meeting and adoption of the Agenda
- .2. To receive the minutes of the AGM 2017
- .3. To receive the Chairperson's Annual Report.
- .4. To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report.
- .5. To receive Auditor's statement
- .6. To receive the membership secretary's report
- .7. To agree the subscription fee for 2019
- .8. To grant legal discharge to the Society's Officers.
- .9. Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2018

The following Officers and Committee Members submit themselves for re-election

- Chairperson - John Chaplin (also web master)
 - Treasurer - Birger Ekengren (also membership secretary,)
 - Secretary - Caroline Ashcroft
 - Members: Sheila Andersson, Keith Barnard , Tore Fjällbrant, Ingmar Heldsdörfer, Sharon Abrahamson
 - The position of newsletter editor is vacant
 - At the discretion of the Committee vacancies will be filled during the year.
- .10. To elect an Hon. Auditor for 2018 - proposed that Lars Biörnerud continue.
 - .11. Any other business
 - .12. Proposed Activities for 2018
 - Celebration of the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in May
 - Chalmers lecture in February
 - Get-together in Slottsskogen park in July
 - *Not quite a ceilidh* in October.
 - Commemorative days - ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day
 - Christmas party at Solrosen following the Carol Service at St.Andrew's Church.
 - English theatre outings
 - Musical and opera events. (Opera and tea in March)
 - ELB(A) book club continues with monthly meetings
 - NTLive theatre performances
 - .13. Votes of thanks to any retiring Committee members. Close of meeting.

19:00 Light Buffet

19:30 The Chalmers' Lecture by Patrik Sandin on his work in European space research.