



UNA LASER Newsletter
25st November, 2020

From our Chair, Trisha Rogers



AGM

I am delighted to announce that Sir Peter Bottomley, MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the UN, has agreed to be our next LASER President. He will speak to us at the end of our AGM on Saturday.

Here is our updated [agenda](#). You will notice that, at the end of the agenda, we have given the LASER bank details, so that – instead of the usual putting money into a bucket at the event – you can support the region by transferring your donation straight into our bank account

Here are the bios and pictures of all the [candidates](#) for whom you will be voting.

The AGM will be by zoom on Saturday 28th November, starting at 2pm. Please register for the event by 27th November, by clicking on [this link](#) and you will then be given the zoom link.

The other links you will need are for:

- [the minutes of the last meeting](#)
- [the proposed new constitution](#).

Urgent Action to save UK Aid

In order to meet the deficit created by spending in the pandemic, the government is likely to change the law so that it no longer has to spend 0.7% of our Gross National Income on Overseas Development Assistance. This target was agreed by the UN in 1970 and finally enshrined in UK law in 2015. It has been a source of national pride that – in spite of carping from the tabloids – all main political parties have supported this commitment since 2005. According to the 2020 Aid Transparency Index, UK Aid is among the most effective, transparent and accountable in the world. [I have written](#) to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge that we stick to our commitment, which is crucial if the SDGs are to be achieved. I urge you to do so, too. Both this and the [establishment of a new cross-party scrutinising committee](#) are urgent. Let's all take whatever action we can to save UK aid!