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UNA LASER December 2021 Newsletter

From our Chair, Trisha Rogers



AGM and COP 26

It was very good to see many of you at our AGM on 20th November. You can see the elected Officers and members of the committee [here](#). My report is [here](#). Our President, Sir Peter Bottomley, was in hospital, so had recorded a presentation, which you can see [here](#). We wish him a speedy recovery.

COP 26

Following our AGM, we had an excellent summary of COP 26, with thoughts on next steps, from Peter Chalkley, Director of the [Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit](#). You can sign up to receive their brief daily summary of climate/net zero related news [here](#). We had included an ECIU summary of COP 26 [on our website](#). Peter Chalkley drew our attention to [PowerShiftAfrica](#) and its Director Mohamed Adow for information on the effects on Africa of climate change. He also reminded us that the UK continues to hold the presidency of the UNFCCC COPs' process for the next year, so it is important we continue to put pressure on the UK government to keep up the momentum.

As part of this campaigning - and in partnership with Christian Aid, ONE and Tearfund - you can take part in an exciting [Christmas Card activation](#), *The Proof is in the Pudding*. You can sign an e-petition by 29th November to add your name to a 3m tall Christmas Card which will be delivered to No 10 on the 15th December, and also send your own Christmas Card to the Prime Minister, to call for greater climate ambition. On December 15, there will be an event in Parliament Square and a hand-in of a 3m tall Christmas Card containing all the e-signatures.

You can also, working with Hope for the Future, take part in [this MP action](#) to email our MPs and ask them to keep 1.5 alive. This will all help to keep up the pressure post COP 26.

Newsletter

Thank you to Peter and Sarah Webster for sending out this Newsletter. Material for the next Newsletter should reach [here](#) by 7th January 2022.

Branch Events

Warwick District UNA, on 2nd December, 19:00 - 20:30, will be hosting a zoom event on **Reflection on COP 26 - What happened, what does this mean, and what happens next?** The speaker is Chris Philpott, author of *Climate Emergency and Green Spirituality Activism* (October 2021), a green activist and environmental educator for 40 years. To join the event, please follow [this link](#).

UNA-UK, UNA Westminster and UNA LASER, on 7th December, 17:00 - 18:30, will be hosting a virtual event on **Covid-19: Foreign Policy and Human Rights**. The speakers will be: HE Maria Fernanda Espinosa (Lancet Commission); President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, IPPPR); Dr David Nabarro (World Health Organization, WHO). Chair: Natalie Samarasinghe, (UNA-UK). Please register [here](#).

UNA Canterbury Annual General Meeting will be on 4th December at 10:30 in a hybrid format, held in person at the Friends Meeting House in Canterbury as well as online through Zoom. The AGM will include an overview of our key events in 2021 as well as our plans for the forthcoming year. At 11.30am our guest speaker Dr Cheryl Mvula, the leader of StopTheTraffiK Kent, will make a presentation on **Stopping Modern Day Slavery in Canterbury and Kent**. This event marks the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, which is on December 2. To register, please email [the branch secretary, Michael Vince](#).

UNA Tunbridge Wells & Wealden, on 9th December at 7pm, are running a virtual event on **Afghanistan – the Way Forward** to explore the political situation in Afghanistan and the country's future. Their eminent speakers are: Dr Aqab Malik, who studied the Afghan conflict as part of his doctorate at King's College, London, and was winner of the Fulbright Scholar Award at the Elliott School for International Affairs; and Marzia Babakarkhail, a former

judge in Afghanistan who chaired a committee of women at the Afghan NGOs' Coordination Bureau. Please register [here](#).
