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## UNA LASER January 2022 Newsletter

### From our Chair, Trisha Rogers



We are sorry to report the death of eminent LASER member, Peter Greaves. He was a lifelong worker with UN agencies (mostly UNICEF), a UNA activist and a frequent media writer, especially on environment and human rights. His close friend, Neville Grant, has written an obituary that you can see [here, on our website](#). There you will be able to read more about the life and work of this remarkable man. We have sent condolences from LASER to his wife, Chloe, and their family.

Peter's tireless activity up to a couple of months before his death reminds us that, to make progress, one must persevere. COP26 spurred many of us - like Peter - to action last year, resulting in substantial progress in climate change commitments. To ensure delivery, we must keep up the pressure, as the UK continues to lead the international process up to COP 27 in Egypt, starting on 7th November.

The Climate Coalition offers many opportunities for this campaigning. In February community groups (including yours?), as part of the [Show the Love](#) campaign, will create green hearts to wear and share with their MPs, demonstrating determination for change. Especially around Valentine's Day, we are encouraged to fill social media with stories about what we love and want to protect from Climate Change.

Later in the year, the [Great Big Green Week](#) - 24th September to 2nd October - is an opportunity for each of us - and our branches - to link with community groups, NGOs and committed companies to combine our campaigning effectiveness.

It's not too late to join with Hope for the Future in [this MP action](#) to email our MPs and ask them to *keep 1.5 alive*. This will help to keep up the pressure for the first 100 days after COP 26.

## Job Opportunities

### UNA-UK Chief Executive Officer; Head of Outreach; Senior Communications Officer

This is a time of major transition at UNA-UK as it makes these 3 important staff appointments to its small Whitehall-based team. It has also recruited a new Chair - Joyce, Baroness Anelay of St Johns - who will take over from Stewart, Baron Wood of Anfield, in the summer. See in the events below an opportunity to bid farewell to departing CEO Natalie Samarasinghe, and to welcome Joyce Anelay.

Job descriptions and application process for these staff positions are [on its website](#). The closing date for applications for the

CEO and Head of Outreach is **19th January**, Senior Communications Officer applications have to be in by **20th January**. UNA-UK are also recruiting a maternity cover Administrative Assistant, with closing date **19th January**. Do urgently forward these details to anyone you know who might be suitable!

LASER hopes that the organisation will not make major changes to its structure and governance until these new staff are established. We are working with UNA-UK to help shape their long term vision, particularly of the relationship between the headquarters and the voluntary branches, members and supporters.

## Wilton Park Programme Director

Wilton Park - an executive agency of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office providing a global forum for strategic discussion - is recruiting a [new Programme Director](#), with a strong development and climate/adaptation/environment focus. The deadline for applications is **17th January**.

## Newsletter

Thank you to Peter and Sarah Webster for sending out this Newsletter. Material for the next Newsletter should reach [here](#) by 9th February 2022. Please [get in touch](#) if you would like to help with mailing future Newsletters. If you are not familiar with Mailchimp, you will be given training.

## Events



**UNA-UK and UNA Westminster** are running an event on **10th January at 5:00 - 7:00 pm**.

It is envisaged as inaugurating an annual series, marking the anniversary of the first meeting of the UN General Assembly (which was in London in 1946), and reflecting on current challenges. This year it is also to say thank you and farewell to our CEO, **Natalie Samarasinghe**, after 15 years of service with UNA. The event will also welcome our Chair-to-be, **Joan, Baroness Anelay of St Johns**. The event is titled ***Determined: A New Chapter for the UK People's Movement for the United Nations***; **Lord Malloch Brown** and **Sir Peter Marshall** will join Natalie, Joyce and others on the panel to reflect on the UN's mission - and the UK's global role - at a time of rapid change and growing

challenge. Please register [here](#).

**Twickenham and Richmond UNA**, with **Wandsworth UNA** and **Amnesty International Belfast branch**, have arranged an online presentation on **11th January, 7:30 - 8:30 pm**, by **Nabila Khan**, Amnesty International Country Coordinator, who will talk about **The Uyghurs of North West China**. She will talk about the suppression of the Uyghur culture and religion, together with how these actions fit into China's foreign policy. [Here](#) is the Microsoft Teams link, after which you need to choose 'Continue on this browser'.

**Warwick District UNA** will hold their AGM in a webinar on **12th January, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**. This will be followed by a presentation by **Dr Aqab Malik** on **Afghanistan - The Taliban Challenges - Way Ahead**. [Here](#) is the zoom link, after which you might need the passcode 232934.

**UNA Harpenden** is holding an in-person meeting on **15th January at 11:00 am** at the Salvation Army Hall, Leyton Green, AL5 2TG. **Daisy Cooper, MP**, will speak about **Hertfordshire as a Place for Sanctuary**.



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