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UNA LASER October 2022 Newsletter

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Newsletter

In Memoriam



William Say, 1952 - 2022

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of longstanding UNA LASER member, William Say, who has died unexpectedly after a severe fall. His close friend Paul Mrazek has written [this brief tribute](#) of William and his links with UNA.

From Our Chair, Trisha Rogers



There have been many distractions in UK government since the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)** in Glasgow last November, so it is important that we keep up the pressure on the government to fulfil its Net Zero commitments. As part of the Big Green Week, and part of the build-up to COP 27 in Egypt in November, The Climate Coalition, of which LASER is a member, has launched its [Letters to Tomorrow](#), where we can write a letter to a loved one to call for political action on climate change now. My letter to my grandchildren, and on behalf of LASER, is here. Do add yours!

On behalf of LASER, I also signed their [letter to the Prime Minister](#), co-signed by more than 100 organisations.

UNA LASER AGM

LASER AGM and Human Rights will be a hybrid event on **UN Human Rights Day (10th December)** at Bermondsey Village Hall, Kirby Grove, London SE1 3TD. We hope many of you will join us in person.

Directions to the hall from London Bridge mainline station are [here](#). The event will start at 12 noon. If you plan to come in person, [please register here](#) to help us judge numbers for refreshments, though last minute attendees are very welcome too! (Please bring a packed lunch.) If you plan to join us by Zoom, [please register here](#). We shall email out the papers to those who have registered for the AGM on 3rd December.

There will not be paper copies available for everyone at the meeting. More details of the Human Rights component of the meeting will be in the next Newsletter.

Preparations for the AGM

Distinguished Service Award

Many people do remarkable – but often not widely noticed – work to promote international understanding through UNA branches. We like to recognise this service through our annual UNA LASER Distinguished Service Award. [Please send our Secretary, Jane Beeley](#), by 3rd December, nominations for this award, with a brief explanation of the service they have given.

Executive Committee

At our AGM we elect 6 members of our Executive Committee, as well as our Executive Officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer). The Committee meets about every six weeks, mostly by zoom.

Resolutions

Officers, the Executive Committee, branches, youth groups, corporate members and any six members acting together may send in resolutions and other matters for the agenda. If you have any motions that you would like put to the AGM, please make sure they reach [Jane](#) by 13th November.

Forthcoming Events



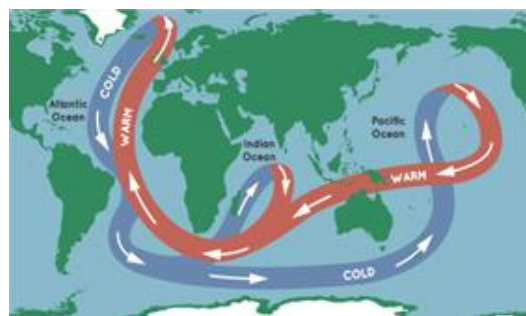
Antartica: Sledges, Science and Diplomacy

On **5 October at 11.00am** the **FCDO Association** will be hosting an online 100th Anniversary talk by **Dr Camilla Nicol**, CEO of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, on **Antartica: Sledges, Science and Diplomacy** recalling the history of early polar exploration and the multi-lateral diplomacy which led to the ground-breaking Antarctic Treaty.

The FCDO Association are extending an invitation to UNA LASER members to attend this talk on the triumph of multilateral diplomacy. To book a place [please contact Lucie Portman](#). There is a charge of £10 which covers costs and includes a donation to the **UK Antarctic Heritage Trust**.

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

UNA Climate & Oceans will be co-hosting a one day event for Schools in Kent on **Tuesday 11 October 2022**, to engage them with the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, which is one of UNA C&O campaigns.



The event has been organised in partnership with St Margaret's Bay Trust, and Kent Downs Area of Outstanding

Natural Beauty (AONB Unit), and it will be hosted at the prestigious **The Pines Calyx** venue, The Pines Garden, St Margaret's Bay, Dover. LASER member and marine biologist, **Gonzalo Alvarez**, will be one of the speakers at this youth event, framing the context of the event in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

This event is open only for schools across Kent, so Gonzalo invites UNA LASER members to [send him](#) youth contacts that might be interested in participating. Spaces are limited.



Why it is Important to Keep the Oceans Healthy

UNA Harpenden invites you to a talk by **Gloria Barnett**, Science Presenter & Author, on *why it is important to keep the oceans healthy* on **Saturday 22 October at 10:30** at the **Salvation Army**, Leyton Green, Harpenden AL5 2TG.

The talk is open to the public, without charge. Children 8+ are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Selected books by the author will be on sale after the talk. Tea/coffee will be available. Click [here](#) to register.

Service for Word Peace

UNA Canterbury invites you to attend the **Service for World Peace**. This year's theme is *the role of the UN as a global mediator* and will be joined by the High Commissioner of Namibia and the Chair of the Commonwealth Board of Governors, **H.E. Linda Scott** who will be delivering the keynote address. She will be highlighting the current global challenges to peace and stability and how we may attempt to overcome these, as well as looking ahead to COP27 and what it may achieve in our current global quest to minimise the impact of climate change in our communities.

Venue: **Canterbury Cathedral**
Date: **Sunday 23 October 2022**
Time: **5:30pm (doors open at 5pm)**

The service is open to the public, without charge. There will be a retiring collection at the end, where proceeds will go towards supporting UNA Canterbury's projects in East Kent and globally. The event will also be livestreamed on the Canterbury Cathedral website and YouTube channel.

Please [confirm by email](#) your attendance and how many seats you would like to reserve no later than **Sunday October 16**.

Newsletter

The newsletter is edited by Salem Mezhoud and reviewed by Trisha Rogers. It is despatched by Suheil Shahryar. Please send any announcements for the next newsletter to [Salem](#) by 1st November.



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