



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

**September
NEWSLETTER
09/2019**

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Number 446



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Forum Diary

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Page</i>
September 21	Ambassadors-for-Peace Oslo Marathon	16:00	Aug NL
September 24	Visit to Villa Stenersen	10:45	10
September 26	Gilbert & George at Astrup Fearnley	11:45	10
October 07	Astrid Nøkleby Heiberg	18:45	7
October 09	Brexit into the Future	17:30	6
October 15	Veas Sewage Treatment Plant	10:45	8
October 31	The Great Dada Show at Henie-Onstad	12:00	12
November 09	Christmas Lunch at Engebret Café	TBA	10

From the President



Dear Members,

After three years of uncertainty with many scenarios, what happens next in Great Britain?

We are privileged to have British Ambassador Richard Wood speak to us on this contemporary topic of great public interest: “*Brexit – Into the Future*”. (Please see Page 6 for invitation and registration).

Ambassador Wood was at Arendalsuka and attended the Global Outlook Conference that I had the honour to moderate. This year, the title of the conference was ‘Normal is Over’. Everyone agrees that the result of the Brexit referendum ended *business as usual* – not only in the United Kingdom, but all over Europe.

The Foreign Minister of Norway, Ms Ine Eriksen Søreide, reminded the audience that every one of her predecessors served in ‘abnormal times’ – the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the reunification of Germany and 9/11. The list is long.

But there are two big differences in the sweeping changes that we see around us today. The first is the sheer speed of change due to the technology revolution and the second is how inter-dependent our world has become. This presents both opportunities and challenges – for nations and for individuals.

Back in Oslo, the new Board held its first meeting in late August. With our diversity, shared goals and values, the Board is dedicated to the International Forum continuing to be an interesting, stimulating and fun meeting place for all our members - diplomats, foreign residents and Norwegians - in the spirit of our founder Grethe Frydenlund.

As you see in this newsletter, our committees have arranged a superb selection of events. Wishing you all an autumn of interesting activities!

Best Regards,

Anita Pratap

President

FROM THE OFFICE



CONGRATULATIONS!



Inger Malterud – 100 Years



It is with great pleasure that we congratulate a highly valued and respected Honorary Member, Inger Malterud, on reaching her one hundredth birthday on August 7th! Very many members of International Forum will remember Inger who after serving as President, was in charge of the Office and efficiently administered IF for 25 years.

Unfortunately, Inger wasn't well enough to attend our 40th Anniversary celebrations. However, on that occasion Sidsel Melander, President 1996 - 1999, gave the following speech in Inger's honour:

International Forum has a proud history! Thanks to a small group of far-sighted, hard-working and active ladies with good connections, IF was founded in 1979. Inger Malterud was one of them. She became the second President.

I met Inger for the first time when she and her husband came to Lima on a business trip in 1970. I had no idea then that we would learn to know each other so well – and work so closely together in IF eleven years later.

Inger was one of our most important members and is of course an honorary member. Inger held all the threads in her hand. She was the VIP in the office and represented our community. She was wise, clever and a living memory of the organisation. She knew and remembered everything! She also knew all the members! And she was not afraid to learn new technical items! Remember, this was before computers and iPhones. Nothing seemed to scare Inger. An incredible lady!

She had an enormous go-ahead spirit and was incredibly hard working! She never left the office before she felt she had finished what she was doing. We all had the greatest respect for her. Some may have felt a little anxious meeting this strong and decisive lady; but, when you got to know her, she was warm and

thoughtful. We admired her for how she tackled the different presidents and all the changes that came with them – as is normal in an active and dynamic organisation.

Inger, in her big flat in Drammensveien 80, showed the greatest hospitality towards us all. As an ambassador's wife of the old school, she certainly knew how to entertain. She could seat 20 people around her impressive dining room table. For many, many years, all the Board and Executive Committee meetings took place in her flat on the first Monday of the month at 19:00. After the meeting we were treated to tea/coffee and homemade pastry horns, a speciality of hers. We felt spoiled – and the talk and chatting around the tables cemented the friendship between us all.

Those of us who were active in Inger's 'heyday', feel very grateful for what she did and what she stood for! She devoted her life to International Forum. Her working hours were long - and she never complained. All earlier Presidents will agree on this! To know that Inger was part of the team made it easier for us to take on the various leader positions! I am quite certain that the office team struggled a bit after she stepped down.

Inger Malterud will forever be one of the most important members in the history of International Forum. Many of us remember her at the entrance of Christiania Bank og Kreditkasse at Majorstua with her lists of names, checking us into the bank for the Monthly Meetings!

She was so proud of our organisation! Of course, there were a few hurdles along the way – but these were sorted out – and IF gained strength! She felt love and devotion towards International Forum!

I do not know if she has a 'maxim' for how to lead her life, but I think this one would suit her: 'The most gratifying thing in life is to make other people happy!'

Sidsel Melander, Former President

B O A R D E V E N T

**The Board cordially invites you to a talk on
BREXIT – INTO THE FUTURE**



By

H.E. Mr. Richard Wood

British Ambassador to Norway

Date: October 9, 2019 Time: 17.30 - 19.00

Venue: BI (Norwegian Business School)

Nydalsveien 37, opposite Nydalen T-Bane Station

The talk will be followed by Q & A and Mingling

The event is free and open to guests.

Seats on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

Please sign up by **September 30 by email to: int.forum@online.no**

Before taking up his appointment in Oslo in August 2018, Ambassador Wood was the Head of Europe North Department in the Foreign Office in London, dealing with bilateral relations with Northern and Central Europe as well as Brexit policy. Earlier, he has worked three times in the EU Department in London, and in multilateral organisations specialising on the UN, Council of Europe and sanction policy. He has served in Washington, Cape Town, Basra (Iraq) and was the Head of Human Rights in the UK’s mission to the UN in New York. Prior to his current assignment, he went on a full-time Norwegian language training. He also speaks Norwegian, German, French and Afrikaans. The talk will be in English.

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

Astrid Nøklebye Heiberg - Active Old Age



Astrid Nøklebye Heiberg was born in 1936. She is a psychiatrist and a politician. Ms Heiberg has worked as a professor of medicine at the University of Oslo and has held a series of prominent positions within the Norwegian Conservative Party. She worked as Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Health and Care in the current coalition government until 2016. She was Minister of Administration and Consumers Affairs in 1986. Before that she was the Minister of Social Affairs from 1981 to 1985. She has also been the President of the Norwegian Red Cross and been in charge of the Conservative Party's Women's Organisation. From January 2018, she has served as a

Deputy Member of the Parliament for Nikolai Astrup, the current Minister of Digitalisation. She is the oldest MP ever.

DATE/TIME: **Monday, October 7** at 18:45 for (19:00)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Veas (Vestfjorden Water Company)

October 15



From sewage treatment to bio-refinery

Special Events has pleasure in inviting you to visit VEAS at Slemmestad. Vestfjorden Wastewater Company is Norway's largest wastewater treatment plant and is owned by the municipalities of Oslo, Bærum and Asker. Wastewater from the municipalities, roughly the consumption of 750.000 persons, is transported via the VEAS tunnel to the treatment plant at Bjerkås in Asker.

The plant is located inside the Bjerkås hill and operates around the clock all year round. In addition to effective water treatment, the nutrients produced during the process are brought back into circulation as a stabilised and sanitised sewage sludge (VEAS-soil), to which a calcium-nitrogen solution is added. The sludge is then used in agriculture. Raw gas formed from the sewage sludge is used today to produce the electricity and heat used in the operation of the plant. VEAS is currently building a new manufacturing plant for liquified biogas. At full operation, VEAS will be able to produce biogas in the range of approximately six million litres of diesel, while reducing climate emissions by more than 15.000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents per year.

We are looking forward to taking Forum members for an introduction and guided tour of this amazing plant which is vital to keeping the water in the Oslofjord clean, and at the same time converting our wastewater and sewage into climate-friendly useful products.

After the tour we will have lunch at the plant.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, **October 15** at 10:45. (For 11:00)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

Reminder: Villa Stenersen

September 24 at 10:45



SIGN UP by email to int.forum@online.no and Rosemary Hauge: rosemary@rhaug.no and Hildur Haugen: hildur.haugen@gmail.com in **the same email**, or leave a message at the Office, tel.: 22 83 62 90, no later than **Monday, September 16**. For more details, please see the August *Newsletter*.

Christmas Lunch Pre-Announcement

November 5 at Engebret Café



The Special Events Committee will arrange our annual lunch at Engebret Café on November 5. Engebret Café is the oldest restaurant in Oslo and celebrated its 161st anniversary in 2017. They specialise in traditional Norwegian food, sometimes with a continental twist. A detailed announcement of the event, the menu and the sign-up procedures (prepayment to the IF account) will come in the October *Newsletter*.

Berit Aarnes

ART COMMITTEE

Gilbert & George: The Great Exhibition

September 26

The Art Committee would like to invite you to a guided tour of *Gilbert & George: The Great Exhibition* at the Astrup Fearnley Museum. Two individuals - one artist. For fifty years, Gilbert & George has created art, placing themselves as both subject and object. In *The Great Exhibition*, the duo has selected works that mirror the essence of their vast production, which is as captivating as it is prolific.

Ever since they first met at the Saint Martin's School of Art and Design, Gilbert & George have been inseparable, both professionally and privately. This was in 1967, and while London was swinging, Gilbert & George were unmoved by current trends. Instead, they donned immaculate attire – their 'responsibility

suits’ – and embarked on a journey, aiming to challenge the conventions of both art and society.



Work by Gilbert & George (Photo: Tom Oldham)

Fearless and straight to the point, their art has the power to unsettle the viewer. *The Great Exhibition* comprises works from 1971 to 2016. The exhibition uses the wall space from floor to ceiling with pictures that are grotesque and terse, surrealistic and symbolic, but consistently within the strict format that is emblematic of the duo.

Gilbert, born in the Italian Dolomites in 1943, and George, born in Plymouth in 1942, have an express purpose with their provocative art: ‘to reveal the inner bigot in the libertarian, and conversely the inner libertarian in the bigot’. Gilbert & George have lived and worked in the same London neighbourhood for more than five decades, observing how it has changed over time. Dressed in almost matching immaculate suits, the two are both subject and object in equal parts – an indivisible unit, unconditionally devoting themselves to their art.

Gilbert & George’s quotidian that is rigorously ordered. By committing to a self-discipline as demanding as it is creative, and by submitting their home life and studio work to unpretentious yet strict routines, they have made room for total creative madness: Punk rockers and nationalists, folk dance and bombs, autumn leaves and personal ads – probes into the world that surrounds us, humanity seen through the fearless and curious eyes of today’s most iconic artistic duo.

The guided visit will take two hours and includes an introduction and a film of the two artists, accompanied by a small snack.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **September 26** at 11:45 for 12.00

Inger Ræder

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

The Great Monster Dada Show

October 31



Dada was an art movement of the European avant-garde in the early 20th century. It was born out of a negative reaction to the horrors of WWI. Dadaism was anti-bourgeois, anarchist, and with political affinities towards the radical left.

The movement signalled a sea change in the history of art. Dadaists challenged the world to a new way of seeing, a rejection of academia, and an introduction to performance art and readymades.

There are clear parallels to the state of the world today. Negative reactions towards a political elite, and the relentless destruction of the environment, has awoken the radical right.

What can *The Great Monster Dada Show* teach us? This is a happening not to be missed!

DATE/TIME: Thursday **31 October** at 12:00 (for 12:30)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

ACTIVITIES

The Norwegian Conversation Group

The conversation group gathers 20 ladies from countries such as India, Columbia, Indonesia, Russia, Peru, Germany, Canada, China, Taiwan, Hungary and Norway. We meet once a month in each other's homes. The intention of the group is to practice speaking Norwegian in an informal setting and to share experiences and interests in our daily life. We have all levels of proficiency.



One happy bunch of ladies!

There is no homework, since the main point is to come together and have fun! We don't work, we chat! The hostess decides if she wants to serve a light lunch or just coffee and biscuits (or cake) after the practice session. We usually meet on Fridays at 11:00. You are very welcome to join us!

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

Monday Duplicate Bridge

Our little group plays at Ris Menighetshus Peisestue on Mondays between **9:45 and approximately 13:30**. Everyone can choose whether to pay a fee of NOK 50.- per session or pay a 'semester fee'. If you wish, you can bring your own lunch. Coffee and cookies are provided.

Let us know as early in the week as possible if you want to play. It would be good to sign up with a partner; however, if you do not have one, we will try to find one for you, if possible.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.



Forum Singers Choir



The Forum Singers, the choir for members of International Forum, is looking for more singers, especially sopranos. We practise once a fortnight on Wednesdays, from 18.15 hrs. to 20.45 hrs., in Frogner kirkestue which is adjacent to Frogner church.

We have a clever conductor, Eva Landro, who is herself a professional singer. We enjoy singing a varied repertoire, and aim to have concerts twice a year. On November 27th we will be holding our traditional pre-Christmas concert in Holmenkollen kapell, followed by refreshments and social gathering.

At the end of April we will have our Spring concert with a variety of songs, followed by our traditional buffet.

So, if you like singing and would like to join us, please contact the choir leader,

For more information, please contact the IF Office.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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