



The Royal Society of St. George

The Premier Patriotic Society of England – founded in 1894

Incorporated by Royal Charter Patron: HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Chairman: Nick Dutt

December 2022— Newsletter

Welcome to the first of what I hope will be a quarterly newsletter, providing an update on our activities and plans.

I hope you have all received the latest Journal, St George for England! A very well done to the team who put it together, particularly our editor Stuart Millson on a great job! Do please keep the articles coming in from the branches – it's great to read what each branch is up to.

I am well aware that one of our main challenges across the Society is around attracting new members. The younger generations are meeting and communicating in new ways, and we need to find a way of attracting them, to that end I have asked the Deputy Chairman, Chris Houghton to put together a small sub-committee of Council members to look at what we can do. If anyone has any suggestions or thoughts on this, please contact Chris directly on chris.houghton@rsg.org.uk. In addition, Dennis Stinchcombe is leading a group to look at encouraging youth membership and James Nisbet is advising on connecting with Cadet Units.

In this edition, I will try to give some information - and hopefully clarity - around our technology plans, more information on the make-up of the new Council, and much more.

One of the main things we have been asked about is the Patronage of the Society. We are rightly very proud of our connections with the Monarchy over the years. We have been advised to be patient while the Palace reviews all the late Queen's patronages as well as those that the King formerly had in his role as The Prince of Wales. We will be contacted in due course! Watch this space!

I am planning to hold quarterly zoom meetings with the Branch Chairmen – and any others who might be interested – and we will be providing more information on the subjects covered in this Newsletter. The first of these Zoom meetings will be held on **Wednesday 25th January at 18:00 (GMT)**.

Please feel free to let me know if there are any topics you want me to address in future editions.

I hope you and your members have a very Happy Christmas and that the New Year brings some resolutions to the challenging times we are in. At least we will have something to look forward to and celebrate on May 6th with the King's Coronation....not forgetting, of course our celebrations of St. George's Day.

Best wishes,

Nick



Digital Update

CRM:

As many of you are aware, for some time now we have been working on creating a database holding all member's data in a central and secure place. The first step of this is now complete with all member data loaded to the WebCollect CRM system.

This system is used by many similar organisations and is being managed – and generously paid for – by Chris Houghton (thanks you Chris!). The aim of this is to have a single source of our member information as per GDPR rules and to make the running of the Society, both at the Central and Branch level more efficient and connected. We can no longer maintain lists on multiple spreadsheets, so we have to take a more professional and secure approach to managing our member's information.

Ultimately each member of the Society, will have access to update the information we hold on them through the web site. In addition, each branch will have secure and controlled access to their members so they can generate mailing lists, send out newsletters, etc based on templates set-up in the system. There will be additional capabilities that you might want to take advantage of, for example event booking, subscription renewals, etc.

Whilst the initial focus will be on the Society Only members and a couple of the larger London branches to get it fully operational, Chris will be preparing how-to-guides and more information on this over the next few months, which we will share with the branches.

Web Site:

A new version of the main web site will also be launched shortly to take advantage of new features and bring it a bit more up to date.

This will be merged with the CRM system to enable members to have a single location to which they have to navigate to review news and events for both society and branch whilst also allowing you to manage your own account transactions and contact details.

Please let Liz or me know if you need to put up some information or news about your branch or events.



RSSG National Council 2022—23

I thought it would be useful to set out the roles of the new Council members for your reference.

- ⇒ **Dr. Chris Houghton** – Deputy Chairman and leading the Membership sub-committee.
- ⇒ **Cdr. James Nisbet VR** – Vice Chairman and Cadet Unit lead and part of Youth sub-committee.
- ⇒ **Michael Reilly** – Honorary Secretary and Society Archivist
- ⇒ **Andrew Settle** – Honorary Registrar, Legal Advisor and part of Youth sub-committee
- ⇒ **Alastair Clement** – Honorary Treasurer
- ⇒ **Rev. Roddy Leece** - Honorary Chaplin
- ⇒ **Alan Broomhead TD** – Assisting with the revision to the Bye Laws and Regulations
- ⇒ **David Burns MBE** – International Branch Representative
- ⇒ **Les Chapman** – Council Member
- ⇒ **Jane Dorrington** – National Events co-ordinator
- ⇒ **Nick Hinchliffe** – School Affiliations
- ⇒ **Lloyd James** – Affiliations & 50/50 Club
- ⇒ **Rob Kendrick** – PR, Branding & Communications
- ⇒ **Andrew Smith** – PR, Branding & Communications
- ⇒ **Dennis Stinchcombe MBE** – Youth Membership Lead
- ⇒ **Dr Jennifer Yates-Rowe** – School Affiliations
- ⇒ **Bob Smith (Ex-Officio)** – Chairman of the RSSG Charitable Trust
- ⇒ **Liz Lloyd** – General Secretary
- ⇒ **Edna Stinchcombe MBE** – Minutes Secretary

Please feel free to contact them if you have any specific questions or suggestions, via the main office.

One role we are keen to fill is someone to look after and coordinate with the English Branches and provide you with more direct support. If there is anyone you know who might be interested in such a role with the Council, please let me know.



Cadet Units

James Nisbet is leading an initiative to link Branches to local cadet units. This has been very successful with the London Branches, with the City of London linking with Air Cadet Units, Westminster with Sea Cadet Units and Waterloo with the Army Cadets.

This is something that we are keen to explore nationally, and James will present more on this at one of our future Branch Chairman's Zoom meeting, but in the meantime, if you have any questions about this please contact the office team.



Bye-Laws and Regulations

At the 2021 AGM a new set of Bye-Laws were approved, however following advice from staff at the Privy Council we are going to take another look at them, to take out elements that would be better suited to a set of Regulations that can be more easily managed by the Council, rather than having to refer every change to the Privy Council.

We will share the proposed revisions with branches in due course for comments, with the aim of bringing them back to the next AGM for approval and subsequent submission to the Privy Council for approval.

Upcoming Events

Some dates for your diary for next year:



25th January 23 @ 18:00 – Branch Chairman Zoom Meeting

22nd April 23 – Wreath Laying at the Cenotaph and Tomb of the Unknown Warrior & Cadet Parade

6th May 23 – HM King Charles III Coronation

TBC - AGM

15th September 23 – Battle of Britain Lunch

29th October 23 – Annual Standards Service

Thank You

I would just like to add a note of thanks to **Lt Col Leslie Clarke**.

Leslie has been an active member of the Society for many years, on Council, the Charitable Trust and as National Standard Bearer. In recognition of this, he was awarded a Life Membership of the Society at a recent Council Meeting.

Unfortunately, Leslie has had to step back due to ill health, but we wish him well for the future.

