

# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

JANUARY 2023



**Patron:** Mr. Edward Gillespie, O.B.E., His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire

**President:** Councillor Pam Tracey, M.B.E.

**Vice Presidents:** The Rt. Hon. Lord Cope of Berkeley, P.C.; Mr. Mike Smith

**Chairman:** Mrs. Pat Ayres, M.B.E.

### Chairman's Message:

Warm wishes to all members for 2023.

Thank you to those who came along to the New Year Lunch at Bowden Hall on the 8th January which kick started our activities/events for this year. Always a lovely gathering in a relaxing venue.

It was such a shock to hear about the passing of Lady Carolyn Elwes just before Christmas. Her qualities endeared her to many. I shall always remember her cheerful personality, unfailing kindness and friendly and thoughtful interest she gave to others. Carolyn will be sorely missed and remembered with great affection.

A branch outing we had to Colesbourne Park by kind invitation of Carolyn in 2016 was 'Afternoon Tea' with a talk on her collection of hats that she had the pleasure of wearing to many special occasions. Our branch ladies were invited to wear their special hats and were duly lined up for a photograph.



*Photograph from John Thurston*

As you read this newsletter and see that there are great things to enjoy through membership please try again to introduce friends and acquaintances to come along as a guest to one of our events.

I sign off with this thought - a wife asked her husband "Did the audience enjoy my speech?" "I think so", he replied, "when you sat down they said it was the best thing you had ever done"!!!

Look forward to seeing you soon  
Take care, Pat

### From your Secretary:

I can only reiterate Pat's words about Lady Carolyn Elwes. She was a wonderful lady - in all senses of the word - talented, friendly, supportive and always smiling. She and Sir Henry joined our Branch in 1991. Sir Henry became Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire in 1992 and our Branch Patron from 1993. He stood down as Patron in 2010 but he and Lady Carolyn continued to support this Branch and come to many of its events, in particular our St. George's Day Service.

Lady Carolyn will be missed by so many organisations in Gloucestershire who were privileged to have her interest and support but, of course, most of all she will be missed by Sir Henry and their family. Our deepest sympathy is extended to them all.

There will be a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Lady Carolyn in Gloucester Cathedral on Friday, 10 March, at which all will be welcome.

### Contact Information:

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**Branch email:** [glosrsg@btinternet.com](mailto:glosrsg@btinternet.com); **Society website:** [www.rsg.org.uk](http://www.rsg.org.uk)  
**Gloucestershire Branch info at:** [www.rsg.org.uk/branches/uk/southern/gloucestershire](http://www.rsg.org.uk/branches/uk/southern/gloucestershire)



**THE QUEEN’S GREEN CANOPY (QGC)**

The planting of an oak tree at the QGC site at Horsbere Brook Nature Reserve, Hucclecote, took place on 10 December - the day before the snow came! Despite hard frosts the week before the planting took place on a bright sunny morning. Thank you to those who braved the cold to come along.

The tree was initially suggested to mark the Platinum Jubilee but after the loss of our wonderful Queen it was decided it should be in memory of her and The Duke of Edinburgh.



It was a co-ordinated effort - Keith Bawden did the groundwork;



President Pam and Chairman Pat both helped with the filling in;

Pat’s husband, Brian, helped hammer down the supporting stake.



Finally the tree was marked with a plaque arranged and generously donated by President Pam.



The site of the tree has now been uploaded to the QGC map and awarded a QGC virtual plaque too.

The Reserve is open to the public so any of us can visit to check on how the tree is doing. The spot is nicely accessible as it is just off the main path. A map showing the exact spot was included with the November 2022 newsletter.

**NEW YEAR LUNCH - 8 JANUARY 2023**

Despite some members not being able to come at the last minute due to heavy colds or other ailments that can afflict us at this time of year, nearly 40 enjoyed lunch at Bowden Hall.

In her welcome our Chairman mentioned our sympathy for Lady Carolyn and her family. Pat also drew attention to an article in the latest Society magazine by our member Ian Holt on Gloucester poet, W.E. Henley. Do read it if you haven’t already done so. Ian’s research is careful and his articles in the national magazine are always very interesting.

Keith & Linda Bawden organised another excellent raffle and it appears the lunch was much enjoyed by all.

**SNOWDROP TOUR, COLESBOURNE - Friday, 10 February at 11am.**

Sir Henry wishes this year’s tours to go ahead in memory of Lady Carolyn, under whose care the snowdrop collection at Colesbourne developed rapidly. The cost will be £17.50 per person which includes cake and tea or coffee, a talk about Colesbourne and a guided tour of



the garden, which will take about 75 minutes. I doubt anyone needs telling but suitable footwear for possibly uneven and slippery walking and appropriate dress for February weather will be required.

More information is given on the enclosed leaflet where you will also find contact details for places to eat if you would like to lunch after the visit. The closest restaurants are Colesbourne Inn (tel: 01242 8700375; [www.thecolesbourneinn.co.uk](http://www.thecolesbourneinn.co.uk)) or The Old Rectory Restaurant (tel: 01242 870120; [www.oldrectoryrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.oldrectoryrestaurant.co.uk)).

Lunch is NOT part of the Branch visit but I intend to treat myself at the Colesbourne Inn afterwards. If any of you would like to do the same, then I'm happy to book a table (or tables) to include others wanting to lunch there. I suggest 1.30pm. Please let me know on the enclosed booking form if you would like to me to include you when making my own booking.

I appreciate it is relatively short notice for this tour but **please note** I need to tell Colesbourne how many will be visiting **by Wednesday 1 February**. A booking form is enclosed.

### **ST. GEORGE'S TIDE SERVICE 2023**

As St. George's Day will fall on a Sunday next year, our Service will be held on Monday, 24 April, at The Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens. It will start at 7pm - please note the earlier than usual start time. The Address will be given by the Vicar, Reverend Rachel Forrest, and Mr. Gillespie, our Patron, has kindly agreed to present the Nairac Awards once again.

The reception will take place in the hall adjacent to the Church.

The enclosed form should be returned to me **by no later than Saturday, 11 March**. As always there is no charge for tickets for the Service, but unfortunately we have no option but to increase the cost of reception tickets to £9 per person to help recover some of the increased refreshment costs this year.

There is slightly more parking at the Church than there was at St. Barnabas last year and no need to cross a road for the Reception. There is on street parking in the vicinity and we are investigating whether there are other parking facilities nearby - relevant information will be included with your tickets.

### **Nairac Awards 2023**

Once again I would like to remind you that if you have a nomination for next year's Awards, I need it as soon as possible and certainly by 11 March. To remind you, nominees must be 21 years of age or under, living in Gloucestershire, and have demonstrated determination, courage, or selflessness in supporting others or their community. I will need name and contact information and, of course, your reason for the nomination.

There are two Awards available - for an individual and for a group of young people. We gave two individual Awards in 2022 as no group nomination was received. It would be lovely to be able to present a Group Award this year.

### **BRANCH EVENTS 2023**

**Snowdrop Garden Tour at Colesbourne - Friday, 10 February at 11am**

**St. George' Tide Service - Monday, 24 April at 7.00pm** at Holy Trinity Church, Church Road, Longlevens, followed by a reception in the adjacent hall.

**A Musical Talk by Mike & Rachel Fenton - Tuesday, 13 June at 2.30pm** at Kemble Village Hall. Details will follow in due course.

**Mid-Summer** - Branch AGM - date to be agreed

**September** - An afternoon talk titled "The Tale of Two Cities" about the history of Ypres presented by our member John Lee. Date and details will follow in due course.

Your committee is looking into ideas for other events during the year.



### THE GARTER CEREMONY at WINDSOR CASTLE - Monday, 19 June

Every June the Knights of the Garter (there are never more than 24) gather at Windsor Castle where new Knights take the oath and are invested with the insignia. After lunch the Knights process to St. George's Chapel.

A limited number of tickets (no charge) are available by ballot for members of the public who would like to stand inside the precincts of Windsor Castle and watch that procession.

As this year's ceremony will be the first presided over by King Charles, the Branch has applied to be included in the ballot for tickets. We may not be successful, but it would be helpful to know how many members would be interested if we were. As tickets are allocated in small numbers it would probably be a case of co-ordinating transport between car drivers; possibly a minibus or small coach could be considered if people without tickets for the procession would like to come to spend the day in Windsor.

If you are interested in tickets for the procession or simply visiting Windsor, please let me know by emailing [glosrsg@btinternet.com](mailto:glosrsg@btinternet.com) or telephoning 01291 625059. Any tickets we receive will be given out on a 'first come, first served' basis.

You could make your own application for tickets by sending a letter (including a stamped addressed envelope) between now and 1 March 2023 to:

The Superintendent, Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berks. SL4 1NJ or email [GarterDay@royal.uk](mailto:GarterDay@royal.uk)  
Applicants can request up to 4 tickets each and should indicate on the application if anyone in the party is a wheelchair user.

### NATIONAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on 16 November. Pat and I attended on Zoom and I may have spotted a couple more Gloucestershire Branch members in the 'Zoom gallery'.

Joanna Cadman stood down as Chairman after 8 years and handed over to new Chairman

Nick Dutt. Nick sent out a newsletter before Christmas, which I circulated to those who have opted into receiving communications from the Branch by email. For others I enclose a printed copy. I apologise that in the cause of saving paper and postage the format means you may need a magnifying glass!

In a personal communication last year I highlighted amendments to the Society's bye-laws which were approved by the 2021 Annual General Meeting. However, under the Society's Royal Charter those amendments could not be enacted without approval from The Privy Council. You will see from Nick's newsletter that The Privy Council has asked that the bye-laws be reviewed again.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2023

Membership fees were due on 1 January. If you have already paid then thank you very much, particularly those who took the trouble to set up new Standing Orders after the transfer of the Branch Account to National Westminster Bank last year. If we haven't received your 2023 fees then a renewal form is enclosed for your use!

### **Spring is just around the corner ...**

Mother Nature is giving us dark sodden days as she does her best to redress the balance after last summer's weeks of drought. She carries on regardless, whatever we have to cope with in our lives. When I went to feed my two aged hens this morning a beautiful robin followed me up the garden (as it often does), I could see white tips on the snowdrops and inches of daffodil and crocus shoots.

Sometimes we cannot see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, but spring is an offer of hope. 'The darkest hour is just before the dawn' apparently first appeared in a book written in 1650 by English preacher and historian, Thomas Fuller. (I haven't found him in the family tree - yet.)

*If you wish to opt in to receiving newsletters and/or email communications from the Branch and copies of emails the Branch receives from Head Office, please let me (Margaret) know on [glosrsg@btinternet.com](mailto:glosrsg@btinternet.com)*