



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

Spring Newsletter - March 2024

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

The Journal team have just finished preparing the next edition of the St George for England, so watch out for it landing on your doormats very soon.



On that point, we will be offering members the option to receive the Journal digitally rather than in print form, both to reduce costs and to save paper wastage. More on this soon.

With all the attacks on our country, our history and pretty much everything many of us hold dear, we have been working with the branch chairmen to produce a statement setting out our position on these matters as a Society. This statement will be able to be used by all branches and members to share. I am sure the majority of English men and women would support what we stand for and hopefully this will encourages some to join our ranks.

We also took the opportunity to review our

Mission Statement, aligning it more with the original aims of the Society, which seems to us to be as valid now as in 1894, when the Society was formed.

Both the Position Statement and the revised Mission Statement can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter along with an “Elevator Pitch” - a short paragraph that quickly sums up who we are and what we do.

We are also pleased to confirm that our revised Bye Laws have been approved by His Majesty’s Privy Council and together with a set of Council Regulations will help support the governance of the Society. All these documents are available on the web site.

As many of you know, we ran a poll at the end of last year to choose an anthem for the Society. The majority of those who voted cast their ballot for Hubert Parry’s Jerusalem.

As you are aware, this year marks the 130th anniversary of our founding and we are celebrating with a banquet at Stationer’s Hall in London on July (Continued on next page)

Upcoming Society Events in 2024



- 20th April - Annual Cenotaph Parade
- 23rd April - St. George’s Day
- 6th June - D-Day 80
- 12th July - RSSG 130th Anniversary Dinner
- 6th Sept - RSSG AGM
- 13th Sept - Battle of Britain Lunch
- 27th Oct - Annual Standards Service

Corporate Sponsor



(Cont..)

12th. Tickets are going fast, so if you want to come and join us, please go onto the web site to register or contact Liz in the office. We are really pleased to announce that the University of Bolton has agreed to be our Platinum Sponsor for this event.

Before that we have our annual wreath laying and cadet parade at the Cenotaph on April 20th. We hope to see a good representation from many members and branches to make this a special occasion. We have the head of the Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling taking the salute as 250 cadets march past the Cenotaph. From there we will head to Westminster Abbey to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior followed by lunch in the Cellarium. Please contact the office if you need a wreath to lay on the day and to book your space for lunch.



We are pleased that we now have a couple of corporate members of the Society which will help with our financial position. If you know of any company that would be interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor, please let me know.

I'd also like to give a massive shout out to Mark Lanyon, our Society Rep for the US and Canadian branches. He has been actively getting himself out there, meeting members and branches and building relationships with those branches....even finding some that we didn't know about!

In the UK, I am pleased to see that we have a number of new branches in the works, with Northern Ireland, Wales and hopefully restarting in Birmingham. If you or anyone you know might be interested in starting up a branch in your area, again, please let me know. The more branches and members we have, the more we can do and the more weight our views hold.

Other branches, such as the Fenland branch, are struggling to find people to step up and take on leadership roles to help those branches continue - a lot of hard work has gone in to these branches over many years to build them to where they are today, and it would be a great shame for them to fail for a lack of volunteers to help keep them going. We all have a duty to give something back to our community, so if you feel you can help your local branch, please contact Liz at the office or the branch directly.

As many of you know, we have an active web site and social media accounts. Whilst we do our best to maintain these, we are looking for a person who would be able to act as a Web Master and keep all our various channels up to date and aligned.

We are keen to help you advertise your events in your branches, so please let us know of any events you are planning and we will put them up on the web site and include them in future editions of this newsletter.

Another thing we have been thinking about starting up is a series of Special Interest Groups for the members. So, if you have a particular sport or interest that you think would be of interest, and maybe even to lead yourself, please let me know.

I would like to sign off, by wishing His Majesty King Charles and the Princess of Wales all the very best in their recovery from their various ailments and to wish you all a very happy St. George's Day!

Best wishes

Nick Dutt

Chairman

The Royal Society of St. George - "Elevator Pitch"

Join the Royal Society of St George, where England's traditions and values thrive. With 130 years of history and a Royal Charter granted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we honour her memory and King Charles III's commitment to the unity of the UK and Commonwealth. As we celebrate our anniversary, our large network of branches worldwide welcomes all who cherish England's heritage.

Together, we uphold loyalty, duty, and service to our beloved country, remaining as relevant today as ever.

RSSG Position Statement

As mentioned previously, with all the challenges to everything most of us hold dear, working with our branches, we have developed the below to set out what we as a Society believe and stand for.

- The Royal Society of St George (RSSG) is an independent, non-political, patriotic and cultural association that stands up for England's history, values, traditions and ideals.
- We believe that England has made a huge and positive impact on the world. We are proud that our country has long been seen throughout the world as a bastion of tolerance, democracy and freedom of speech.
- The RSSG believes that English people should be proud of our history and achievements as a nation, learn from it and not be ashamed, but inspired.
- Members of the RSSG are loyal to our King, our Country and our Flags (both the Union Flag and the Cross of St George).
- We believe that it is vital to social cohesion and national unity for young people, to be taught traditional English values and given a balanced view of England's history. We abhor the current trend of denigrating our national heroes.
- The RSSG supports practical initiatives, charities and grass-roots projects that help build stronger communities in England and the Commonwealth.

Updated Mission Statement

During our discussions with Branch Chairmen, it became clear that there were still some concerns over the Mission Statement we had developed a couple of years ago, so we took the opportunity to take another look and revise it a little.

We looked back at the original reasons the Society was formed back in 1894, and felt that that reasoning is still as valid now as it was then. We also made the supporting statements a little more succinct.

Our Mission Statement:

“Promoting and celebrating Englishness and the English way of life”

We achieve this by:

- ⇒ Supporting the Monarchy, our Charter, democracy, free speech and the rule of law.
- ⇒ Being proud of English values, character and achievements.
- ⇒ Protecting England's heritage, history, traditions and ideals.
- ⇒ Embracing the diverse cultures within England, including local and regional identities.
- ⇒ Encouraging the celebration of St George's Day.
- ⇒ Supporting England's role in maintaining the unity of the United Kingdom and of the Commonwealth.
- ⇒ Recognising that strength lies in shared values and ideals.

Events - 130th Anniversary Banquet—12th July 2024

As I am sure, many of you know that this year the Royal Society of St. George is celebrating its 130th Anniversary, having been formed by Howard Ruff and Harry Christmas in 1894. In 1902 King Edward VII granted the Society the right to use the prefix “Royal” and, in 1963, Queen Elizabeth II granted the Society its Royal Charter.

To celebrate this special anniversary the Society is holding an Anniversary Charity Banquet at the magnificent Stationers’ Hall on 12th July 2024. The Hall dates back to 1673, so a wonderful setting for this special occasion.

The fare will consist of a sparkling wine reception with canapés, a 3 course meal with wine followed by coffee with petit fours and port.



The Royal
Society of
St George

130th Anniversary Banquet

Friday 12th July 2024

Welcome Reception at 18:30 - Call to Dinner at 19:00

Stationers’ Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4M 7DD

Welcome Reception,
Sumptuous Dinner - Fantastic
Raffle and Silent Auction Prizes

Please join us to celebrate the
130th Anniversary of the Royal
Society of St. George.

The Society was formed in 1894. Queen Victoria was the Society’s first Royal Patron and we have since enjoyed the Patronage of every reigning monarch up to Queen Elizabeth II. King Edward VII granted the society the use of the prefix “Royal” in 1902 and in 1963 Queen Elizabeth II bestowed a notable honour by granting the Society its own Royal Charter.

Black Tie or Uniform
Carriages 22:30



Tickets at
£150pp

PROUD TO SUPPORT



Army
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Fund



Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund

Contact: Reserve your tickets today on the website www.rssg.org.uk
or by contacting Elizabeth Lloyd at PO Box 397, Loughton, Essex IG10 9GN
Email: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com



BOOK HERE

RNRM: Registered Charity No. 6047294, Army Benevolent Fund: Registered Charity No. 1146420, RAFBF: Registered Charity No.1081009

Events



The Royal Society of St George

*Incorporated by Royal Charter Patron: The Late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Chairman: Nick Dutt*

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND CADETS' PARADE THE CENOTAPH, WHITEHALL, LONDON

SATURDAY, 20 APRIL 2024

EVERYONE WELCOME

We are pleased to confirm the details of our Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph
This year the event will be taking place on Saturday, 20 April 2024

We, the members of The Royal Society of St George and guests, will meet at 10.15 am at King Charles Street, prior to the Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony scheduled for 11 am, (nearest underground station Westminster). Around 500 Members of three Cadet Forces, accompanied by music from their band, will be on Parade and the Salute will take place immediately afterwards

At approximately 11.30 am our official party will move on to Westminster Abbey for a wreath-laying service at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior which will take place at around 12 noon

A luncheon will take place at the Cellarium at 1 pm. Price per person £30

Please contact Liz at the Administration Centre for further information and to book your lunch place(s)

Please tell your family and friends and join us in London on this spectacular occasion which is held annually to remember all those who have served our country and the Commonwealth as part of our Society's St George's Day Celebrations



Please contact Liz to order your RSSG red rose wreath by Monday, 8 April, Poppy Factory Price this year is £43.50

RSSG, PO Box 397 Loughton IG10 9GN • Telephone: 020 3225 5011

Email: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com • Website: www.rssg.org.uk • Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RoyalSocietyofStGeorge • X account: [@RSStGeorge](https://twitter.com/RSStGeorge)
Join us on LinkedIn: The Royal Society of St George Official Group



CITY OF LONDON BRANCH

Patron: THE RT. HON. THE LORD MAYOR

SAINT GEORGE'S DAY BANQUET

The City of London Branch is pleased to invite Members and Friends from all Branches to join them at the

Annual St George's day Banquet on Monday, 22 April 2024 in the historic Guildhall

Reception 6.30 pm, Dinner 7.30 pm, Carriages 10.30 pm

We will be hosted by our Chairman, Deputy Chris Hayward,
and honoured by the presence of Sir Andrew Parmley, Representative Lord Mayor

Dress: black tie, equivalent for ladies.

Decorations given by the Monarch may be worn.

Contact our Honorary Events Secretary for more details closer to the event
by email at rsgclb@btinternet.com

City of Westminster Branch have a new Standard Bearer.

Every year since they affiliated with London Western District of the Sea Cadet Corps, City of Westminster Branch have sponsored an annual competition to find a branch standard bearer for the year from amongst the Sea Cadets, this year's event took place at Croydon Army Reserve Centre on Sunday 11th February. The event is believed to be unique in the Sea Cadets as it is the only competition where adult volunteers and Cadets compete with each other directly. This year saw 4 individuals sign up to compete, with the prize of being named as branch standard bearer for 2024 on the line. The competition sees the competitors take part in a set routine which includes all movements that the bearer is likely to need to undertake whilst in post they were conducted by Warrant Officer Class 2(SCC) Daniel Byrne RNR who is the ceremonial lead for the Sea Cadets in the London Area and scored by members of his team, the candidates are also scored on their overall dress & bearing in uniform.



This year's competitors were Chief Petty Officer (SCC) Morgan Davies from Rickmansworth & Watford Unit, Petty Officer (SCC) David Morris from Twickenham Unit, Leading Cadet Henri from Twickenham Unit and Petty Officer Cadet Jayden from Edgware & Mill Hill unit and the standards displayed by all of them were impeccable, but there could only be one winner who was Petty Officer Cadet Jayden. He was presented with the winners' cup & Shield by Westminster Branch and National Council member Jennifer Yates-Row.

POC Jayden will now carry the branch standard at the Cenotaph parade in April as well as many other branch events culminating in the standards day service in October.

BROADPLAIN and RIVERSIDE YOUTH PROJECT

For 130 years, Broadplain and Riverside Youth Project have been running in Bristol, providing youngsters with an outlet to develop their skills. Many of them have gone onto greater things including becoming Rugby players and Boxing Professionals. In fact the current Mayor of Bristol was attended the centre. The club moto is "**Service Not Self**".

Dennis Stinchcombe. MBE, the RSSG Council Member responsible for Youth, Safeguarding and UK Branch co-ordinator (among other things), has led Broadplain for nearly 50 years now. Whilst there are plans to build a new centre in 2028, they have a funding challenge at the moment.

If anyone in the area (or anyone else for that matter) is interested in helping Dennis and his team, please contact him directly.

Leader In Charge Broad Plain & Riverside Youth Project. 07973574091. dennismbe@riversideyp.org.

A longer article on Broadplain will appear in the Summer edition of the Journal.

The Spirit of Normandy Trust (SONT)

SONT was founded in 1994 by D Day veteran General Peter Martin, to be the charity arm of the Normandy Veterans Association (NVA). It has two charitable purposes, welfare of veterans of D Day and the Battle of Normandy (including veteran reunions and Normandy pilgrimages) and the perpetuation of the memory of the historical importance of Normandy.

Since 2014, SONT has taken on the responsibility for the maintenance of Monty's Statue in Colleville Montgomery and the NVA memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

For many years SONT has taken veterans, along with their carers to Normandy for a number of commemorative events where they can pay their respects to their friends and others who paid the ultimate price. SONT has also taken a lead on arranging the commemorative events at Colleville Montgomery on 5th, Arromanches on 6th June and Ranville Military Cemetery on 7th June.

D DAY 80

June 2024 is likely to be the last time that there will be any significant numbers of veterans travelling to Normandy for a major commemoration, the youngest sailor who was there on the day will be 96 after all.

Currently have 12 veterans of D Day and the Normandy Campaign are registered with SONT to make the journey for the D Day 80 commemorations. As would be expected, all of the veterans are aged between 98 and 100 years of age.



In order to accommodate them, their carers, the medical team, security team and their drivers SONT has booked an entire hotel in Ouistreham, similarly booked restaurants in Caen and Ouistreham for their evening meals. SONT is currently working with its partners in the UK and France to provide the veterans with the best possible experience and opportunity to remember their fallen comrades.



SONT will never charge a veteran or their carer to return to Normandy and covers all costs including travel, accommodation, meals and even their travel insurance. Travel is with a full medical team to deal with any issues that arise during the trip and a fleet of MPVs

used to provide comfort for the veterans, ease for them to get in and out of the vehicles and flexibility to break the group up for individual personal visits. We travel with a pastoral team of two military chaplains.

For D Day 80 SONT's commemorations will start with an event in Portsmouth on 3rd June. The veterans have been invited to dinner at Southwick House, which was the headquarters of the allied forces and where they can view the D Day map on the planning wall – the map that sent them to war.

Travel out to France on 4th June. Over 5th and 6th June the veterans will attend commemorative events arranged by SONT, the British Army, The Royal British Legion and local Mairies across the Calvados area.



On 7th June veterans will be taken to individual locations that are important to them in what is termed our “starburst” day. The veterans regroup back for a ceremony at Ranville CWGC cemetery and conclude our formal time with a dinner in Caen that evening.

The party returns to the UK on 8th June and after a night’s rest in a hotel in Portsmouth we veterans and their carers travel onward to their home addresses on 9th June.

For more information about the various D-Day activities that are being run, please take a look at the link on the Downloads section of our web site: <https://rssg.org.uk/pages/downloads>

The Lord Mayor’s Big Curry Lunch - 18th April 2024

The LORD MAYOR'S BIG CURRY LUNCH

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR
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SUPPORTING THE THREE NATIONAL SERVICE CHARITIES

ROYAL NAVY & ROYAL MARINES CHARITY
Army Benevolent Fund
Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch
BACK IN GUILDHALL ON THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2024

St. George's Day Celebrations in Trafalgar Square

St. George's Day in Trafalgar Square
Sunday 21st April, 12-1800, FREE

