



I wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward (with fingers crossed) to a vast improvement in the weather, and meeting up with you at the forthcoming events that we've planned.

Jane Dorrington
Chairman



News from

WATERLOO

Spring 2024

Keeping you up to date...



On a cold January morning in 1649, upon a high scaffold beside the Banqueting House in Whitehall, King Charles I met his death under the headsman's axe. No English monarch before or since has died in such circumstances.

The English Civil War Society organise an impressive annual parade to Whitehall to mark the anniversary and continuing our commemoration of past historical events our first event for 2024 was to witness the annual re-enactment of the final walk by King Charles I from St. James' Palace to Horse Guards Parade. Assembled costumed participants solemnly marched slowly up the Mall to the beat of muffled drums, then a brief Drumhead service followed at Horseguards before a small party took a commemorative wreath under Horseguards Arch to hang close to the bust of Charles I at Whitehall, before the army marched off with colours flying.

At the conclusion of the re-enactment, our members took a short walk to the Army and Navy Club in Pall Mall where they enjoyed a convivial lunch.

“ in that very hour when he was thus wickedly murdered in the sight of the sun, he had as great a share in hearts and affections of his subjects in general, was as much beloved, esteemed and longed for by the people ... as any of his predecessors had ever been. ”

(From Clarendon's History of the Great Rebellion)

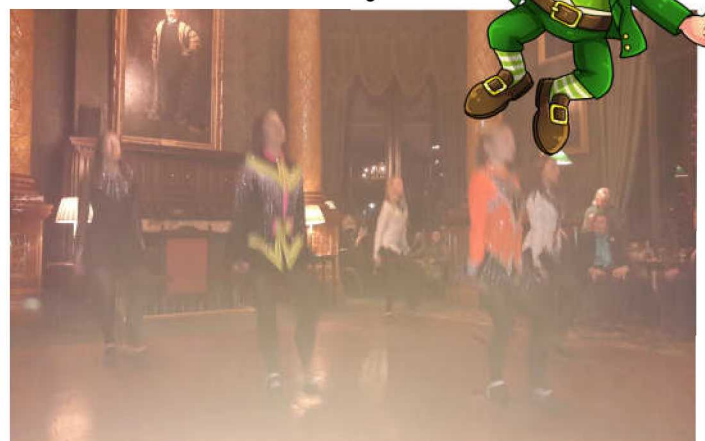


Aldwych station is one of London's secret places, holding myths and memories of times gone by. Opened to the public in 1907, it was never as heavily used as originally intended and closed nearly 100 years later in 1994. The station has had a varied history; from providing shelter to Londoners during the Blitz, to being used for film and TV shoots including *The ABC Murders* (2018), *Darkest Hour* (2017), *Sherlock* (2014), and *Atonement* (2007).

We joined the tour to see one of the former termini of the Piccadilly line – the ticket hall, the original lifts, abandoned platforms and tunnels, and inter-connecting walkways – including some that are very rarely seen by the public. This event was fully booked as we took the last 19 tickets for that day. We had two very informative guides. Although the lifts are still insitu they do not work so the steps underground were testing! The tour began in the Ticket Hall and then down to the platforms, it was an experience going back in time. We learnt that the name of the station was changed, why it was subsequently closed, and how crowded the platforms had been when used as an air raid shelter during both world wars. The station is often used for filming, *Darkest Hour* being the most famous. Committee member Dave and his wife Linda had a photograph taken in front of the last tube train – but previously and not on this occasion! Afterwards we climbed the numerous stairs and once we had got our breath back repaired to Cote Covent Garden for a meal and drinks. There are several other tours of stations by Hidden London which is part of TFL and it was agreed that we would organise another venue as the visit was so interesting.



St. Patrick's Day Celebrated in Style



Members of the Royal Society of St. George's Waterloo Branch enjoyed a delightful St. Patrick's Day dinner at the prestigious National Liberal Club, thanks once again to the organizational skills of former Treasurer David Dominey.

The evening began with a heartwarming highlight – a group of young Irish dancers delivered a captivating display of precision Irish dancing, leaving some attendees visibly moved. As the lively performance concluded, others (perhaps those indulging in a Guinness or two) sported wide, happy smiles.

The historic ambiance of the National Liberal Club added to the celebratory atmosphere. The grand, old-fashioned dining room was filled with guests, and the evening took a special turn when the Master of Ceremonies offered a warm welcome specifically to the Royal Society of St. George table.

While some of the recited Irish poems may have gone over a few heads, the overall experience was thoroughly enjoyable. The delicious meal capped off a memorable evening, and members are already looking forward to David securing a table again next year.

A Fond Farewell and Fresh Beginnings at AGM



In the cozy confines of the Auberge Restaurant's upstairs room, just a stone's throw from the Union Jack Club, a gathering of 44 members marked the Annual General Meeting on March 1st. The brief yet significant 20-minute meeting was abuzz with the spirit of camaraderie and change.

Lesley Oakley, the long-serving Events Organiser, received a heartfelt send-off as she stepped down from her role. In a touching tribute, she was presented with Prosecco and chocolates and arrangements were made for a floral tribute to be delivered to her home. The members expressed their gratitude for her years of dedicated service. The good news echoed through the room as Lesley, along with the rest of the committee, confirmed their continued involvement for the year 2024.

The formalities gave way to a delightful two-course meal, fostering an atmosphere where members could comfortably mingle. The air was filled with anticipation and excitement as everyone eagerly booked events for the upcoming year, setting the stage for another chapter of engaging activities and memorable experiences.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



20th April- RSSG members and guests will meet at King Charles Street, prior to the Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony, scheduled for 11:00am. Around 250 - 300 members of the Cadet Forces, representing the three major branches, accompanied by a cadet band, will parade past the Cenotaph immediately after the wreath laying. It is an amazing privilege to hold this service at The Cenotaph and I hope to see many Waterloo members there.

At 11:30am our official party will move onto Westminster Abbey for a wreath laying service at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, which will take place at 12:00 noon.

A lunch, following this service, will take place at the Cellarium at 1:00pm. The price per person for the lunch will be £30.

Please contact Liz Lloyd at the Admin Centre for further details and to book your lunch place before 9th April 2024.



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24th April - St George's Day Lunch – The Brassiere Blanc Southbank.

41 members have booked and the menu has been distributed to make your choices. If you have not yet sent the £65 please do so now.

May 21st is International Tea Day. Afternoon Tea at Vicinity Tower Bridge

Less than 10 people expressed an interest so I have booked the Vicinity at The Tower for 10 people. If you would like to join us please let Jane know. £35 per head.

Tuesday 28 May Guards Chapel Coldstream Guards Sax Quartet.

Gavin Whitlock, Roberto di Marino, Joe Hisaishi & Lachlan Kuhn This will probably be inside The Chapel.



6th June 2024 - 80th Anniversary of D-Day to include a Fish and Chip lunch.

Seafresh is about 12 mins walk from Victoria Railway Station. I have received a 3 course menu that includes Battered Fish and Chips for £25 per head. Grilled salmon and prawn linguini are available for a supplement. If you wish to attend but do not eat fish let me know asap and I will ask for an alternative. More information is coming out re D Day commemorations all over the country and our lunch will include raising money for the Charities chosen so please take a look at this website:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/640a0ac2b261e5337f7adb4e/t/64f7555f6fae9e2e49d2cc3c/1693930866460/D-Day+80+Anniversary+Guide+v121.pdf>



18th June Battle of Waterloo.

Talk by Bill Sheldon in the Duke of Wellington Pub, appropriately in Waterloo (opposite the Union Jack Club) and afterwards optional lunch in the nearby Auberge Restaurant.

Please let Gordon know if you wish to join us: - gordon.g.v.williams@btinternet.com

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS



25th June Guards Big Band Concert.

Lunchtime feast of Big Band Music Guards Chapel Birdcage Walk. Times to be advised.

12th July 130th Anniversary of RSSG.

Black Tie Dinner at Stationers Hall – £150 per head.

This is going to be a very prestigious event and the highlight of 2024, please see the Journal and RSSG Website for full details. There will be a drinks reception at 6.30 p.m. with canapés, followed by a three course meal with wine. Music will be provided with a good old sing along later. The event will finish at 10.30pm. A silent auction to raise money for Military Charities may be included. If you have something special you can donate towards this and/or a raffle please contact Jane.

21st July Jazz in St Johns Gardens Waterloo with free live music.

Janice and Bill have ascertained that this park near Waterloo station will be holding this event after all. We can bring our own picnic and drink.

31st July Wiltons Music Hall.

Step into a time capsule of musical delight as Tom Carradine and his talented crew transport you to the heart of the traditional East End sing-along. 20 people have booked and we have seats in the stalls of rows G and H so sitting together. A few seats are available but will be elsewhere in the theatre, possibly row J and N.

Wilton's Music Hall, 1 Graces Alley (pedestrian access only) London E1 8JB, quite near St Katherine's Dock. Finding a nearby restaurant is proving difficult so we may just meet for drinks beforehand in a local bar. TBC.

Tuesday 13th August Historic Pub Tour.

Jeze has very kindly agreed to host our 4th Historic pub tour, starting at 6 o'clock either near Great Portland Street or Goadge Street Underground stations. There will be the option of having a pub meal at 5 o'clock.

As these very popular events have always been over-subscribed precedence will be given to those who did not come last time.

Please contact Gordon by the cut off date of 5th April if you are interested.

Please ensure you receive an acknowledgment from Gordon.

gordon.g.v.williams@btinternet.com

Tuesday 13th August – Nomura Roof Garden

Organised by Westminster Branch but open to all. An evening event but no prices yet.

Saturday 24th August – Battle of Crecy at the Victory Services Club.

Having visited this restaurant several times recently, I can confirm the food is excellent. Gordon has offered to organise this. We have enough members of the VSC to ensure many of us can attend. Bill will give the talk on the Battle.

Contact Gordon as above to book in.

21st September – Historic walk “Royalty in Westminster and Whitehall”

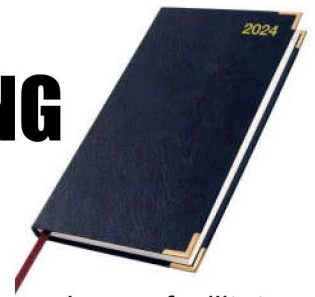
Hosted by the same company who took us on the Pub tour of Belgravia. 24 people have booked so far, spaces available. The walk is a circular walk and fairly close to the end of the walk is the Golden Lion pub in King Street (<https://www.greeneking.co.uk/pubs/greater-london/golden-lion-st-james-s>), where we will have a late lunch. Walk £20 per head. Meal extra to be paid on the day. I need to pay for this shortly to secure the date so please book asap.

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October – Tower of London Ceremony of the Keys. Cancelled as the Tower no longer facilitate groups.

Friday 25th October – Tour of Armourers and Braziers Hall.

On 25th October 1415 the Battle of Agincourt was won by our side, thereby ending the so called 100 years War. Armourers and Braziers Hall, 81 Coleman Street EC2R 5BJ is in the City of London, a five minute walk from Moorgate Underground Station, offers a 90 minute guided tour. We will then adjourn to the Globe, just across the road by Moorgate Station. Tour costs £22 with optional lunch extra. We already have 24 people wishing to go and there is a maximum of 50.

We are very fortunate on two counts:

1. The former Clerk, Peter, gave us an excellent history lesson in 2019 and has agreed to be our guide again.
2. It is on the actual Anniversary date.

If you wish to join us please pay £22 to RSSG and then e-mail Gordon, and ensure you receive an acknowledgment. gordon.g.v.williams@btinternet.com

October 23rd – Battle of Trafalgar Portsmouth.

Guests of RSSGYA. Contact Bob Smith at bob.smith@rssg.org.uk for information and booking as he is compiling a list of attendees and negotiating a price with The Maritime Hotel should you wish to stay overnight.



Saturday 9th November. Festival of Remembrance. The Royal Albert Hall.

A suggestion has been made that it would be worth-while trying to go to the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. We understand from one of our members who attended the afternoon performance last year that Members of the Royal British Legion receive an invitation and have priority to attend the ceremony and are permitted 4 tickets for the afternoon rehearsal. That means joining The British legion which costs just under £20 per year. Anyone interested please contact Gordon: - gordon.g.v.williams@btinternet.com We would then arrange an optional meal at a local restaurant after the afternoon performance. Gordon and I have already become Members.

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December - Christmas Luncheon Party.

Ideas for a new venue most welcome. Possibly The Theodore Bullfrog as they have a private room upstairs and offer a Christmas Menu, but they do not have a lift. 26-30 John Adam Street WC2N 6HL. This may be followed by a London Bus Tour of The Christmas Lights. Member Janet Dennis Ranger and her husband Tim enjoyed this immediately following our Christmas Party 2023 or we can arrange it for a different date



Christmas Lights at Kew Gardens.

An early evening event accessible from Kew Station on The District Line, with a view to dine in a local restaurant afterwards.

Possible new event

Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL www.markmasonshall.org

A Carvery Lunch is available on certain weekdays. They have sent dates up until June and I would be most grateful if someone could try it and let me know if suitable for a group in the latter part of 2024 £45.50 per head.

- Thursday 11th April 2024
- Wednesday 24th April 2024
- Friday 17th May 2024
- Thursday 23rd May 2024
- Friday 7th June 2024
- Friday 14th June 2024
- Friday 21 June 2024

All payments to RSSG Waterloo Bank account 09-01-28 0476 8811