



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

Autumn Newsletter—October 2023

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

Its been a busy few months for me with the AGM, Battle of Britian Lunch, and a number of Trafalgar events to attend at some of our branches. It is certainly good to see so many people coming along and enjoying the events.

I would ask that our branches share details of their events with the Administration Centre so we can put them on the web site and our Facebook page. This will encourage more people to attend the events. Westminster branch advertised their Trafalgar Dinner on the Society Web Site and attracted an additional 20 guests to their event. Our editorial team are hard at work finalising the next edition of the Journal, which should be hitting your doormats in the next few weeks.

We had a good Branch Chairmen's meeting recently and it was good to hear what was happening in branches both at home and abroad and share events and ideas that work well. I am trying with this newsletter and other communications to improve this sharing of knowledge and experience to help all our branches develop and grow - and hopefully encourage new branches.

If anyone has any ideas or interesting anecdotes that they'd like to include in future Newsletters, please let me know.

As we are approaching the Christmas season - or shortly will be, I'd like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year and to thank you all for your support and efforts over the last year to keep our Society going.

Best wishes

Nick Dutt

Chairman

AGM

We held our Annual General Meeting in Bristol this year - at the Broad Plain Project Centre where Dennis and Edna



Stinchcombe (MBE's both!) have been working for many years to help the youth of Bristol. Their efforts are truly inspiring and have made such a difference to so many people. 28 people attended the AGM (in person or via Zoom) and 32 people provided postal votes. During the AGM those present approved the revised Bye Laws and RSSG Regulations. The Bye Laws will now have to go to the Privy Council for approval, which might take a while.

At the AGM we also welcomed Ben Sear, who will act as a co-ordinator for our overseas branches and Stuart Millson, who is the Editor of our Journal. We plan on holding next year's AGM in London, which will hopefully attract more members to attend and have a say in the Society's affairs.

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 Sponsors

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50-50 Club

The Society is always in need of additional funds to allow us to continue to promote itself and achieve its objectives, so we are promoting our own licenced Monthly Lottery - [The 50/50 Club](#).



To enter you can pledge to sponsor individual numbers between 1 to 400, for £5.00 each, per calendar month.

There is no limit to how many numbers one person can sponsor but numbers will be allocated on a strictly first come first served basis.

On the first Monday of each calendar month three numbers will be drawn from those numbers sponsored within the preceding month.

50% of monies collected from those sponsored numbers will be given as prize money, with the other 50% going to help The Society to achieve its four stated objectives.

The prize money will be split into three prizes as follows: 60%, 30%, and 10%. Prizes can be paid direct into your bank account or by cheque.

This is a great way, not only to support the Society, but also win cash prizes.

130th RSSG Anniversary Banquet

On July 12th 2024 we are hosting our 130th Anniversary Banquet at Stationers' Hall in London - which dates back to 1673. This will be a very special night to celebrate a remarkable occasion. Howard Ruff and Harry Christmas founded the Society in 1894 to awaken patriotic Englishmen and Englishwomen and establish 'on a permanent basis a patriotic English society'. We are working hard to keep that legacy going!

This date will also be the 1097th anniversary of England - so it seems an entirely appropriate date to hold the event.

Please put the date in your diary. More details to follow.



Affiliations

I believe it is important for us to link with like-minded organisations. This not only helps to spread the word about the Society which might encourage new members, it'll also offer our members other events and relevant organisations to get involved with. In addition we are working with a number of youth and cadet organisations to get them more involved with what we do. A great example of this was the recent Trafalgar Dinner hosted by Westminster



Branch, at which a number of Sea Cadets provided the carpet guard, which was a great experience for them, but the Branch was also able to present them with a mobile defibrillator unit that they can take with them on outbound



activities.

If you know of any suitable groups or organisations that would be good for us to partner with, please let me know.

Corporate Sponsorships

We are always looking at ways that we can do more without having to increase our membership costs.

One way to do this is to attract potential Corporate Memberships and Sponsors to either place adverts in our Journal, other communications, or support us in other ways.

We are already lucky to have a company, Eventura Ltd., who support many of our technology costs, as well as legal firm Joesph James Law supporting us.

So if you know of any English companies who might like to support the Society in any way, please let Liz or me know.

CRM System

As you know from our previous newsletters and Journals, the team have been working hard to improve our technical infrastructure so that we can better and more efficiently serve our members and the branches' needs.

As part of this we have implemented a CRM system, which holds all members' details in a secure environment. This information can be updated by you, our members, directly on the website, by clicking on the member's portal at the top on the page.

Each branch will be able to use the information relating to their members to send out information and newsletters. This should mean that the need to retain duplicate copies of your personal information will no longer be required.

We will also be able to support event bookings though the web site.

Alan Broomhead has developed a set of procedures that we will share with each branch to help with this process. Each branch will nominate a member of their committee who will manage this for their branch, with the Administration Centre having overall responsibility. We will then set-up a Zoom training session. More information on this shortly.

Battle of Britain Lunch—15th September

90 members and guests attended our annual Battle of Britain Memorial Lunch at the RAF Club.



We were lucky enough to have the Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund, AVM Chris Elliot as our guest speaker. Chris talked about the great things that the RAFBF do to support the whole RAF Family...both veterans and serving. She was introduced by our own Vice President, ACM Sir Stephen Dalton, who welcomed our guests.

The RAFBF do great work, so if you want to know any more about them, or wish to support them, please visit their web site, <https://www.rafbf.org/>.

Standards Service

It was great to see a number of members attend the Society's Annual Standards Service, hosted as usual, at St. George's Church, Hanover Square on 22nd October, followed by a very convivial lunch at the Windmill pub around the corner. Special thanks to Rev Roddy Leece, the national Chaplain to the Society and to Jane Dorrington for organising the meal afterwards.



Web Site

As mentioned elsewhere, we are keen to promote the activities and events being undertaken by all our branches and to encourage the support of the same. Please keep Liz in the Administration Office up to date with what's going on and we'll post it on the site.

Don't forget we can also take bookings for you via the site if we have enough notice.



Sir Peter Field - Vice President

I had the great honour of presenting Sir Peter Field KCVO KStJ JP, with a certificate to recognise his appointment as a Vice President of the Royal Society of St. George, in recognition of all the support he gave to the Society when he was Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex at the recent Trafalgar Dinner hosted by Seahaven Branch.



2024 Priorities

At the AGM I set out the priorities for next year, these include:

- **Patron** - To hopefully get a positive response from the Palace about our patronage
- **Financial Stability** through Corporate Sponsorship and growing membership base
- **Awareness** - To increase awareness of the Society through PR & Social Media Activities
- **Technology** - To complete the rollout of our CRM system
- **Membership** - to implement strategies to grow the membership base, particularly in regard to younger people
- **Affiliations** - to affiliate with more like-minded groups and organisations
- **Communication** - To continue to communicate regularly with the members and branches and to get feedback and suggestions
- **English Anthem** - To get agreement to an English Anthem for the Society...and beyond
- **130th Anniversary** - To celebrate this occasion in style and use it as a relaunch for the Society as a whole
- **Web Site / Events** - To use the Society's web site to publicise branch events to attract more support.

Sick

Bob Smith

At the recent Trafalgar Lunch, organised by the Waterloo Branch and the RSSG Yachting Association at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth, I was very pleased to be able to recognise Bob Smith with an Honorary Life Membership of the Society.



Over many years Bob has helped and supported the Society, both at a branch and national level and, as exemplified by this event, brought together many different groups together for the benefit of others. Thank you Bob!

Shop Window

If you are looking for some interesting things to give at Christmas, don't forget to check out our shop window on the web site where you can purchase exclusive Members' Only items as well as non-member accessories and gifts for family and friends. Please help to spread the word. We also have a special 2 for 1 deal on our Christmas Cards, Greetings Cards, and St George's Day Cards.

