

St GEORGE FOR ENGLAND

August 2023

In this edition

Waving the flag for the new age of King Charles III

Richard Dove, at large on the Isle of Man

Coronation reports from our English schools

Plus, news from the Charitable Trust and our national and international branches

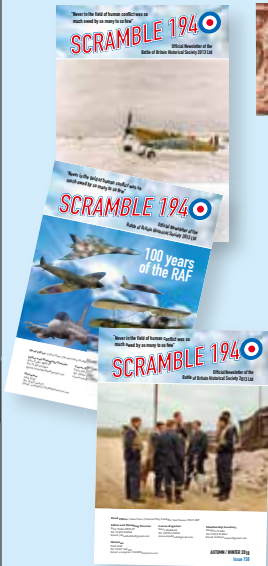


THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF St GEORGE – The Premier Patriotic Society of England
Founded in 1894. Incorporated by Royal Charter. Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

£5.00



BATTLE OF BRITAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Always Remembered ... Never forgotten

**We are now recruiting new members to join the
Battle of Britain Historical Society 2013 Ltd.
Members will receive bi-annual 24 page colour newsletters.**

The Society has four main aims...

- To ensure the Battle of Britain is never forgotten •
- To erect plaques in places where the “few” were educated •
- To look after the final resting places of the “few” •
- To erect granite memorials to the “few” •



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

UK Life members - GB £400
Overseas Life membership - GB £500

STANDARD MEMBERSHIP

UK members under 18 Years - GB £12 Annual Membership
UK members over 18 - GB £24 Annual Membership
Overseas members all ages - GB £36 Annual Membership

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Corporate Members - GB £500
Corporate Sponsor - GB £1500

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

**Margaret Pulfer Email: bobhsmemsec@gmail.com Tel: 01424 814866
Web address: www.battleofbritain1940.net**



THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY is a Registered Charity, whose members represent a wide diversity of background, tradition and churchmanship, united by a determination to promote and preserve the use and understanding of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

We work to ensure that the historic Prayer Book continues to be available to future generations, and we seek to introduce it to young people, ordinands and PCCs throughout the Church of England. Our many activities include:

- ◆ Forging links with and between clergy and churches having a particular commitment to the Book of Common Prayer;
- ◆ Running training projects for ordinands and clergy;
- ◆ Publishing books on relevant topics, sold through our mail order book service and elsewhere;
- ◆ Producing high quality magazines and journals;
- ◆ Promoting the prestigious Cranmer Awards for young people.

Every member receives five magazines a year, plus invitations to a variety of local and national events, including an annual residential conference where members are addressed by quality speakers from religion, the arts and broadcasting.

Interested in joining us?

For more information, please contact 0118 984 2582, or visit www.pbs.org.uk

The Prayer Book Society is a company limited by guarantee registered in England: Company No. 4786973 and Registered Charity No. 1099295
Registered Office and address for correspondence: The Studio, Copyhold Farm, Lady Grove, Goring Heath, Reading RG8 7RT

Contents

Vol 21. No. 2 – August 2023
Front Cover: Village Cricket

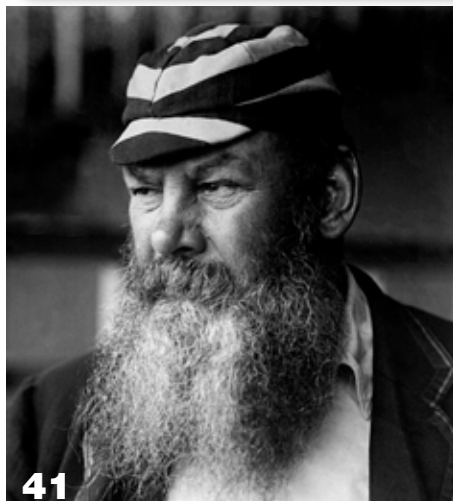
- 4** From the Chairman
- 5** Editorial
- 6** This Realm, This England
- 7** My England
- 8** Trust Reports
- 10** St George Around the World
- 11** Branch News
- 18** Overseas Reports



- 20** In an English Country Garden
- 22** Naval England
- 24** Our Rural England
- 27** St George Proclaimed
- 28** Aircrew of Britain
- 31** Comedy of England
- 32** Christian England



- 34** A Britain in Miniature
- 38** John Kay – a Great British Engineer
- 39** Commonwealth Echoes
- 40** England's Summer Sport
- 42** Lost Love
- 43** News



St George for England
The Official Journal of
The Royal Society of St George

The Society stands for:

- Respect for the Monarchy; Duty to our Sovereign and our Country;
- The cause of England and Englishness.

In accordance with our Constitution, the Objects of the Society are:

One

To foster the love of England and to strengthen England and the Commonwealth by spreading the knowledge of English history, traditions and ideals.

Two

To keep fresh the memory of those, in all walks of life, who have served England or the Commonwealth in the past in order to inspire leadership in the future.

Three

To combat all activities likely to undermine the strength of England or the Commonwealth.

Four

To further English interests everywhere to ensure that St. George's Day is properly celebrated and to provide focal points the world over where English men and women may gather together.

- 44** Letters to the Editor
- 45** Gardens of England
- 46** AGM Notice and Agenda
- 47** Membership Affiliations
- 48** Our Branches
- 50** Shop Window



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF St GEORGE
The Premier Patriotic Society of England
Founded in 1894
Incorporated by Royal Charter

Forever honouring the memory of our late, great Patron,
 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)

Chairman: Nick Dutt

Published at: The Royal Society of St George, RSSG, P.O.
 BOX 397, Loughton, IG10 9GN, England
 Telephone: 020 3225 5011
 E-mail: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com
 Website: www.rssg.org.uk

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/
 RoyalSocietyofStGeorge Twitter: @RSStGeorge
 LinkedIn – the Royal Society of StGeorge Official Group
 Opening times: Monday to Thursday, 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Editor: Stuart Millson

Editorial Address
 The Royal Society of St George, PO Box 397, Loughton,
 IG10 9GN, England
 Telephone: 020 3225 5011
 E-mail: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com

Vice Presidents

The Earl of Aylesford, JP
 The Lord Cope of Berkeley, PC
 The Lord Butler of Brockwell, KG, GCB, CVO
 Clifford James Trowse – Past Chairman
 Mrs Esme Robinson
 Sir Henry Paston-Bedingfeld, Bt
 Air Chief Marshall Sir Stephen Dalton, GCB, RAF (retd)
 Sir Peter Field, KCVO,
 Mrs Peaches Golding OBE CStJ, His Majesty's Lord-
 Lieutenant for Bristol

Past Presidents

William R Firth
 John Clemence, QPM

Immediate Past Chairman

Joanna Cadman

Members of Council

Chairman – Nick Dutt
 Deputy Chairman – Dr Chris Houghton
 Vice Chairman – Cdr James Nisbet, VR
 Hon Treasurer – Alastair Clement, FFA, FTA
 Hon Secretary – Michael Riley
 Hon Registrar – Andy Settle
 Chaplain to the Society – Revd. Roderick Leece
 Council Member – Alan Broomhead, TD – Bye-Laws and
 Database
 Council Member – Les Chapman – Diversity and Inclusion
 Council Member – Jane Dorrington – Events Coordinator
 Council Member – Nick Hinchliffe – School Affiliations
 Council Member – Lloyd James – Membership Affiliations
 and 50/50 Club
 Council Member – Rob Kendrick – PR, Branding and
 Communications
 Council Member – Andy Smith – PR, Branding and
 Communications
 Council Member – Dennis Stinchcombe, MBE – Youth
 Membership Lead, Society's Safeguarding Lead, UK
 Branch Representative
 Council Member – Dr Jennifer Yates- Rowe, PhD – School
 Affiliations
 Council Member – Scott Hanlon
 Chairman Charitable Trust (Ex-Officio) – Michael Riley
 General Secretary – Liz Lloyd
 Minutes Secretary – Edna Stinchcombe, MBE

Administration Centre staff

General Secretary – Elizabeth Lloyd
 Membership Secretary – Jade King

Charitable Trust Members

Chairman – Michael Riley
 Vice Chairman – Dennis Stinchcombe, MBE
 Grants Secretary – Shirley Hankers
 Trustee – Joanna Cadman
 Trustee – Nick Hinchliffe
 Trustee – Chris Houghton
 Trustee – Andy Settle

Ex-Officio Trustee – Nick Dutt
 Minutes Secretary – Edna Stinchcombe, MBE

Special Responsibilities

Standard Bearer – Frank Holland
 Deputy Standard Bearer – Vacant
 Yachting Association – Bob Smith
 Athelstan 1100th Anniversary Events Co-ordinator –
 Joanna Cadman
 Photography – Fred Pearson and Georgina Burges

This Journal is sent free to all full members and is available
 for purchase at £5.00. Opinions expressed in articles or
 advertisements are those of the authors and advertisers
 and the contents do not necessarily reflect editorial or
 official RSSG views. This Journal may not be reproduced
 in whole or in part without the permission of the Editor.
 Opinions expressed in articles or advertisements are those
 of the authors and advertisers and the contents do not
 necessarily reflect editorial or official RSSG views. We
 reserve the right to refuse any advertisement or article
 without giving a reason. E&O.E.

Design and Reprographics: Jim Duggan
 Tel: 01233 632969. Mob: 07714451952

Printed by: The Gemini Print Group, Shoreham-by-Sea
 Tel: 01273 464884

ISSN Number: ISSN 2046-8369



WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER
 edition of the Journal. As I write,
 after a long period of hot, dry
 weather, it's now raining hard and the Ashes
 has been halted – although the garden needs
 it – let's hope it's not for too long!

Since our last edition, a lot seems to have
 happened, with the fabulous Coronation of
 our new King to his first official birthday
 celebrations at the Trooping of the Colour. It
 has been really a time when history has been
 being made. The new Prince and Princess of
 Wales and their children clearly demonstrate
 that the Monarchy is in good hands.

Over the last few months, in response to
 letters of Loyal Greetings to His Majesty the
 King, we have received replies from him.
 Whilst we are still awaiting news about the
 Patronage, it is a positive that we are
 receiving such letters.



I was honoured to represent that Society
 at a Coronation Parade organised by the
 London Sea Cadets at the Old Royal Naval
 College, Greenwich, on 8 May. It was a
 very special event with over 800 cadets,
 representing many different uniformed
 services. Well done to our Vice Chairman,
 Cdr James Nesbit RNR, for organising such
 a special event for all concerned and despite
 the forecast, the rain mostly held off! It
 is a day that I'm sure the cadets will long
 remember.

Membership

As a Society we have a number of challenges
 that we are working to address. The Society's
 big challenge is to increase membership
 numbers. All this is exacerbated by the
 current financial situation. There are a
 number of steps we need to take to ensure the
 long-term sustainability of the Society. As
 with many similar organisations, it is proving
 difficult to attract new and particularly
 younger members. I do firmly believe that we
 are still as relevant as we have always been.
 It is still important – if not more so with all
 the challenges to what we hold dear – to
 remember, celebrate and learn from the past;
 maintain and share our traditions, ideals and
 values; support and help those less fortunate
 through our charity endeavours; and look to
 the future with a positive mindset. We are
 an open and inclusive Society, welcoming
 anyone who believes and supports our aims
 and objectives.

I would ask for everyone's support
 in this drive to attract new members by
 encouraging more of your family and
 friends to join us and/or, if you live in an
 area where there isn't a branch, maybe look
 to set one up. The office team would only be
 too glad to help anyone who is interested to
 do this.

We will be looking to hold a number of
 events next year across the country (and
 hopefully around the world through our
 overseas branches) to celebrate the 130th
 anniversary of our founding by Howard
 Ruff in 1894. The importance of what we
 do is even more critical today, with the
 insidious and seemingly constant attacks
 on the very bedrock of who we are as a
 nation. Without our history, traditions and
 values, the very foundation of the nation is
 under threat, thus undermining our future.
 One of the key objectives mentioned in
 our Royal Charter, that was granted to us
 by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1963 is, "To
 combat all activities likely to undermine the
 strength of England or the Commonwealth".
 I do think that there are a large number of
 people in this country who would support
 our endeavours, and the more we can attract
 to our membership, the louder our voice
 and the more we can do to challenge what is
 currently happening.

At our recent Council Meeting, we were
 very glad to co-opt onto the Council, Scott
 Hanlon. Scott is a young man whose day
 job is Clerk to the Honourable Company
 of Master Mariners. In his time there he's
 done a great job of significantly growing the
 membership. We do hope this experience
 and his great ideas, will really add value
 to the Council and the Society as a whole.
 Welcome Scott!

Unfortunately, Council Member David
 Burns has had to step back from the Council
 due to ill health. We wish him the very best
 for the future and thank him for everything
 he has done for the Society in the past.

We are always looking for other people who can bring new and interesting ideas to the Council, so we can really make a difference and grow the Society.

As you will have seen in the last edition of the Journal, we were very pleased to welcome Mrs Peaches Golding OBE CSTJ, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Bristol, as a Vice President of the Society. We are now equally pleased to welcome Sir Peter Field KCVO KStJ JP, past Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex and a great supporter of the Seahaven Branch, as a Vice President as well.

With the appointment of Dennis Stinchcombe as UK Branch Representative, we are working hard to build better links both for the branches with the 'Parent' Society, but also with each other. It is good to learn what you are all doing, particularly what works well and where additional support could be provided.

With David Burns stepping down, we are looking for someone who can take on the role of International Branch Representative. Looking ahead, I will be hosting our new Branch Chairman's zoom call on 13 July – which despite its name is open to anyone

who'd like to join. We will be holding our AGM on 9 September, hosted by the City of Bristol Branch and then on 15 September our annual Battle of Britian Lunch at the RAF Club with the guest speaker being AVM Chris Elliott, Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund. More information is available elsewhere in the Journal, on the web site, or from the office.

I hope you all have a very good summer (preferably without hose-pipe bans!).

Best Wishes,

Nick Dutt

CENOTAPH

I HAD THE GREAT HONOUR OF representing the Society for the first time, in laying wreaths at the Cenotaph and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey on 22 April this year and remembering all those that had sacrificed so much for the freedoms we take for granted today. As a Society we have been doing this for over 100 years now, and with all the other events and protests going on in London that day, we were all so pleased it all went off without a hitch.

At the Cenotaph, we were joined by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Hamza Taouzzale, and Cdre Rob Bellfield CBE RN, as well as representatives of branches from

around the country. In addition, we were very pleased to have with us some pupils from two of our affiliated schools, Camelsdale and St. Ives Primary Schools.

It was great to also see many members from a number of cadet units, representing all three services march past the Cenotaph, with Cdre Bellfield taking the salute. A great experience for them (and us)!

In Westminster Abbey it was a special experience, with the Coronation coming up so soon after our event. Some of us even got a sneak peek at the Coronation Chair!

These events do not just happen, so there are many people to thank, including Westminster Connects volunteers, the

Metropolitan Police, Westminster Council, The Dean of Westminster Abbey The Very Reverend Dr. David Hoyle, MBE and Canon, The Venerable Tricia Hillas, the National Standard Bearer, Frank Holland, the RSSG Chaplain, the Rev Roddy Leece, the RSSG Council Events co-ordinator, Jane Dorrington and, of course Liz and Jade in the Office.

Special thanks also need to go to WO1 James Bryan, RNR, who has for many years been the lead organiser for the cadet units taking part . . . and so much more! This is was his final year helping with our event, and on behalf of the Society, I'd like to thank him very much. He will be a hard act to follow!

Nick Dutt

EDITORIAL

One morning in May . . .

CATCHING A TRAIN AT 6 o'clock in the morning is rarely something I managed, even in my commuting days. So it was something of a shock to the system when, on Saturday, 6 May, I boarded an early-morning train for London; my aim being to secure a place in the flag-waving crowds that would at least give me a glimpse of our new King and Queen on their Coronation day. By 7 am, I had slotted into a section of the multitude just opposite the statues to King George VI and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, about halfway down The Mall. Now began a three-and-a-half hour wait . . .

Despite a growing fatigue and ache in my left leg (age shall not weary him . . . the time passed pleasantly as people chatted to one another: 'Come far today, have you?' 'What time did you start out?' 'I wish I'd brought another flask of tea!' And they had

come from all over the country – and the world: from leafy Wimbledon (the folk closest to me in the throng); from Cardiff, Scotland, New South Wales, the United States, Japan . . . History was in the making and everyone was there, looking forward, not just to a day of pageantry, but perhaps conscious of the deeper need to be part of an ancient rite. In our breathless, digital world, it is through the monarchy – the one tangible sign of our cultural identity – that we find roots and an anchorage in these often testing times.

For one brief but memorable day, the age of cynicism, anxiety, financial worry was briefly forgotten about. Not even the sour faces of a miserable mini-mob of republicans (very sensibly 'kettled' together by the Metropolitan Police in Trafalgar Square, under the watchful eye of Lord Nelson) remotely undermined the mood.

Now begins the reign of King Charles III . . . A time for renewed hope, refreshed traditions, and a new spirit of oneness



and service across the whole Kingdom. In the words of our great wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill: 'Let us go forward together!'

Stuart Millson

Corrections and clarifications

On page 19 of the April edition of *St Georghe for England*, our news report from Cobham Hall, Kent, referred to the eighth Earl

(Captain of the 1883 England cricket team) as 'Ivor' Bligh. His name was, in fact, Ivo.

From Eurovision to the stately homes of England

Former *This England* Editor, Stephen Garnett, brings us his usual observations on the state of the nation and the human condition!

I DIDN'T TAKE MUCH NOTICE of the Eurovision Song Contest which was held in Liverpool in May. It seems to be nothing more than a circus, an excuse for dressing up in silly outfits, cavorting about on stage (as outrageously as possible) and singing bad songs . . . badly. And when did Australia and Israel become part of Europe? Criticisms notwithstanding, I was deeply disappointed that Mae Muller, the United Kingdom's entry, finished in second last place (twenty-fifth out of twenty-six). Shortly before the contest, the twenty-five-year-old, whose "street-smart yet soulful compositions empower others to speak their truths" (well, that's according to one website), had tweeted that she hated Britain and was applying for a German passport. Disappointed? Yes indeed. I wish she had finished last.



Mae Muller

World First

The *National Heritage List For England* (NHLE), is a register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England, with everything from castles and stately homes to parks and gardens,



Whitehaven quayside

monuments, battlefields and shipwrecks included. An unusual recent addition is the branch of Barclays bank in Enfield, north London, which as a Grade II listed building is recognised as the first bank branch in the world to be fitted with an automated teller machine (ATM), on 27 June 1967. Remarkably, given the large number of bank closures in the last few years, this branch is still serving customers.

Antiquarian Books

It was once said of a talented but wayward England footballer that, had he been able to pass the betting shop and pub as well as he could pass the ball his life and career would have been a whole lot easier. Although I have a fiver on the Grand National and Cheltenham Gold Cup each year and enjoy the occasional glass of real ale, single malt and red wine, fortunately I have managed to resist the major addictions that proved so costly to that England international. Then again, there are certain establishments, found in many of our towns and cities, that I too find almost impossible to pass. I am referring to shops that have frontages or signs outside adorned with the appetite-whetting words: "Antiquarian and Secondhand Books". And once I have crossed the threshold of a shop selling antiquarian and secondhand books (the more Dickensian the better), then it is unthinkable that I should leave the premises without at least . . . one antiquarian or secondhand book.

My most recent purchase was a book published in 2012, *Whitehaven Then & Now* by Alan W. Routledge (The History Press), which, by juxtaposing past and present pictures and accompanying them with informative



descriptions, shows how the Cumbrian town, once the third largest port in England, has changed. As well as then-and-now street scenes and photographs of buildings that have long since disappeared, the book shows how local employment and ways of life have altered beyond recognition, with the once important coal mining and shipbuilding now just a memory. People also feature in the photographs, with the dress and occupations of residents from the beginning of the twentieth century contrasting sharply with their modern counterparts.

At the front of my copy of the book there is added interest which has nothing to do with the publisher. A previous owner has handwritten the following message in blue biro:

To Myles on your 38th birthday 2015. I hope this book of Whitehaven where you were born in 1977, reminds you of the lovely days we have spent there on our days out. With lots of love, Mum xxxx

That was Myles and Mum **then**. I wonder where and how they are **now**?



My England

Carl Portman

carl.portman@hotmail.co.uk

NE’ER CAST A CLOUT UNTIL May Is Out. That’s what they used to say when I was a nipper. It means something like don’t remove your garments until May is done. We often tend to relax in April only to find a sudden cold snap, so one has to be patient. I love May. It’s a tremendous month with blossom, bird-song and the promise of a warm summer to come. Nature is at its most vibrant but we humans have customs and traditions to accompany it, and I have always been intrigued by May-Day. What is it, and why do we celebrate it? To my mind it is actually a festival of Pagan



Alice Liddell in a wreath as “Queen of May,” 1860, Albumen print, Photograph by Lewis Carroll (1832–1898)

From Wikimedia Commons. This image is in the public domain.

origin, and an expression of joy to welcome the summer in. The Hawthorne is out and the Blackthorne is imminent. The garlands – still carried by children in some parts of England are the symbol of fertility and flowering trees. The Maypole is a masculine symbol, and it is thought that Romans danced around flowering trees 2,000 years ago. It also brings communities together.

If the Maypole is Masculine, we also embrace the feminine with the May Queen, and her coronation is the highlight of the day for many. Schools used to select a May Queen, and perhaps they still do, but I doubt it with the politically correct world that we live in. I always wondered why there wasn’t a May King. Well, actually there used to be but he has simply disappeared down the years. Perhaps it’s time to bring him back?

If you think Halloween was the time for tricks, then let me take you much further back in time, to the town of Burnley in Lancashire. Many moons ago, 30 April was known as ‘Mischief Night’ and shopkeepers signs would be changed, gates taken off their hinges and hidden, and all sorts of practical jokes played. The Police put a stop to it – spoilsports.

Many years back in Shipston-on-Stour, a temporary maypole was erected in the middle of the main street and the children danced around it accompanied by music from a fine fiddler. Motorists were held up it is true but this was done in order for them to stop and contemplate for a short time the living past and the present. What a lovely

notion. I have no idea if this still occurs. As I write this piece, I am listening to Led Zeppelin and the evergreen lyrics ‘If there’s a bustle in your hedgerow, don’t be alarmed now, it’s just a spring clean for the May queen.’ And it makes me feel very happy, so alive.

I feel that it is time to organise a May-Day celebration in my own village. After all, we do enough at Christmas and Easter and in high-summer. I can envisage the dancing and the music, the food and perhaps even a bonfire. It is such an ancient and typically English tradition that we cannot afford to let it die out. Yes indeed, I can visualise the May Queen, Morris Dancers, flags, and the blowing of the May horns. There would be food and ale aplenty, and much revelry as people come together out of doors following a bleak old winter, celebrating the vivifying effects of the sun. Now wouldn’t that be rather special?

I will leave you with a verse sung by May singers in times gone by

*So now we’re going to leave you in peace
and plenty here,
For the summer springs so fresh, green and
gay:
And we’ll come no more a Maysinging until
another year,
For to drive the cold winter away.*

Carpe diem

National Parks central to combating the threat from climate change

Andrew McCloy, Chair of National Parks England, sets out the pivotal role that National Parks in England can play in responding to the climate and nature emergencies we now face. He explains, “National Parks are ideally placed to lead on society’s response to this unprecedented modern challenge and provide lasting sustainable change. This year we have been working across the National Parks to establish our carbon baselines. We will use these as a starting point to both hold ourselves to account and monitor the effectiveness of our efforts to cut emissions, including ambitious targets for land use, land cover change and forestry.”

Pioneering projects such as Moors for the

Future, an ambitious and large-scale conservation partnership reversing centuries of peatland erosion in the Peak District and Pennines, are making a real difference to carbon storage, flood defences and biodiversity.

Covering ten per cent of Britain and welcoming over 100 million visitors a year, National Parks are well placed to promote “positive lifestyle messages” around sustainable tourism and the benefits of low carbon holidays. In addition, National Parks are looking to embed their net zero vision by using their planning powers to deliver highly sustainable homes and raise the bar in terms of design and build standards.

However, National Parks need adequate central

support to achieve this vital goal, according to Andrew McCloy.



Fourteen areas are designated as national parks in the United Kingdom; in addition, the Broads now have ‘equivalent status’

England’s National Parks:
Peak District
Lake District
Dartmoor
North York Moors
Yorkshire Dales
Exmoor
Northumberland
The Broads
New Forest
South Downs

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 and 9 September – National AGM, Bristol

Friday, 15 September – Battle of Britain Remembrance Luncheon, The RAF Club, Picadilly, London

Sunday, 22 October – Annual Standards Service, St George’s Church, Hanover Square, Mayfair, London.



Westminster Abbey



Last November, in my last act as Chairman before our AGM on 16 November, I had the pleasure of presenting the Charitable Trust's Grant Certificate for our annual grant to Westminster Abbey to Rev'd David Stanton. As we have been unable to do this during the Covid years, there were three in all to present, and Rev'd Stanton was very gracious in his acceptance of them.

I had the lovely opportunity of a visit to the Jerusalem Chamber in Cheyney gates. We weren't able to take a photograph at the fireplace, as there was renovation work in progress, but enjoyed the history nevertheless: In front of this fireplace took place what is perhaps the best known event in the room's history: the death of King Henry IV. In 1413 the King was planning to go to the Holy Land, and when praying at St Edward's Shrine in the Abbey he was taken ill, apparently with a stroke. He was brought to the Abbot's house and laid by the fire where he recovered consciousness. King Henry asked where he was and was told 'Jerusalem'. The chronicle relates that the King realised he was going to die because it had been prophesied that he would die in Jerusalem. In Henry IV, Part II Shakespeare tells this story of the King's death and also has Prince Henry trying on the crown while his father lay dying.

The Royal Society of St George has had the privilege of laying a wreath each year on St George's Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and are very grateful to the Abbey for arranging a very moving service for us and for always showing us such hospitality.

Joanna Cadman

Benjamin Snelling



On Saturday, 25 February, the RSSG Charitable Trust Hon Grant Secretary had great pleasure in presenting, to Benjamin Snelling, the RSSG Charitable Trust Grant Certificate.

Benjamin, of the Sheerwater Scout Troop, will be representing the Woking area of Scouts by attending the Twenty-fifth World Scout Jamboree, during August 2023, in South Korea.

The photograph shows, on Benjamin's shirt, the special Badge which all Scouts attending the Twenty-fifth World Scout Jamboree, are awarded. For the photograph, we were located in the main hall in the Scout Hut where, at the time thirty-six cubs, who had just returned from a ten kilometre hike, were getting ready for their supper prior to having a 'sleep-over' in the hut for the night. Shirley was asked if she would like to join the 'sleep-over', which although having a sleeping bag in her car, declined. The cubs certainly looked as if they were about to have a most wonderful evening and night. Sheerwater Scout Troop is one of the most active and supported Troops in the area and has a waiting list in all areas of the scouting fraternity.

Shirley Hankers

Theodora Children's Charity, 'Giggle Doctors'



On Tuesday, 21 March, on behalf of The RSSG Charitable Trust, Paul Harbage the RSSG City of London branch Chairman,

presented to the co-founders of Theodora Children's Charity, Andre and Jan Poulie, who were visiting the new Head Offices of the Charity, with the RSSG Charitable Trust grant Certificate.

Theodora Children's Charity was founded in Switzerland, in 1994, to commemorate their mother, Theodora, who during the early part of Andre's life, following an accident, visited him over many years in hospital. Each visit was filled with fun and laughter.

'Giggle Doctors' are professional actors who visit children wards in over twenty-two hospitals in the UK. They provide fun and laughter to help the young children to a speedy recovery.

The first hospital, in the UK, visited by the 'Giggle Doctors' was Great Ormond Street, in April 1994. Over the last twenty-nine years they have continued to create magical moments for thousands of children across the country receiving medical treatment through their bedside and Virtual Visits.

The photograph shows Mr Harbage presenting the RSSG Charitable Trust grant Certificate to Andre. Holding the 'Giggle Doctors' coats are Jan and RSSG City of London branch Member, Ian Kelly.

Saint George's Memorial Church Ypres



In Ypres today there are two great memorials to the fallen of WWI, the Menin gate and St George's Memorial Church.

The first mention of the foundation of an Anglican Church was in August 1919. A few months later an article was published in *The Times* that an Anglican Church was to be built in Ypres to serve both as a Memorial to the dead but also as a meeting place for visiting friends and relatives. Opinion on this was, however, divided as illustrated by a letter sent to the Editor of *The Times* that an Anglican Church would not be appropriate, both because many of the soldiers who were killed were not members of the Church of England and also because Belgium was predominately a Roman Catholic country.

The building of the Church really got underway with the foundation of the Ypres League in 1920. Chairman of the League was Field Marshal French and the patrons were the King and the Prince of Wales.

A decade after the declaration of war, during the annual pilgrimage Field Marshal French called for donations to help build a Church in Ypres.

The Ypres League contacted Sir Reginald Blomfield to draw plans for a Memorial Church. Ypres has many monuments designed by him most notably the Menin Gate as well as many cemeteries. He also designed the Cross of Sacrifice that can be seen on all CWGC military cemeteries.

Several locations were found but were objected to by the Ypres Council or by the Bishop of Fulham. Finally a plot of land was found through the help of the CWGC and duly purchased with funds raised in the U.K.

Now work could start in earnest. In the spring of 1927 Blomfield's plans were complete. He designed a simple space that would be able to accommodate 200 people. The interior furnishings were to be provided by the families and friends of the fallen.

Almost every item in Church serves as a permanent memorial to a soldier who gave his life in France and Belgium.

The foundation stone was laid on 24 July 1927 by Lord Plumer. Nearly two years later the Church was consecrated by the Bishop of Fulham on 24 March 1929.

On the same day the school also opened its door and received the first pupils on 9 April 1929. Students were mostly children whose fathers worked for the CWGC. The school started with sixty-two pupils increasing the number to 130 pupils.

More information about the Church on our website :

saintgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com
John Arnold

RSSG Charitable Trust Certificate presentation, St George's Chapel, Westminster Abbey



Following the 2023 RSSG Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony and Cadets Parade at The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London, the RSSG Chairman and Ex-Officio Trustee of The RSSG Charitable Trust, Mr Nick Dutt, had the honour to present, on 22 April 2023, to The Venerable Patricia Hillas, who accepted on behalf of The Dean and Chapter of

Westminster, the RSSG Charitable Trust grant Certificate. This Presentation took place following the RSSG Annual Service, within Westminster Abbey, at The Tomb of The Unknown Warrior. The RSSG Charitable Trust are pleased to annually donate £500.00 towards the upkeep of St George's Chapel within Westminster Abbey

Westhoughton Lions ARLFC



Dr Chris Houghton, Chairman of the RSSG Bolton branch and RSSG Charitable Trust Deputy Chairman, undertook the Presentation of the RSSG Charitable Trust Grant Certificate to representatives of The Westhoughton Lions ARLFC. The RSSG grant was towards the purchase of Match-Playing Kit for the clubs Young Players.

The photograph shows Dr Houghton with, Ms Caroline Edwards, Club House Manager; John Thompson, Club House Build Lead and Gareth Rose, Club Treasurer.

318 Sale Squadron ATC



The Greater Manchester Branch of the Royal Society of St George in conjunction with the Charitable Trust was pleased to make presentations to two Air Cadets from the "Air Training Corps 318 Sale Squadron", and to make a further donation towards the work of the Squadron.

Cadet Jack Williams, and Corporal Molly Rothwell, seen here with, Michael Riley, RSSG Charitable Trust Chairman RSSG at the time of the Presentation – Trustee and Hon Secretary of the Royal Society of St George (23 May 2023). Both received a presentation and framed Certificate. Regarded by Officers and Staff as Role Models, both have made significant

contributions to the Squadron and the local community. Corporal Rothwell in addition to her work with, and for, the Cadets supports many other local Youth organisations. Special mention was made of Cadet Williams who having recently learned First Aid with the Squadron, put his skills to use when a member of the public fell on the local High Street, banging their head, whilst many adults stood around not knowing what to do, Cadet Williams directed that an Ambulance be called, as he assisted the injured person.

The English Music Festival



The *St George for England* Editor and Chairman of the RSSG North Downs branch, Stuart Millson, kindly, on behalf of the RSSG Charitable Trust, undertook the Presentation of the RSSG Charitable Trust match-funded, with the RSSG North Downs branch, Grant Certificate to Mrs Em Marshall-Luck, who founded The English Music Festival in 2006. The Presentation took place within Dorchester Abbey, Oxfordshire during the EMF May Spring Festival.

RSSG Charitable Trust Objectives

Our main objectives are to help and encourage young people to greater achievement, whether in fields of academe, sport, adventure or business, to encourage their enterprise, skills and enthusiasm – for nothing succeeds without enthusiasm.

Each Branch is encouraged to recommend young people from their own area and a list of the current donations can be obtained from the Trustees.

Our funds are limited but if you know of any young person who is doing something worthwhile and who genuinely needs a donation to help with expenses, please get in touch with the Trust Secretary. And if you come across a windfall yourself, don't forget the Charitable Trust!

Please support our Charitable Trust by sending a donation to the Trustees at the Administration Centre address or consider the possibility of leaving a donation to the Trust in your Will.

ST GEORGE AROUND THE WORLD



Festooned in floral beauty, a rose-bordered doorway in sunny Barcelona, heralding the arrival of St George's Day. The cult of St George spread throughout Europe following the Crusades. The beautiful picture below was taken by Oliver and Kate Simpson, son and daughter-in-law of our Battle of Britain expert contributor, Geoff Simpson.



Thousands of miles from England . . .

Meanwhile, Ray Haffenden from Kent, on holiday in the Philippines, found a stirring statue of St George at The Drake Hotel, Angeles City, Pampanga. Almost like a horse-warrior of the Genghis Khan era ~ note how St George's character and appearance changes around the world. . . . A saint for all countries, all peoples.



DO YOU HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE?

If you do, please do search for the Royal Society of St George in the Facebook search bar and 'like' our page. Please post updates on our page about your branch activities and events. Please also add photos and relevant links if appropriate. If you like a link on our page, then please do 'share' it to your own profile page and this helps to promote our Society to potential new members.



WE ARE ALSO ON TWITTER

So please do follow us on @RSSStGeorge and help widen the reach of our updates by retweeting them to your followers.



FINALLY, WE NOW HAVE A GROUP SET UP ON LINKEDIN

Where members and non-members can join and connect to potentially do business with each other, or share helpful business hints and tips. If you have a profile on LinkedIn, please do request to join our group. You will find it by searching for 'Royal Society of St George Official Group' in the search bar within LinkedIn.

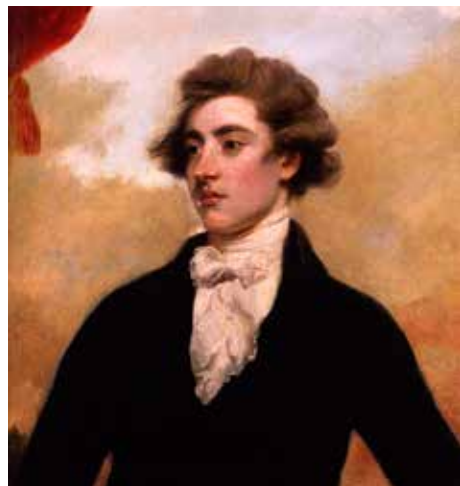
BATH

Pamela Preece, Secretary

Belated Happy Birthday Wishes to our former Chairman, the Rev Robert Webb, who was ninety on 27 May. We all wish him a happy and healthy decade until he receives the Royal Birthday Greetings.

William Beckford who commissioned to have built the tower at the north of Bath and after whom it is named had a ‘thing’ about towers. He had one built on a high point near to his home in Wiltshire. I don’t know if the architect was not qualified enough for such an undertaking, William Beckford wanted it to be the same height as St Paul’s Cathedral, or the Georgian equivalent of ‘cowboy builders’ were employed but it soon fell down. It was rebuilt only to fall down again, this time just before a visit by Lord Nelson was due. Many men worked feverishly, night and day, to get it back up in time.

William Beckford was born on 29 December 1760 in Sloane Square, London, to William Beckford and Maria, daughter of the Hon George Hamilton. William senior, had eight illegitimate children and, in middle age, decided he had better father a legitimate one. After all, he was a very wealthy man due to a large sugar plantation in Jamaica and various other overseas properties. He was also a leading light on the political scene having been Lord Mayor of London twice and it was his desire that his son should be politically important. With this in mind, he made sure young William had the very best education available. Unfortunately, he died when his son was ten years old leaving him with a vast fortune that in his adulthood led to him being named, the richest commoner in England. Having so much so young seems to have sent young William off the rails. At seventeen he fell in lust with the (nowadays) well under age son of an aristocrat. The resulting affair, when discovered, caused a major scandal. No charges were brought but it certainly put paid to the peerage



Portrait of William Beckford (1760-1844)

William Beckford had petitioned George III for. Trying to ride out the storm, William married a Margaret Gordon and they had, at least, one daughter. I suppose when you are betrothed to such a rich man his murky past doesn’t bother you too much. Anyway, his reputation was not restored due to fact he was blatantly unfaithful to his new wife. So, he went to the Continent where he lived in lavish style for ten years spending a lot of money on paintings and beautiful objects. These he brought back with him to furnish his home at Fonthill Gifford, Wiltshire.

The estate had originally been bought by William senior. The house on it was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt in such magnificence to warrant the name it was given, Fonthill Splendour. It was here that William Beckford lived for a number of years as a virtual recluse. Consequently, as none of the villagers knew him by sight, it was believed he was a fearsome monster who only came out at night.

Interestingly, in his autobiography, William P Frith, a Victorian artist, describes how a distant cousin of his made a wager (with whom and for how much is not recorded) that he could enter the gardens and home of the reclusive William Beckford. This represented quite a challenge and the young man must have wondered why he had been daft enough to make such a bet as the whole estate was surrounded by a twelve foot high wall. He spent quite a few hours of quite a few days waiting for the main gate to be open and unguarded. Eventually, his chance came and in he went. He strolled across the great park and, guided by the high tower, came to the garden which had a wall round it. As he looked for a way in, a gentleman whom he took to be a gardener, approached from the other side and asked how he came to be there. Unfazed, the younger man said he had heard such splendid things about the place that having found the gate open thought he would come in for a look around. “Well”, retorted the gardener, “You had better hop over the wall for a proper look.” “Are you sure Mr Beckford will not mind?” he queried, and being assured Mr Beckford would have no objections, climbed over to be given a thoroughly comprehensive tour of the gardens, orchards and hot houses. At the end of this, the gardener wondered if Mr. Frith’s cousin would like to look inside the house. Of course, he would but again he asked, “Are you sure Mr Beckford would have no objections?” Yet again, he was assured there would be none and in they went. The paintings, the statuary and ornaments were breathtaking and, the cousin being a well-educated young man, was able to take an appreciative interest in all he was shown. Suddenly, his guide, looking at his watch, declared, “Why bless me, it is five o’clock, you must have some dinner.” Now, I feel I must say that for a supposedly



Beckford's Tower, Bath

intelligent young man, he was a bit slow on the uptake because again he queried if Mr Beckford would object. Came the reply, “No, he wouldn’t, you must dine with me. I am Mr Beckford. The evening passed very pleasantly. They ate delicious food from the finest porcelain, drank superb wine from crystal goblets and the conversation flowed easily. At eleven o’clock Mr Beckford suddenly left the room. Awaiting his host’s return, the young man pulled his chair up to the fire and dozed to be awakened by a footman putting out the candles. On being shown to the door, the footman said, “Mr Beckford says that as you found your way in by yourself you can now find your own way out but beware of the bloodhounds.” Thoroughly alarmed, the young man climbed the first tree he came too and awaited daybreak when he descended and, with terror attending every step, headed for the main gate.

In the early 1820s William Beckford decided to move to Bath. Perhaps, he was bored of his palatial mansion or the revenue had dropped from his overseas plantations because of poor management. He bought two or three houses (depending on your source) up on Lansdown and had them converted into a single dwelling. At the rear he bought a parcel of land on which to have his tower built. He intended it to be his mausoleum but, as it turns out, his tomb is nearby. The top contained a viewing platform from which he could see over the Bristol Channel. In the other direction he could have seen the tower at his old home in Wiltshire except it had tumbled down again shortly after his move to Bath. At his death in 1844, the sole beneficiary, his daughter Susan, Duchess of Hamilton, wanted only a few keepsakes of sentimental value. A father and son firm of auctioneers/funeral directors arranged the lavish funeral and a series of auctions held to dispose of the Beckford possessions. I am sure the result of these had them laughing joyfully all the way to the bank.

FENLAND

On Friday, 21 April 2023, as part of ever closer affiliation with the Wisbech Sea Cadet Corps T S Falcon 373, the Fenland Branch of The Royal Society of St George presented two cadets with certificates. They had undergone training and been jointly selected to become Standard Bearers for the Fenland Branch. They are pictured here at Sea Cadet HQ alongside our retiring Standard Bearer, Aubrey Smith at the presentation of certificates by Brian Kierman Also pictured, Rev Father David

Addington, SSC, RNR, Joint Padre of The Royal Society of St George and Sea Cadets Unit along with Sea Cadet officers Sub Lieutenant John Ashworth, SCC, RNR, Andrew Sharp, Unit Coxwain and Brian Kierman, Chairman, who presented certificates to the selected cadets on behalf of The Royal Society of St George Fenland Branch.

The Standard Bearers will be made Honorary Members of The Royal Society of St George Fenland Branch until they are eighteen or leave the position or Unit

In a separate second photo we picture the successful new Standard Bearers with our Branch Standard Bearer, Aubrey Smith, who retires from the position he has so proudly held for the past six years at our AGM this year. The Branch thank him for the loyal and steadfast manner he has carried out his role during the time he has led us with our Standard to all our Remembrance Days, to the Cenotaph and Westminster Abbey, the Arboretum, St Georges Church at Hanover Square, Armed Forces Day and other official occasions.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Edward Gillespie, OBE, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire, Patron

Councillor Pam Tracey, MBE, President
Mrs Pat Ayres, MBE, Chairman

The Branch's forty-third St George's Day Service took place at Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens, Gloucester, on Monday, 24 April. A large congregation enjoyed the Service which included Handel's anthem *Zadok The Priest*, sung by Saint Cecilia Singers, as an appropriate preface to the Coronation of King Charles III a couple of weeks later.

Unfortunately the Vicar of Longlevens could not take part due to illness. The Archdeacon of Cheltenham, The Venerable Hilary Dawson, and the Branch's Chaplain, Reverend Gary Grady, ably took the reins at very short notice. Gary even managed to prepare and preach an excellent sermon! The Service began with a procession of more than twenty Standards from Royal British Legion Gloucestershire County and its branches and veteran associations, led into the Church by our own Branch Standard carried by Carole Hoban.

Mr Edward Gillespie, His Majesty's

Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and Branch Patron, presented the 2023 Nairac Awards to two outstanding young people:



Lilly Marshall-Davies exceeded all expectations in her GCSE exams at Five Acres School in the Forest of Dean. During her studies she had to cope with not only the Covid

disruptions but also extremely difficult personal circumstances, losing both her parents within six months of each other. Nevertheless, top grades meant she continuing her studies at Sixth Form College. The School praised Lilly's incredible resilience and determination. Lilly donated her Award money to Diabetes UK.



Buster Brasier-Dinning was nominated by Cirencester College where he is now studying for A-levels. At the age of sixteen, Buster performed

an extraordinary act of selflessness when he came across a man who was clearly about to jump from a bridge over the A419. Without hesitation Buster coaxed the man down to safety and calmly chatted with him for twenty-five minutes whilst holding his hand. Having alerted the police, he waited with the man for their arrival. He learned from the police two weeks later that the man was in hospital and receiving support. It was admirable that Buster had the presence of mind at such a young age to act on his instincts and then support such a vulnerable person. Buster donated his Award money to The Farming Community Network, a charity which supports farmers and their families.

Branch members and invited guests were able to meet the winners and enjoy refreshments at a reception in the Church Hall following the Service.

Musical afternoon

In June members and friends enjoyed an afternoon of music and entertaining anecdotes by Mike and Rachel Fenton at Kemble Village Hall. Mike left teaching to play the autoharp full-time in 1987 and became International Autoharp Champion. Mike and Rachel play several other instruments, including the jews harp and a courting dulcimer, and even managed to

encourage a sing-along! They explained the history of some unusual instruments. The afternoon ended with tea, including several lovely cakes made by Branch members.

Towards the end of June the Branch held its Annual General Meeting. Members unanimously re-elected the officers and committee and were told about forthcoming events and the committee's

efforts to grow membership. A poster had been produced and circulated to all Branch members, who were asked to put them up in their local halls and shops. An article about the Society and the Branch had been put together and had already been published in a couple of parish and community magazines.

A summer lunch is being planned for

August and a talk on the history of Ypres will be given by Lt. Col. (ret'd) John Lee, Branch member, in the autumn.

For further information about the Branch and its activities contact Margaret Fuller, Branch Secretary, by email glosrssg@btinternet.com, by phone 01291 625059, or see the Branch's page on the National website.



The President Andrew Marsh and Chairman Brian Carter at Halifax Minster

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT

President, Andrew Marsh

St George's Day 23rd April 2023

What a busy day. The Branch held the Re-Dedication Service at Halifax Minster at 10.30 am. The readings were read by our members, Mrs Gillian Highley, MBE and Mrs Geraldine Carter, Branch Secretary.

Then the Annual Dinner at Crow Nest Golf Club, Coach Road, Hove Edge, Brighouse at 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm with our new President Andrew Marsh and Chairman Brian Carter.

Guest Speaker Kevin Sharp, MBE, DL, West Yorkshire, addressed the Members and guests and proposed the toast England and the Royal Society of St George.

Mrs Geraldine Carter proposed the toast to Illustrious Englishmen and Englishwomen. Her subject was the Patron of our Society Her late Majesty the Queen. A transcript of her talk is reproduced below. The lady I am going to speak about was born in London at 2.40 am on 21 April 1926 at 17 Bruton Street in Mayfair, London, the home of her maternal grandparents and she was christened on 29 May.

As a child her early years were spent growing up in London and also spent holidays at the homes of her grandparents in Scotland and England.

In 1940, at the height of the blitz, like all other children in London she was evacuated to the countryside west of London.

Education was enjoyable in addition to the three R's she also studied, French, art and music, learned to ride horses and became a strong swimmer. She enrolled as a girl guide when she was eleven, later becoming a sea ranger and won the children's challenge shield at London's Bath Club when she was thirteen. Also whilst living in the country during the war she learned carriage driving.

After her eighteenth birthday in 1944, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British army. She started as a second subaltern in the ATS and was later promoted to junior commander, the equivalent of captain.

She began her training as a mechanic in March 1945 and undertook a driving and vehicle maintenance course.

She became engaged in 1946. She first met her fiancé in 1934 when she was eight years old and again in 1939 when she was thirteen. Following this meeting they began exchanging letters she 'never had eyes for anyone else' from that moment forward. On 20 November, 1947 she married the man who was the love of her life.

She had her first child on 4 November 1948. Her husband was in the armed forces and was posted to Malta where they lived from 1949 until 1951 apart from a short visit back to London to give birth to a daughter on 15 August 1950. In 1951 she moved back to London and in 1952 her life changed for ever. She went on to have two more sons.

I first met this lady in July 2003 and then again in May 2004. Everyone has special moments in their life. I guess this one comes third after my marriage and the birth of my daughters.

I'm sure that you all know by now who this illustrious English woman is. The late Queen Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

After attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace in July 2003 I contacted the then Lord Lieutenant John Lyles, CBE, JP, and asked for his help to invite the Queen for a royal visit to Halifax. She had visited in 1949 as Princess Elizabeth but had not had a royal visit to the town as Queen. John said he would try.

Christmas Eve 2003, the Chief Executive came to see me in the

Mayor's Parlour. He told me he had some news that I had to keep to myself but I could share it with Brian. It was the news that I had been waiting for, the Queen was coming.

The visit was scheduled for May and would be a joint visit as in 1949 with Prince Phillip. My first reaction was sadness because the handover to the incoming mayor would be before the visit, but in 2004 the local elections were put back to June to coincide with the European elections and so I would still be the Mayor.

It was one of the greatest moments of my life. I met the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Halifax railway station after they had arrived on the royal train. The Queen visited a local school with the leader of the council and I went with the Duke to the Town Hall where he met with local businesses and the Scouts Duke of Edinburgh award winners.

The visit culminated with almost an hour with the Queen in the Piece Hall.

I am sure that without the work and expertise of our guest speaker tonight, Kevin Sharp, DL, the clerk to the West Yorkshire Lieutenancy, the visit may not have taken place. So thank you Kevin for making that day so special for me.

Sally on 8 September 2022, Queen Elizabeth died at the age of ninety-six.

This lady has to be the most illustrious English woman to have lived.

Please rise and join me in the toast to our patron the late Queen Elizabeth II and an illustrious English woman.



Queen Elizabeth II, Geraldine Carter and Brian Carter

HUNTINGDON



Col. Derek Bristow OBE DL (1940-2023) together with his late wife Joan founded the Huntingdon branch in 2004. He felt passionately about the RSSG and was the branch Chairman until illness forced him to relinquish the role at the start of 2023. He was involved in several other organisations including the Royal British Legion and various Merchant Navy Charities. He was for many years a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire. In May 2022 he was made a freeman of the town of Huntingdon for services to the community. He will be sadly missed by the branch members and by his many friends in and around Huntingdon.

LEEDS

Cllr Wyn Kidger Chairman

St George's Day

We started our celebration with a service in the Leeds Minster on Thursday 20 April, which was attended by many it was a wonderful evening of music and readings. The evening was attended by our President in his role this year as Lord Mayor of Leeds.

On Sunday, 23 of April, the parade was led by St George on horseback from Morley Town Hall in the Town centre. Over 1,500 participated in the parade, the West Yorkshire Fire Brigade Brass Band led followed by the re-enactment groups from all over the country. Various WWII vehicles, ambulances, and classic motor bikes, followed by various community groups of children, Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides, Beavers and Scouts. Also present were local sports and dancers.



Left to right vice Chair Squadron Leader Neil Foster; Cllr Wyn Kidger, Chair; Cllr Bob Gettings, President; James Newman, OBE Freemason's Provincial Grand Master Province Yorkshire West Riding and his wife Lesley.

An iconic classic Black Prince bus followed with the dignitaries on board and proceeded up to Morley Rugby/Cricket Club grounds for an afternoon of entertainment.

We think this year's event has been the biggest and most successful in our history of fifteen years.



LOWESTOFT

Andy Bogg, Chairman

An excellent Saint George's Day celebration lunch, held at the Victoria

Hotel, Lowestoft, was attended by thirty-five members and guests. Master Hunter George, the Chairman's grandson, who at 3 weeks old was the youngest guest, enjoyed his lunch although the roast beef was off

the menu for him this time. The Roast Beef was paraded to the glorious sound of *Pomp & Circumstance* and was applauded by all. To complete the day a raffle was held which raised £340 for local charities.



NORTH DOWNS BRANCH

Gp. Capt. Patrick Tootal OBE, Past President

Down in deepest mid-Kent, the flag has been flying for St. George's Day and for the Coronation.

On Saturday, 22 April, the Branch assembled at Leybourne Church, near West Malling, for our customary Battle of Britain wreath-laying, followed by a buffet party to celebrate the new King's reign. Registered as an official Coronation event on the Department of Culture, Media and Sport website, the proceedings began with a short open-air service conducted by the Rev. James Brown, in which a wreath was laid to commemorate RAF Fighter Command, 1940. 'Father Jim' as he is known locally, made a moving speech

about the Battle of Britain, reminding us of the struggle that took place in the skies above Kent, in that dangerous summer, eighty-three years ago.

Deputy Chairman, Wing Commander Mike Sutton, later provided us with a summary of the charitable work in which the Branch has been engaged – an impressive fundraising total that speaks volumes about the kind-hearted mess of so many local folk. Our guests that evening included: County Councillor, Mrs. Trudy Dean (LibDem) and Cllr. Alexa Michael from the Conservative Group at Bromley Council – both highly-effective campaigners for the greenbelt and conservation.

The buffet supper and raffle succeeded in raising £100 for the local Leybourne RSPCA Animal Rescue Centre. Well done to all of our members and supporters.

The next day (the exact occasion of the Patron Festival or our Saint) Canon Derek Carpenter led a splendid service at the Church of St James the Great, East Malling, mentioning The Royal Society of St. George and its 130th anniversary, next year.

Finally, Branch Chairman, Stuart Millson, took part in an interview (along with National Chairman, Nick Dutt, and Deputy, Chris Houghton) with the *Scottish Herald* newspaper. In an informative 3,000-word piece by journalist, Neil Mackay, published on St George's Day, we succeeded in setting out our objectives as a Society; proclaiming the cause of England, Kingdom and Commonwealth. Some useful publicity for The Royal Society of St. George, north of the border!

God Save the King!



Wreath-laying ceremony, Leybourne, Kent. From left to right: Gp. Captain Patrick Tootal, Soham Joshi, Rev. Jim Brown. (Picture, S. Millson.)



Soham Joshi, with Cllr. Alexa Michael (Conservative) from the London Borough of Bromley. (Pic. S. Millson.)

SEAHAVEN

Ann Abbott

In April, our Chairman, Standard Bearer and two committee members were honoured by attending the National Laying of Wreaths at the Cenotaph led by Seahaven Branch Member and National Chairman Nick Dutt, together with Branch Member National Standard Bearer Frank Holland. This was followed by a short and poignant service at Westminster Abbey. Whilst waiting to start the Wreath Laying, we enjoyed meeting with old friends from other Branches and catching up with the news.

The following day the Branch paid tribute to St George's Day with a Service at the beautiful downland Church of St Andrew's in Alfriston, East Sussex where the Bells were rung to start the Service led by Rev'd Damien Brennan. Members then



assembled for dinner at a nearby hotel. The Dinner was attended by The High Sheriff Mr Richard Bickersteth and his Wife Rachel together with our National Chairman, Branch Member Nick Dutt and his Wife and the Mayor of Seaford and many Branch Members. The evening started with The Ceremony of the Beef where the Beef is clapped in, tasted and approved by Steve Bells, OBE, and the Chef given the traditional pint of beer in thanks. After dinner, tributes were paid to our new King, the Society and of course to England and St George.

Since the Branch was first formed, we have supported "The Denton Challenge", an event run by a local Charity with competitions for youngsters and a general funday. Our President Laurie Holland presented the awards to the youngsters ably supported by our Treasurer, Jan White. Although the day was excessively



hot, there were many young participants lining up to be photographed with Laurie Holland, receiving their awards.

June saw us celebrating our King's Coronation and His Official Birthday with a formal Dinner attended by The Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mr David Allam, The Chair of East Sussex County Council, Peter Pagnall and the Mayors of Seaford, Peacehaven and Telscombe.

We were treated to a highly amusing

after dinner talk by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant who proceeded to tell us about how everything seemed to have gone wrong for the Coronation of King George IV. and compared it to the marvellous spectacle and deep reverence of the Coronation of King Charles III.

Armed Forces and Veterans Day followed shortly after, and the Branch was again busy with organising the event. The Branch had instigated this Event jointly with the local Town Council from the time the Branch was first formed, and this partnership has continued, and the event has now become a firm fixture in the local calendar.

The weather was good, and the parade consisted of veterans and a wonderful turnout of young Sea and Army Cadets. Our Branch Standard of St George accompanied the British Legion Standard. The Sea Cadets also carried their Standard. The Parade Marshall, who led at the front of the parade was another Branch Member, Raymond Naqvi, OBE and the Salute was taken by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Brigadier Anthony Lamb, MBE.

Seaford's Town Cryer, Peter White, was at the front of the parade and the beat for the marching was supplied by professional drummer and bugler, Heidi Watkins. When the parade assembled at



the parade ground, prayers were said by Rev'd Derreck Lee-Philpot and the *Last Post* was played by two trumpeters of Seaford Silver Band. Among the guests present were Peter Pagnall, Chair of East Sussex County Council and the Mayors of Seaford Peacehaven and Telscombe. The Branch supplied refreshments for all the guests and the cadets and again received much praise and many thanks for its work.

ST NEOTS

St George's Dinner – Saturday, 22 April 2023



Our Branch dinner was held at The White Horse, Eaton Socon. We had a good number of members who all enjoyed a lovely three-course menu along with the usual informative speeches and toasts presented by various committee members.

Coronation of King Charles III Weekend

The St Neots Branch obtained funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to provide and distribute hundreds of goody bags to children much to their delight. This was done on Sunday, 7 May beside the Riverside Miniature Railway. We decorated the railway with bunting and provided flags in the goody bags too.



Handing out goody bags to children

Lunch Club



Flag waving on the Riverside Miniature Railway

The St Neots Branch Committee recently set up a Lunch Club open to all members of the Branch.

The first inaugural meeting was held at the end of May at The Bridge House, St Neots. The excellent choice of menu was much appreciated by all those who attended and the staff were very accommodating and efficient in serving the meals. This was such a great success that it has now been organised to become a regular occurrence.

Afternoon Tea



The committee also organised an afternoon tea on 17 June in celebration of Waterloo Day and also King Charles III official birthday. This was held at Betty Bumbles Vintage Tea Room in the Market Square of St Neots. It was attended by a good number of members who appreciated the excellent home made food by Sue and her staff.

◀ **Obituary – John Dickinson**

It is with sad regret that the St Neots Branch inform you of the passing of our President – John Dickinson on Sunday, 9 April 2023.

John was a founder Member of our Branch and an enthusiastic stalwart of the Royal Society. He held the position of Branch President for fifteen years.

John was born and brought up in Birmingham's main fire station where his

father was Chief Fire Officer. He was very involved in the sixties in the Birmingham Jazz scene, running clubs and booking artists. In his working life he worked in the semi-conductor industry and, for many years, travelled the world in a senior sales capacity for various employers.

He loved playing golf where he got a hole in one at St Neots Golf Club and, for many years, enjoyed playing snooker. He was well read with a special interest in

history, particularly Roman about which he was a fountain of knowledge. He also loved crime stories particularly one set in ancient Rome.

With a dry sense of humour he often supplied our weekly joke at the Barley on a Sunday.

Always a gentleman and always good company he will be missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Shirley, and Son and Daughter in-law.

SWALE

Susan Thomas: Treasurer

On Friday, 21 April 2023, we held our St George's Day dinner at the Woodstock Club in Sittingbourne. Fifty members and friends attended. This is the largest gathering for quite a few years. A superb dinner was followed by entertainment from Claire Snoad. This was an emotional evening for

Claire as her relative Anita Walker who was a member of our group had passed away a couple of weeks prior to the event. We finished the evening by singing Land of Hope and Glory and waving our flags. The good news is that Claire and her mother have now decided to join our group.

On St George's Day we held our annual service at St Marys Church, Teynham. One of our members, Dale Howting, BEM had



carried our banner for the past thirty-five years. This year because of mobility issues he had to hand this over to Cllr Roger Clark. Dale continues to attend all our events and is well known in Sittingbourne as the whistling postman. He sits in the High Street raising money for charity and in 2013 he was awarded the Silver Cross of St. George.

WATERLOO

Jane Dorrington, Chairman

On 21 March eleven members visited the Bank of England Museum in Bartholomew Lane which is home to a collection of diverse items relating to the history of the Bank from its foundation in 1694 to present day. It is open to the public and free of charge. Afterwards we had lunch at Mr Lasagna's Italian Restaurant, Royal Exchange Building where they served 21 different lasagnas! An enjoyable time was had by all.

Ten Members took part in the Gunpowder Plot Immersive Experience in Tower Hill Vaults on 25 May. Our friends travelled back in time to 1605 to infiltrate history's most daring conspiracy. Using a combination of live theatre and digital technology they were

transported deep into the heart of an amazing story of which they became protagonists (complete with hooded cloaks) and they witnessed history as never before! All agreed that it was a unique and unforgettable experience.

This year we celebrated St George's Day at The Victory Services Club near Marble Arch. Thirty-nine of us enjoyed a buffet lunch in the Trafalgar Suite. Judy Karbritz gave a light hearted talk called The Full Monty, Warts and All – The Stories Behind Familiar Sayings. This was very enjoyable and amusing. Judy Karbritz is Harrow's Community Poet and she has broadcast on LBC and local BBC radio. After lunch we retired to the bar to catch up with friends old and new.

Thirty members dined at the National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place on 15 June.



National Liberal Club dining room

We enjoyed an excellent three-course lunch in a splendid building. The weather was good and we were able to have our pre-luncheon drinks on the terrace with views over leafy London. As the photograph (left) shows, many took the opportunity of enjoying each other's company and drinks on the terrace after lunch. In fact, most were still there beyond 6 o'clock. Our sincere thanks go to David Dominey for making it possible for us to take advantage of this very special venue. We hope that we will be able to repeat this popular event in the not too distant future.



OVERSEAS BRANCH NEWS

California

A medal for a better world



The Medal of Honour is a relatively new award which the RSSG California Branch reserves for especially outstanding individuals who make the world a better place for others.

And the latest two recipients awarded by the California Branch

certainly fit into the category.

Professor Michael Atar

Professor Michael Atar (pictured wearing his medal) is a scientist and philanthropic entrepreneur dedicated to helping and healing others. He recently helped to bring to market Cytovale's rapid test for sepsis, the number-one cause of death in hospitals, an invention set to save thousands of lives.

Also a big supporter of Jewish education, his guiding principle in life is a concept from Judaism called "tikkun olan," which means "repair of the world."



Professor Michael Atar

supporting, encouraging, and helping others to succeed.

Princess Karen Cantrell, Chairman of the California branch, said: "Our events always salute and reward some very special and selfless people and these medal of honour winners represent all the best human qualities."



Leathem Stearn

Leathem Stearn – Vocational training

The next recipient of the honor is Leathem Stearn, a successful businessman who has designed and built some of the most beautiful homes in the world while helping those who work on them build careers.

He provides vocational training for disadvantaged people in woodworking, engineering and other construction skills that lead to jobs on his luxury building projects, including the biggest house in Aspen.

Born in the same year as King Charles, he shares the monarch's passion for mentoring,

Royal Society of St. George Welcomes Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie

On the weekend of 22 April, The Royal Society of St. George (RSSG), California held two events welcoming His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, and Trustee with the RSSG, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California. The RSSG Black Tie Gala was held in his honor on Saturday evening, and a luncheon and awards ceremony was held on the Sunday,



Francis O'Toole, Gaelane O'Toole, Lord and Lady Nicholas Monson, Ratu Muda Princess Karen Cantrell, HIH Princess Saba Kebede with HIH Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, Lij Anania Abebe, GOSE, ADC Major, Imperial Guard Regiment - President of Moa Anbessa Institute and W/t Rahel Molaligne

welcoming the new president of RSSG, Marquis John A. Blakemore. On the Saturday, HIH Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie delivered the keynote speech titled, "The Importance of the Preservation of Heritage - Peace and Hope for 2023."

CAROLINA

The Carolinian Branch of The Royal Society of St George is in the process of reviving itself and, to that end, a formal dinner was hosted on 19 April, 2023. It was held at a local private club in Charleston, SC. to celebrate St George's Day and, at the time, the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III.

The event was presided over by Mr Peter D. Wild, the President, Mr. John Shannon, the Secretary, Mr. David Matthews, the Membership Secretary and Mr. Calhoun Witham, the Treasurer. The forty one people, who were in attendance, joyously toasted King Charles III, The President of the United States, Other Members of the Royal Family and, finally, England.



PORT ELIZABETH

President's report 30 January 2023

Good morning everyone and a Very Happy New Year to you all. Welcome to our 107th Annual General Meeting. We have had quite an eventful year with the trials and tribulations of our venue here and, of course, the sad news of our Queen's passing. On a brighter side we had a wonderful Jubilee Celebration and my thanks must go out to my committee for all the hard work that went on behind the scenes.

We certainly have had a variety of speakers this year. Ian Pringle, Tour Guide, spoke on The Battle of Grahamstown and the impact it had on the English in South Africa; Garth Sampson, Weatherman, who explained weather patterns, floods and drought which we have been experiencing



Aerial view of the main beach, Port Elizabeth



RSSG Committee 2023 from L to R President Linda Buchanan, Chris Hickman, Margaret Cheeseman (seated) Joey Elphick, Carol Speirs, Past President Jacqueline Powell (seated) Linda Kelly, Jean Landszaat

for some time now; Marvin Carstens who spoke about Pre-history of South Africa; Leslie Young who spoke on old Malta and her experiences when visiting there; Judy Venter from National Sea Rescue who showed a wonderful film of local volunteers removing fishing line which had wrapped around a whale; The children from St George's Prep School who entertained us with essays, poetry and music.

Our Trafalgar Day celebration is traditionally followed by a soup lunch with soups provided by our committee.

St George's Day and our Christmas Lunch were held at Thatchwoods again.

Wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph in Walmer and also at Grey High School. Ladies if you haven't been to one of Grey School's Remembrance Services, I would thoroughly recommend you go along if you have the chance.

I would just like to say again a very big thank you to all those committee members who have worked so hard behind the scenes to make a success of this branch of the Royal Society of St George.

On a sad note our Secretary Sandra for over five years is taking a step back and retiring from our committee. Ladies what a Secretary she has been! Sandra what can I say but thank you – you have kept this club together through thick and thin.

Also a very big Thank you to Joan our Treasurer who is also taking a step down and leaving our committee. Ladies we really appreciate all you have done. Thank you!

As I stand down and pass the President's badge over to our Vice-President I just want to say we have a very big problem. If we cannot find someone to step into the Secretary's position we cannot carry on. So Ladies please remember that we have been going over 100 years and I would hate us to have to close our doors. We also need three extra committee members.

If we have volunteers to come forward to join the committee subscriptions will be taken after the meeting and before we serve our Brunch.

Jacqueline Powel,
President 2019-2022

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe branch held their St George's Day 2023 celebration in Harare with good attendance. The "Procession of the beef" was led by Chef Mishek and Tim Harrap (who has won "actor of the year award" on a number of occasions) turned the tasting of the beef into an extremely amusing event. Tim Harrap addressed the society after lunch with a tongue in cheek look at how times have changed from the times of St George slaying the dragon to now. The Society in Zimbabwe has had meetings banned by the police in the past, so we are always thankful to be able to meet.



The tasting of the beef: Chef Mishek, Tim Harrap and Brian Heathcote (Chairman)



Some garden heroes

Jim Duggan

Our gardens are places of many connected relationships. Some creatures help control damaging pests by eating them or even laying eggs inside them. Pollinating insects help increase your harvest. Others perform the vital task of breaking down decaying material

Ladybirds



Ladybird larva. Grey/black some with orange or white markings. Some spiny.

Around 10mm in length.

Predator of aphids and some other insects like scale insects.

Adults need sheltered sites for overwintering.

Violet ground beetle



Ground beetles range in size, up to 25 mm. Often black, sometimes metallic.

Predators of ground and soil dwelling insects including vine weevil larvae.

They like piles of logs, leaf litter and compost heaps.

Marmalade hoverfly



Around 50 mm, striped. Hoverflies dart in flight, hovering on the spot. Larvae are semi transparent maggots.

Adults act as pollinators. Many hoverfly larvae eat aphids.

They like flowers with open centres, pollen and nectar.

Parasitoid wasp



They lay eggs inside other insects, several species inside aphids.

Larvae eat their hosts from the inside leaving them as papery husks.

Adults eat flower nectar and pollen as well as aphids' fluids.

Common wasp



Black and yellow, striped, winged insects.

Hunts caterpillars and other insects in summer to feed grubs.

Colonies live in papery nests in the ground or hanging from trees. These die out each year.

Springtail



Less than 6 mm long. Various colours. Many are able to jump.

Helps in the process of breaking down organic matter.

Often found in damp places such as leaf litter, compost heaps and decaying material.

Green lacewing adults



Pale green bodies. Transparent, veined wings. Larvae to 8 mm tapered, bristled body.

Larvae eat other insects especially aphids.

They like crevices, leaf litter and evergreen shrubs for hibernating. Aphids for laying eggs nearby.

Bumblebee



A hairy, striped and rotund social bee with four wings.

Pollinates flowers.

Some like nesting holes in the ground or tree bases. Nectar-and pollen-rich flowers from March to October.

Centipedes



Slender 2-6 cm yellow or brown, long bodies. One pair of legs per segment.

Hunts soil prey on or below soil surface.

They like soil prey. Dark damp areas such as log piles and leaf litter with lots of prey.

Tachinid flies



Most species range in size from 2 to 18 mm and are hairy and dull gray or black .

The larvae burrow their way into the bodies of caterpillars and eat them from the inside out.

They like herbs such as dill, sweet clover, and parsley.

Minute pirate bugs



Tiny insects that are usually less than 5 mm.

Feed on a number of small insects, including aphids, spider mites, and thrips. Can consume as many as twenty thrip larvae each day.

They like daisies, yarrow, and alfalfa.

Frogs and Toads



Efficient form of natural pest control, living on a diet of mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, caterpillars, beetles, spiders, slugs, and more.

A pond or water feature in your garden is the best way of ensuring your amphibian residents stay put. Frogs require moisture to respire properly. They also require a clean body of water to breed.

Some garden zeroes

Less welcome animals or 'pests' such as aphids, slugs and snails, can damage our plants by eating leaves and flower buds, which can distort new growth. However, all pests are part of the garden ecosystem and food chain, an important source of food for birds and other wildlife.

Aphids including greenfly and blackfly



5 mm long, with or without wings. They are slow moving. They shed papery skins.

They suck plant sap which may distort growth, create stickiness and spread virus.

To control, squash them, spray with natural or synthetic products.

Vine weevil



Grubs are white, legless, brown head, 10 mm long in soil, especially pots. September to March. Adults are 10 mm, dull black, pear shaped.

Grubs cause wilting due to eating roots.

Adults will cause notches eaten from leaf edges, especially evergreens.



To control grubs, check pots. Use biocontrol (predators, nematodes) or a pesticide drench for ornamentals. To control adults, remove by hand.

Slugs and Snails



Slugs and snails cause damage to leaves – ragged edges or irregular holes. They eat growing tips of plants. They often leave a silvery slime trail.

To control, collect the slugs by hand – the best time to catch them is at night. Encourage their natural predators into your garden – birds and frogs. Biocontrol (nematodes). Pesticide pellets.

Lily Beetle



They have red wings, and a black head. Their grubs can be found wrapped in black excrement on the underside of leaves.

They can be found feeding on a variety of plants, including potatoes, Nicotiana, Solomon's seal and fritillarias. and a few others but they only lay their eggs on true lilies

To control them, pick off from spring onwards.

Glasshouse Thrips



Glasshouse thrips on outdoor plants. Adults are 2 mm, brown with orange tips.

You will see foliage bleached silver with brown flecking of excrement. Especially on evergreen viburnum.

To control, Pesticide.

Rosemary beetle



Shiny insects, 6-7 mm long, with metallic purple and green stripes on their wing cases and thorax. The larvae are greyish-white with darker stripes running along their bodies.

The adult beetles and the larvae both feed on the leaves of rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme and some other related plants. The flowers can also be eaten.

To control, remove by hand.

Cabbage Root Fly



Adult cabbage root flies are dark grey in colour and closely resemble common houseflies. The adults lay tiny white bullet-shaped eggs around and on the main stem.

Larvae tunnel into roots. Plants wilt and shrivel.

To control, remove badly affected plants and wash their roots in warm water to remove maggots.

Mealybug



Mealybugs are sap-sucking pests that infest plants in colonies. Adult females are around 4 mm, pancake-shaped and greyish pink in colour. However, they appear white since they secrete powdery wax over their bodies.

Large infestations can weaken plants and cause leaves to drop.

The predatory beetle *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* is commercially available and can be released onto infested plants where it will eat both adult mealybugs and their eggs.

Wireworm



Wireworm is the common name given to the larval stages of click beetles. They grow up to 35 mm in length and are a golden brown colour.

Wireworm feed on the roots of plants and will also burrow into tubers. They are a common problem in potato crops. Plants may wilt and die if roots suffer a large amount of damage.

Digging of the soil during the year before and after susceptible plants are grown will expose wireworm to predators.

Codling Moth



Small mottled brown moth about 1 cm in length.

They lay their eggs on developing fruits, mainly apple and pear. Larvae are small and white with brown heads. They burrow into the fruits emerging in late summer falling to the ground where they overwinter in leaf litter. The

following spring, they pupate and then emerge as adult moths in late May.

Enclosing perfect green apples in clear plastic sandwich bags will protect them from codling moths and other pests. Sticky paper rings can also be placed around the base of trees to trap newly emerged moths as they climb up the trees.

Leaf Miner



Adults are small, around 3 mm in length. Leaf miners lay eggs on plants in early to mid-spring.

These insects actually eat the inside of the leaf, leading to trail-shaped damage on foliage.

They will be found on apples, holly, chrysanthemum, horse chestnut trees and alliums, including leeks, onions, garlic, chives and shallots.

To control, covering your plants with insect mesh is the best option. Once affected, crops will not be able to be stored and will need to be safely destroyed.



HMS Tremendous

Daniel Tremendous McKenzie

By Paul Hooley, MBE

Born during the heat of one of Britain's greatest naval battles Daniel Tremendous McKenzie will forever remain the world's youngest recipient of a campaign medal

THE 229TH ANNIVERSARY of the birth of Daniel Tremendous McKenzie will be marked on 1 June this year. Before his first day on earth was over, he was deemed to have taken part in one of the greatest battles of the Revolutionary-Napoleonic Wars. For this he was later awarded one of the Royal Navy's most prestigious service medals.

The Revolutionary Wars were a series of military battles between France and a number of other European Powers that began immediately after the French Revolution of 1792. The conflicts continued

for ten years before developing into what we now term as being the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815). The wide spread use of professional fighting forces in these battles led to the emergence of 'total war' (those hostilities unrestricted in terms of weapons used and territories and combatants involved) which has defined all wars since.

Immediately following the execution of King Louis XVI in 1793 France declared war on Britain and the Dutch Republic and naval skirmishes between opposing sides broke out in European and Caribbean waters.

The largest fleet battle of the wars, second only in importance to the Battle of Trafalgar, took place in 1794 in the Atlantic Ocean 400 miles west of the French Island of Ushant. Taking its name from the date, the conflict has ever since been known as the Battle of the Glorious First of June. Under the leadership of Admiral Lord Howe, aboard HMS *Queen Charlotte*, twenty-five fighting ships of the Royal Navy patrolling the Bay of Biscay, engaged with a similar sized French fleet, under the command of Villaret de Joyeuse, that had been escorting a convoy of merchant vessels carrying desperately needed grain supplies from the USA to relieve the famine in France.

Whilst the French ships were generally larger and better equipped than those of the British navy, by comparison their officers



The Naval General Service Medal and clasps.



and crews were inexperienced and less disciplined. The bloody battle lasted about four hours and at times became hopelessly confused with many ship to ship, even hand to hand, encounters resulting in extensive damage and heavy casualties.

Tactical victory

The Royal Navy fleet, which captured or sank seven French vessels, whilst sustaining damage remained intact and won a great tactical victory which saw the greatly depleted French navy withdraw to port. The British then created a successful blockade that lasted for the rest of the war – this in turn removed all fears

of a French invasion of Britain. The French however also claimed victory as the battle had occupied the Royal Navy to such an extent the 117 ship grain convoy the French were protecting arrived safely and saved a starving nation. Statistics of French losses vary from between 3,000 to 7,000 casualties and 3,000 captured, whilst the more reliable Royal Navy records indicate that less than 250 British sailors were killed and under 800 wounded.

Labour

At the height of the battle a heavily pregnant Mrs McKenzie aboard HMS *Tremendous* (left), a seventy-four gun third rate ship of the line, decided to go into labour and in the ship's breadroom produced a healthy boy who was promptly christened Daniel Tremendous McKenzie – a twenty-seven year old rating on board engaged in the fighting named Daniel McKenzie is presumed to have been the baby's father.

Shake a leg

Although not generally encouraged, some women – often the wives of crew

members – travelled legitimately on warships fulfilling duties as nurses, domestic servants and powder monkeys, whilst others including prostitutes, were smuggled aboard with officers asking the occupants of hammocks to 'shake a leg' – if what appeared looked hairy the owner was ordered to get about his duties immediately, if however the leg was smooth and of the more shapely variety those same officers quite literally 'turned a blind eye.'

Mrs McKenzie, would seem to fall within the legitimate group, and within hours of giving birth she was back working, it is thought as a powder monkey, with Daniel Tremendous strapped to her back.

Within hours of giving birth she was back working, it is thought as a powder monkey, with Daniel Tremendous strapped to her back

Her ordeal was not unique. During a later conflict of the Napoleonic Wars Captain W. N. Glascock, who had also taken part in the Revolutionary Wars, recorded in his log: *'This day the surgeon informed me that a woman on board had been labouring in childbirth for twelve hours, and if I could see my way to permit the firing of a broadside to leeward, nature would be assisted by the shock. I complied with the*

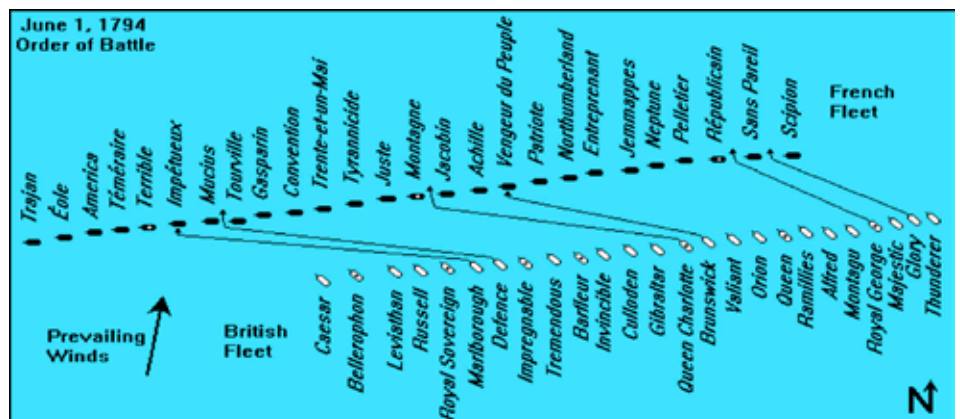
request, and she was delivered a fine male child'.

Son of a gun

Such occurrences on board Royal Navy ships during battles often took place in screened off areas between the broadside guns and this, sometimes accompanied by the unknown identity of the baby's father, gave rise to the saying 'son of a gun' In 1847 Queen Victoria approved the issuing of The Naval General Service Medal, a campaign medal to be awarded to officers and men of the Royal Navy who had taken part in various battles during the period 1793–1840 – all but one of which (Syria) had taken place before the start of her reign. The Queen's head appears on the obverse of the medal, whilst the reverse portrays Britannia seated side-saddle on a seahorse. The recipients's name was engraved around the rim. Each battle or action covered by the medal was represented by a clasp on the ribbon. The medal covered a variety of major fleet actions such as the Battles of the Glorious, 1st June and Trafalgar and was only awarded to males who were on board at the time of the conflicts. All applicants had to have survived until 1847.

Amongst those who applied for the medal was Daniel Tremendous McKenzie and amazingly his application was approved with his official rating being described in the medal roll as 'Baby' followed by the words in capitals 'HISTORICALLY UNIQUE'. The medals were issued from 1849 to 1851. Daniel Tremendous was therefore in his fifties when he received the award for his 'Participation in the action that had taken place aboard HMS *Tremendous* during the Battle of the Glorious 1st June 1794' – being only a few hours old at the time this makes him the youngest recipient of a campaign medal the world has ever seen. Interestingly if Mrs McKenzie had still been alive at the time and had applied for a medal she would have been unsuccessful as applications from women were deemed to be unacceptable!

Daniel's medal is now held in the Naval General Service Medal collection at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.



The Order of Battle on the Glorious 1st June.

England at its best

By Andy Smith

Ask almost any English person what they think is best about their native land, the chances are they will tell you it's the countryside. In fact we know from surveys and opinion polls that the countryside is usually even higher in the nation's esteem than the NHS, the monarchy or the armed forces. In some ways the countryside is England.

THIS FONDNESS FOR ANCIENT woodland and rolling hills, pretty villages and quiet country lanes, is what drives thousands of city-dwellers every year to abandon urban life for ‘a place in the country’ – a flow of migration from the crowded cities to the relative sparseness of rural England that has increased since the covid pandemic hit in 2020. Is it an ancestral longing for country life dating back to our Anglo-Saxon forebears (who largely shunned the Romano-British towns for scattered rural settlements) or is it more a reflection of the fact that, thankfully, much of England’s countryside today still appears ‘unspoiled’ and timeless? Or perhaps a little of each?

Whatever fuels our love of the land, the plain fact is that without the determination of a few visionary individuals 100 years ago much of England’s precious countryside would not exist today. It would have been built all over. Figures from the early-twentieth century such as town-planner Sir Patrick Abercrombie and architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (designer of Portmeirion, the strange Italianate village in North Wales featured in the 1960s TV series *The Prisoner*) may not be exactly ‘household names’ today, but as pioneers of countryside protection they deserve to be! Abercrombie was a co-founder of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (nowadays slightly re-titled as the Campaign to Protect Rural England, or simply ‘CPRE’) and Williams-Ellis wrote a seminal work, *England and the Octopus*, which became CPRE’s bible by showing how London, like a giant octopus, was rampaging through rural England. These two gentlemen joined together with politicians including the leaders of the three main political parties (Stanley Baldwin for

the Conservatives, Ramsay Macdonald for Labour and David Lloyd George for the Liberals) to issue a clarion call to all English men and women to defend England’s countryside and resist the tidal wave of ‘urbanisation’ which then threatened to swallow up our beautiful rural areas.

When CPRE was formed in 1926 – it will celebrate its centenary in three years’ time – the tentacles of the octopus were already reaching out far into the ‘Home Counties’, threatening to smother vast swathes of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey with thousands of acres of identikit modern housing, roads and industrial estates. Development pressures from a constantly growing London have always made the Home Counties vulnerable, but thanks to campaigning by CPRE in those early days, we have, for the last seventy-five years, had the London Metropolitan Green Belt to protect many of these counties’ open spaces and to halt the otherwise inexorable urban sprawl that would have gobbled up the countryside had it been allowed to continue unfettered. In fact a very high proportion of Home Counties was given Green Belt protection in the 1950s (over eighty per cent of Surrey, for example, was brought within the Belt) making it ‘London’s local countryside’. Londoners value this countryside on their doorstep as much as people living in the Home Counties do, because for many of them it is where they escape to in their leisure-time. The Green Belt is a great success. It does what it says on the tin. If the Metropolitan Green Belt hadn’t been created in 1955 – after thirty years’ determined campaigning by CPRE – it is highly likely that Britain’s capital city would have expanded in the same way that growing American cities like Los Angeles have done. Without the Green Belt, Greater London today would stretch all the way from Brighton to the Wash, an uninterrupted swath of development sprawling over the whole of the South East and East Anglia too. (Yes, that’s how big LA is!)

It is not only the Green Belt that has made the difference. CPRE fought for, and achieved, many of the aims that it set out in the first three decades of its existence, notably the creation of National Parks and AONBs (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). South of the capital, the Surrey Hills AONB, created in 1958 and covering 160 square miles, provides statutory protection for Surrey’s most beautiful landscapes and prevents inappropriate development from encroaching on the spectacular North Downs, including famous



Leith Hill, Surrey

beauty spots such as Box Hill (pictured left) and Leith Hill. To the west of London, the North Wessex Downs AONB is much larger and covers an astonishing 668 square miles of countryside, starting in Oxfordshire and going out along the ancient Berkshire Downs, including a long stretch of the historic Ridgeway national trail, as far as Wiltshire in the west and Hampshire in the south. Without such protections, all of this glorious English countryside would have been at risk of development.

A few years ago CPRE published a wonderful book entitled *22 Ideas that Saved the English Countryside*, which is compulsive reading: a ‘must’ for members of the Royal Society of St George! This beautiful, lavishly-illustrated book (worth buying for the stunning photography alone!) shows how once-radical ideas such as Green Belts, National Parks and Nature Reserves have not only saved England’s countryside but also remain hugely relevant solutions to the problems we face in twenty-first century. Contributors to this book included such well-known names as John le Carre, Kate Adie, Ray Mears, Caroline Quentin, Julia Bradbury, Joan Bakewell and Virginia McKenna, all of whom gave their personal ‘take’ on why it is vital that we continue to work to preserve England’s countryside. As the former Poet Laureate, Sir Andrew Motion, wrote in his foreword to the book, “With the current preoccupation with economic growth at all costs, it is no exaggeration to say that our countryside is in greater danger than it has ever been. That is why we must reassert the relevance and importance of the time-honoured ideas that have saved it, and can continue to keep it safe.”

Plans are afoot to mark CPRE’s centenary, in conjunction with the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) in Reading, Berkshire, where the CPRE Archive is held. Watch this space!

Andy Smith is a Vice-President of the North Downs Branch of the Royal Society of St George. A journalist and historian, he is a former Director of the Surrey Campaign to Protect Rural England and is currently working with Berkshire CPRE on plans for the centenary.



Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, CBE, MC

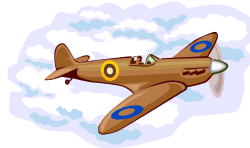


The Royal Society of St. George

The Premier Patriotic Society of England – Founded in 1894.

Incorporated by Royal Charter: Patron: THE LATE HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Chairman: Mr. Nick Dutt

Battle of Britain Remembrance Luncheon
Friday, 15th September 2023 - Time: 12.15pm for 1pm



Venue: The Royal Air Force Club, 128, Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY

Price - £85.00 per person.

Please note this is not a ticketed event, guests to register their name(s)
at the RAF Club reception on the day.

Sparkling wine reception, followed by an excellent three course meal,
fine wines served throughout, coffee, and petit fours.

Guest Speaker:

Air Vice Marshal Chris Elliot, CB, CBE, DL, Controller of The RAF Benevolent Fund

Dress Code: Men - lounge suits – Ladies - smart attire. Medals may be worn.

Please send to Elizabeth Lloyd by **4th September**: -
The Royal Society of St. George, Administration Centre,
P.O. BOX 397, Loughton, Essex, IG10 9GN, England
Telephone: 020 3225 5011

Email: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com Website: www.rssg.org.uk

I would like to book..... place(s) @ £85.00 per person at the Battle of Britain Remembrance Luncheon, at the Royal Air Force Club, on Friday, 15th September 2023.

My cheque for £.....is enclosed, made payable to The Royal Society of St. George.

You may also book by email and pay by PayPal please send funds to info@rssg.org.uk or via debit/credit card over the phone, or via bank transfer to our NatWest account - Account Name: The Royal Society of St. George - Account No: 14742497 - Sort Code: 60-07-29

Name:.....
(Capitals please)

Address:.....

.....Post Code:..... Telephone/Mobile:.....

Email address:

Guests' Names:.....

Special Dietary Requirements.....

ST GEORGE, PROCLAIMED



Canada makes a day of it!

Steve McVittie writes from his home in 'British North America'! – to tell us that Canadian authorities have given official weight to our Patron Saint. Here is the official proclamation from the land of the maple leaf!

Well done to Steve for producing an interesting newsletter, devoted to the British cultural and folk heritage of his country, and for keeping a close watch on developments north of the 49th parallel.



CORONATION CRUISE, 10 MAY 2023

Old Father Thames

JUST OUTSIDE THE TOWER HOTEL near St Katherine's Dock, 107 members met to attend this event. Luckily, there was some shelter there as the rain was tipping down. We watched the boat *MV Erasmus* arriving at the pier and started to move forward to board her, only to be told that the key could not be found to unlock the gates! This was more than a little unfortunate as we were now standing in the rain. Eventually, the key was found and the Manager could not have been more apologetic.

We boarded and most people found seats under cover and enjoyed a welcome glass of Prosecco. Our Chairman Nick Dutt (pictured right) read a letter that he had from Buckingham Palace.

"Please convey my thanks to the Chairman, Council and Members of The Royal Society of St George, together with

their guests, for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their Coronation Evening Cruise which is being held tonight on The River Thames.

Your continued support and good wishes are much valued. In return, I send my warmest good wishes to all concerned for a most memorable and successful celebration."

Charles R

Soon, the rain stopped and many took the opportunity to go outside to enjoy the sights of London as we travelled upriver towards Battersea, passing The Tower of London, *HMS Belfast*, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, St Pauls Cathedral, The London Eye, The Place of Westminster and Big Ben and Battersea Power Station.

Canapés were served with extra Prosecco provided by City Cruises by way of an apology for the lateness of sailing. The bar was open throughout the cruise.



During the journey a DJ played various music and some members enjoyed a turn on the dance floor.

On our return journey we went further down river before turning again back to the disembarkation pier. We all joined in a Last Night of the Proms sing-along while waving our flags to *Jerusalem*, *Land of Hope and Glory*, *Rule Britannia* and of course *God Save the King*.

We have received many kind emails saying how much they enjoyed the event.

Thank you to all those that supported our Coronation Cruise celebration.

Jane Dorrington



They served, too

Aircrew in the Battle of Britain who were not pilots

Geoff Simpson

The Few were not all pilots. Three multi-crewed aircraft, the Boulton Paul Defiant, Bristol Blenheim and Bristol Beaufighter, are considered to have taken part in the Battle of Britain in 1940.

AMID ALL THE HEROISM shown in the Battle, we should certainly not forget the contribution of the air gunners who flew in Defiants.

Clad in bulky flying suits they were expected to clamber into the cramped turret of an obsolete aircraft and sometimes fly in the thick of fighting. When things went wrong escape was difficult, especially if the electronic mechanism of their turret failed. Things often did go wrong once the Germans learned how vulnerable the Defiant was if it was approached in the right way. Significantly more Defiant pilots survived from downed aircraft than did gunners.

The Defiant concept envisaged Luftwaffe bombers taking off from Germany and approaching southern England unescorted. Then RAF pilots would manoeuvre the British fighters under or alongside the enemy formation and the gunners would achieve havoc with co-ordinated fire.

Sadly, when the crunch came, Germany had acquired airfields close to the French Channel coast and the bombers could be provided with fighter escorts.

A dreadful reckoning came on 19 July 1940, nine days into the Battle of Britain,

when Defiants of No 141 Squadron ran into far more agile Messerschmitt Bf 109s over the Channel. Six of the British aircraft were shot down. The heavy cost in men and machines meant that the Defiant made little further daylight contribution to the Battle but became a successful night fighter.

Robert Ash



Flight Lieutenant Robert Clifford Vacy Ash was a thirty-year-old Defiant air gunner. His father had been an officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps and had received a Military Cross (MC)

after remaining at his dressing station when it was overrun by German troops in the First World War. The son attended Glenalmond College, Perthshire then worked for the London and North Eastern Railway. He was an outstanding golfer and steeplechaser.

Robert Ash joined the RAF, with a permanent commission, in 1933. His subsequent service was mostly concerned

with supplies and equipment. However shortly after the outbreak of war he volunteered for aircrew duties and arrived on the Defiant-equipped, No 264 Squadron at Duxford on 20 June 1940.

At the end of August, despite what had happened on 19 July, 264 flew briefly in the front line from RAF Hornchurch, Essex. On 28 July the aircraft, crewed by Squadron Leader George Gavin, with Flight Lieutenant Ash as his gunner, was shot down in combat with Messerschmitt Bf109s, falling in flames on Luddenham Marshes near Faversham, Kent. Both the occupants escaped by parachute. Gavin survived with minor injuries. Ash was dead when he was found. Bullet wounds suggested that he had been shot by a German fighter while descending. He is buried in Western Cemetery, St Andrews, Fife.

Henry Jacobs



In contrast Henry Jacobs survived the war and by its end had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and bar and the Air Force Cross (AFC). In 1940, at the age of thirty-two, he

was commissioned in the RAF and trained as an air gunner. He briefly served with No 264 Squadron on Defiants but moved to No 600 (City of London) Squadron, operating Blenheims as night fighters.

At this stage of the war RAF victories at night were rare, however Jacobs achieved one on the night of 15/16 September 1940, flying with Squadron Leader C A Pritchard. A Heinkel bomber was caught in searchlights and "Jacko" Jacobs's shooting set it on fire. It crashed into the sea off Bexhill, Sussex.

Jacobs was posted to No 219 Squadron late in the Battle of Britain. With this squadron he gained operational experience in Bristol Beaufighters and trained as a Radio Observer. He flew at least twenty night sorties before being posted to the RAF station at Tangmere, Sussex as a Fighter Controller.

During the rest of the war Jacobs was an instructor, was involved in technical development and flew on many more operations, sometimes when he was forbidden to do so. On one occasion he was arrested on his return from an unauthorised sortie, but then told that he was to receive the DFC.



Bristol Blenheim Mk 1Fs of No. 604 (County of Middlesex) Squadron at Northolt, April 1940. Picture IWM Collections

Frequently he partnered the night fighter ace, Wing Commander “Bob” Braham. In August 1943 the pair flew one of the RAF aircraft detailed to disrupt German night fighters during Bomber Command’s attack on the V-2 rocket development base at Peenemünde on the Baltic coast of Germany. They shot down two of the Luftwaffe aircraft searching for RAF bombers.

Jacko Jacobs retired from the RAF in 1958 as a Squadron Leader and died twenty years later.

Geoff Morris



Geoff Morris was an Observer in 1940. Navigators were not introduced officially in the RAF until 1942. He had been born in Bermuda, attended Westminster City School and worked

as a bank clerk in the City of London. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR) in March 1939 and was called to full time service in September, just before Britain’s declaration of war on Germany.

Pilot Officer Morris served in the Battle of Britain in the Fighter Interception Unit. This had been established at Tangmere, Sussex in the spring of 1940 to evaluate new technology, with considerable emphasis on Airborne Interception (AI) radar at a time when Britain had little chance of defending itself against night raids by the Luftwaffe.

A key moment occurred three months later, as an official report recorded:

The initial problems [with AI] were many and varied and at times progress seemed desperately slow, but on the night of 23rd July [1940] a Blenheim of FIU took off from Tangmere and shot down a Dornier 17z into the sea [near Bognor Regis], having intercepted it and gained a visual sighting of it by use of airborne radar. This was the first time that such a feat had been accomplished. The names of [Flying Officer] Ashfield, the pilot, and his two AI operators, [Pilot Officer] Morris and



A Bristol Beaufigther, with “arrowhead”, folded twin-dipole antenna on the nose for its VHF-band AI radar

[Sergeant] Leyland, will never be found among the lists of the famous and yet what they did that night had a greater effect on the future of air warfare than anything else that occurred in the whole of that summer.

Despite Geoff Morris officially being the aircraft’s Observer, he was working with the specialist AI operator, Sergeant Leyland, during this action.

After the war Geoff Morris received a permanent commission and he eventually retired from the RAF in 1968 as a Wing Commander. He seems to have had no taste for the limelight and died in obscurity while living at a care home in Sussex in 2010.

Owen Burns



Owen Burns was a great character who lived to be ninety-nine. He was born in Birkenhead, Cheshire in 1915 and was another pre-war member of the RAFVR.. He trained as an air gunner.

During the Battle of Britain Sergeant Burns served in Bristol

Blenheims of No 235 Squadron. This was one of a number of RAF Coastal Command units which were attached to Fighter Command during the Battle and so Owen and his comrades who made operational sorties qualified for the Battle of Britain Clasp.

Owen flew on convoy patrols and participated in the escorting of civilian aircraft arriving in the UK. The Blenheims also provided protection for bombing attacks on French channel ports. In 2012 I interviewed Owen and he recalled one such operation on 11 September 1940.

Fairey Albacore torpedo bombers of the Fleet Air Arm were to attack shipping at Calais.

Owen said, “The Albatrosses, each carrying a torpedo (which reduced their speed to a little over 100 mph) went in low (‘wave hopping’) and we flew in a ‘box’ around them at about 2,000-2,500 feet. Up to this time it had been a glorious summer afternoon, but we were now greeted with dozens of puffs of black smoke, anti-aircraft shells exploding all around us and then we were attacked by twenty-five plus Messerschmitt 109s. . . .

“Fortunately for us their attack lasted only a few minutes – an explanation could be that they were returning from an attack



Owen Burns meets the Queen



Boulton Paul Defiant

in the south of England. We managed to get back minus three Albacores and two Blenheims.”

Luck for Owen Burns eventually ran out on 14 February 1941. He had organised the Valentine’s Day party in the Sergeants’ Mess but first had to fly a dusk patrol. On its return the Blenheim was about to land at RAF Langham near Blakeney in north Norfolk, when the flarepath lights were extinguished because of enemy aircraft in the vicinity. Owen’s aircraft hit a tree, killing the observer and badly injuring the pilot. Owen was thrown out and suffered

a broken collar bone. He did not make the party he had arranged.

The rest of Owen Burns’ war included spells in training roles and flying on air sea rescue missions. He was a Flight Lieutenant when he left the RAF in 1948 and spent many years working in the drinks trade. For a long time he did not realise that he was entitled to membership of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association (of which only the Few could be full members). Once the penny dropped he became a cheerful and convivial presence at BBFA meetings and at the annual memorial days at the National

Memorial to the Few on the cliffs at Capel le Ferne between Folkestone and Dover.

Shortly before his death Owen was present at Capel-le-Ferne when, in March 2015, Her Majesty the Queen opened a new visitor centre, The Scramble Experience.

Fred King



The wartime career of Frederick Harry King from Leicester was highly successful and tragically short. He had joined the RAF in 1935 as an aircraft hand but eventually became an air gunner.

In 1940 he was serving in Defiants with No 264 Squadron and was the regular partner of the CO, Squadron Leader Philip Hunter, an outstanding pilot, deeply respected by his men.

During the Dunkirk evacuation Defiants achieved considerable success while seeking to protect the men on the beaches. In part this was because Luftwaffe fighter pilots mistook Defiants for Hurricanes. Here, they thought, was a juicy target flying along happily with the pilot apparently not looking behind. Sometimes it was too late when those German pilots found out about the Defiant’s turret which could fire to the rear.

The team of Squadron Leader Hunter and Leading Aircraftman Fred King was credited with nine enemy aircraft destroyed one shared and one damaged in the course of the Battle of France. On 14 June 1940 Hunter was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and King the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM). A week later King was commissioned and became a Pilot Officer.

They went on to see action together in the Battle of Britain. The end came on 24 August 1940 after a German attack on RAF Manston, Kent. In the aftermath the aircraft containing Hunter and King was last spotted chasing a Junkers Ju88 out to sea. They did not return, no trace of either or their aircraft was found and they are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

Think carefully before casually saying “Battle of Britain pilots”. Their Fighter Command comrades in those Blenheims, Beaufighters and Defiants played their part too in ensuring that German tanks did not appear in English fields.



Bristol Beaufighter TF X RD253, at the Royal Air Force Museum London. On the floor below is a 6-pounder gun with Molins autoloader, as mounted on the de Havilland Mosquito “Tsetse”



From left-to-right: Charles Hawtrey, Kenneth Williams, Hattie Jacques, Sidney James, Joan Sims, Jim Dale and Barbara Windsor

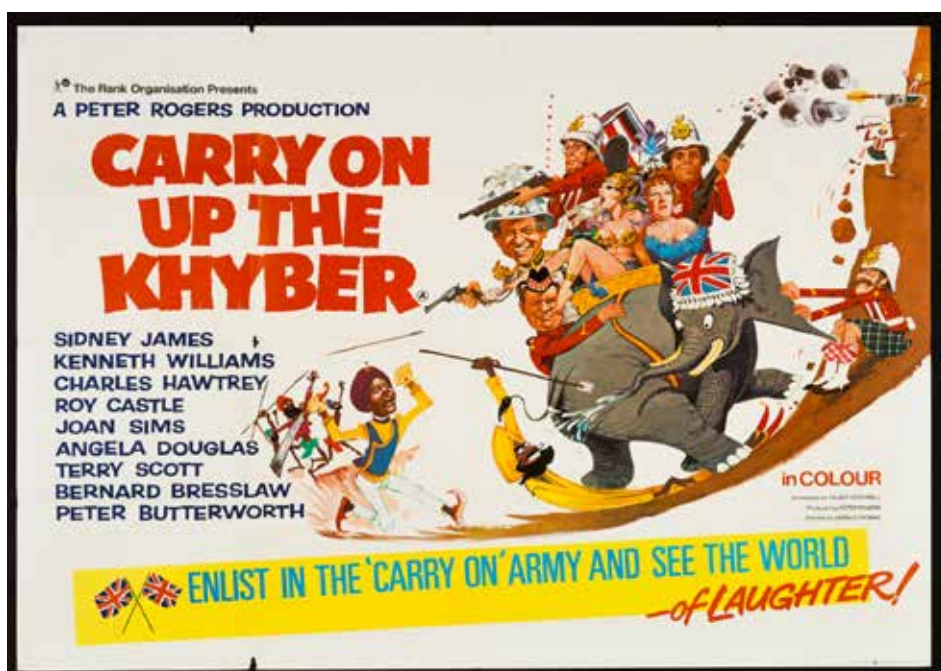
Carry on, regardless . . .

Let's hear it for the British comedy greats, says Peter Gibbs

I HAVE LONG FELT THAT recognition is due within the pages of *St George for England* for the quintessentially-English, barmily-British humour of those immortal Carry On! actors and actresses who brought so much hilarity to our screens in the 1960s and '70s.

From *Carry on Up the Khyber* (in which Sid James played the 'top level British diplomatist' Sir Sidney Ruff-Diamond!) to *Carry on Jack* (with Kenneth Williams as the anything-but 'Captain Fearless'), the films always poked gentle fun at our national character – with jokes and witticisms that just about kept the stories relatively respectable!

What a shame that in today's atmosphere of gloomy, politically-correct puritanism, the Carry On humour seems to be out-of-step with those who decide what we should be allowed to watch. A campaign is needed to revive and celebrate these comedy classics. Perhaps The RSSG should lead it?



The Revd Canon Derek Carpenter reflects on words of Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

‘Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky’
ST GEORGE, WHO RIGHTLY figures in the title of a Society which is ‘the premier patriotic Society of England’, has a particular attraction for me, not only because I value his place in the life of our nation, but also because twenty years ago, after twelve of the happiest years in my ordained ministry, I retired from a church dedicated to his name, St George’s, the parish church of Beckenham in south-east London. The church stands at the centre of the community it serves, and weekly folk are summoned to it by its peal of ten bells. Clearly, though, they are not to everyone’s liking. I received one summer a letter from a parishioner who had nothing to do with the church and who had never ventured inside. It began: ‘Dear Rector, I am sitting in my garden. It is a lovely evening; the birds are on the wing; all seems right with the world; it would be idyllic’ . . . one sensed there had to be a ‘but’, and then it came – ‘it would be idyllic, if it wasn’t for those bloody bells!’

It happened to be a Tuesday evening when the bell-ringers practised and to most of those whose homes surrounded the church it was a delight to hear them. But not to him. Of course, I went to see him and in time we enjoyed a reasonably good

relationship, but not before a complaint to the local Council resulted in tests to determine whether the sound exceeded that which the law considered reasonable. At considerable cost work was done to the louvres of the church tower to retain some of the sound and, to be fair to my complaining neighbour, he was the first to put his hand in his pocket and make a suggested donation. His second letter to me, enclosing his cheque, began: ‘My grandmother was a wise woman – she told me never to trust a clergyman!’.

Jolly band

Bell-ringers are invariably a jolly band of people of all ages with a real sense of camaraderie - and they often tour the local district, or even churches farther afield, ringing in towers ‘away from home’: many do it, of course, for the sheer enjoyment which it gives and the sociability which it affords; some are churchgoers themselves; others, after ringing, leave those whom they have summoned to worship and wend their way home or to the nearest hostelry – but all have a real commitment to what they are doing. It was always a privilege to climb the tower stairs before they began their ringing, or even to interrupt it, to offer with them the bell-ringers prayer, a copy of which hangs

framed in many a tower up and down the land:

‘We beseech Thee, O Heavenly Father, to pour Thy grace into the hearts of those who work for Thee in ringing the bells of the church. Grant that we may never forget the sacredness of Thy House, nor profane it by thoughtlessness or irreverence; but make us ever mindful that when we ring the bells we ring for Thy honour and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.’

The church in which I have worshipped during the twenty years of my retirement, St James the Great, East Malling, has a peal of six bells, five of which date back to 1695: they were cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, and when there was a need in 1956 to stop the ringing because of a crack running through the stone fabric of the tower, the opportunity was taken to have a new timber frame made. When the Vicar wrote to the Whitechapel Foundry for a quotation, the reply came: ‘Dear Sir, Thank you for your letter. We have not heard from you since 1885 . . .’

Sadly, the Whitechapel Foundry, which manufactured the Liberty Bell, the symbol of American Independence, and which recast Big Ben, closed five years ago after nearly 450 years of bell-making and 250



The bell ringers of St George’s Church in Beckenham

years at its Whitechapel site, with the final bell cast given to the Museum of London.

Inviting folk to worship

That quintessentially English gentleman and poet, John Betjeman, titled his autobiography, *Summoned by Bells*, and rejoiced in the sound they made and the emotions they instilled. In a BBC television broadcast in 1960, *Meeting Point*, Betjeman reminded his viewers that “England, you know, is the only country where the bell is rung right the way round: down, then up and down again, and the rope rushes through the ringer’s hand and he has to catch it at just the right moment or it takes all the skin off his fingers – or if he hangs on to it, it might carry him up to the roof”.

On Hearing the Full Peal of Ten Bells from Christ Church, Swindon, he wrote:

*Your peal of ten ring over then this town,
Ring on, my men, nor ever ring them down.
Oh still white headstones on these fields of
sound*

*Hear you the wedding joybells wheeling
round?*

*Now birth and death-reminding bells ring
clear,*

Loud under ‘planes and over changing gear.

The sound of church bells led Betjeman to think particularly about the Church of England:

*In country churches old and pale
I hear the changes smoothly rung
And watch the coloured sallies fly
From rugged hands to rafters high
As round and back the bells are swung.*

Last year, as the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee was celebrated up and down the country, in city, town and rural village, bells pealed from church towers in celebration of an occasion which will probably never be repeated; and at her funeral last September they tolled mournfully in honour of a lady who held a place of real affection in the hearts and lives of millions of people in this

country, throughout the Commonwealth and doubtless in much of the wider world: ‘joybells’ indeed, as Betjeman called them. Throughout the land they rang on 6 May to celebrate another great national landmark, the Coronation of King Charles III.

Bells therefore have a symbolic purpose: they ring in welcome, inviting folk to worship; they mark the passing of time as church clocks strike the hour and sometimes the quarters; they ring in celebration and they toll in mourning; they rang muffled for an hour on the days of the Queen’s death and her funeral, as previously they did when her father died seventy years before. Lucy Winkett, the first female priest to join the staff of St Paul’s Cathedral where she served for thirteen years as, first, minor canon and chaplain and, then, as canon precentor, but now, for the same length of time as Rector of St James’ Piccadilly, suggests that symbolic sounds are often more powerful than sets of words. In her book, *Our Sound is our Wound*, published fourteen years ago, she wrote:

‘Two weeks after the bombings in central London of July 2005, the Mayor declared that at midday there would be two minutes’ silence. At St Paul’s Cathedral, a bell was tolled in the minutes leading up to noon. Cars pulled over, taxis and buses stopped their crawl up Ludgate Hill, and thousands of office workers poured out of the buildings and began to gravitate towards the cathedral. The bell was a public sound onto which each person presumably projected his or her own thoughts and feelings. Some were personally sad as it reminded them of their mother’s funeral; others were something akin to nervous as they remembered they had not yet had the courage to take the Tube since it happened; some were defiant, reclaiming the streets from terrorists who killed people so randomly; some were simply moved by the huge and respectful crowds who packed Fleet Street and Cheapside. In a public act of commemoration, the ancient sound of the tolling bell called



Francis Kilvert

thoroughly modern city workers away from their bleeping computers and vibrating mobiles to stand in silence before breaking up into groups as they walked to an early lunch and talked over what had happened.’

Sound, and symbolism

Let the last word be with a young parson who died at less than half my age, at the age of thirty-nine, Francis Kilvert (1840-79), whose whole ministry, short as it was, was spent as a curate in a country parish in the west country. His diary, which runs from January 1870 until just before his death on 23 September 1879, has this delightful entry for Easter Sunday 1876:

‘I rose early and went out into the fresh brilliant morning between 6 and 7 o’clock. The sun had already risen some time but the grass was still white with the hoar frost. I walked across the Common between the Lady’s Gates in the bright sunny quiet empty morning listening to the rising of the lark as he went up in all ecstasy of song into the blue unclouded sky and gave in his Easter morning hymn at Heaven’s Gate. Then came the echo and answer of earth as the Easter bells rang out their joy peals from the Church Towers all round: Kington St Michael leading the Choir, Chippenham Old Church following, and later on I heard the sound of the great bell booming down from Bremhill in the east over the ridge of Bencroft. It was very sweet and lovely, the bright silent sunny morning, and the lark rising and singing alone in the blue sky, and then suddenly the morning air all alive with the music of sweet bells ringing for the joy of the Resurrection. ‘The Lord is risen,’ smiled the sun. ‘The Lord is risen,’ sang the lark. And the Church bells in their joyous pealing answered from tower to tower; ‘He is risen indeed.’

And so, with bells, sound and symbolism go hand in hand; may we continue to appreciate their message and rejoice as they ‘ring out to the wild sky’.



Man united!

Richard Dove travels to an island midway between England, Scotland and the island of Ireland. Hospitable and historic, with magnificent scenery, the Manx world casts its own spell . . .

“HELLO FAIRIES”. We dutifully obey the instructions on the bus tannoy. It is explained that according to Manx tradition one should always utter a polite greeting when you cross the Fairy Bridge. It’s on the main road from Ronaldsway Airport to Douglas. The Isle of Man is packed with folklore. It is said that the Sea God Mannanan cloaks the island in mist to protect the inhabitants. A rat is never called at rat on the island. It is either a longtail or a big fella. The Manx fairies are generally benevolent but can cause havoc when riled, apparently.

Douglas Promenade

Step off the bus at Lord Street and walk along the Douglas Promenade (the subject of much local discussion after renovation and refurbishment led to steep rising costs). You soon come across some familiar faces. Is that the Bee Gees marching cockily towards M&S? Well, yes, they were born here and Maurice, Barry and Robin are sculpted in full on-tour regalia, all teeth and attitude. Further down the prom outside the Sefton Hotel, another familiar face. Smiling and reverse-capped sits a life size Sir Norman Wisdom on a bench. We take a photo in conversation, as it were. Sir Norman made the island his home and was embraced by the Manx people.

At one end of the promenade is the vintage Manx Electric Railway that can shuttle you northwards to Laxey and “Ramsey. At the other end is the heritage steam railway with the longest narrow gauge track in the world that will take you southwards to the delightful Port Erin.

But first let’s take a walk around Douglas. Head to the corner of Ridgeway Street and who is that leaning on a lamppost? George Formby in motorcycle gear is playing, of course, his ukulele. The sculptor Amanda Barton has superbly captured his cheeky,



friendly demeanor. Formby starred in the 1936 film No limits where he competes (ultimately successfully) in the TT Races on his home-built Shuttleworth Snap. Head across to the Sea Terminal and the Tourist Information Office will sell you a one, three or seven day travel pass that allows you to go anywhere on bus, tram or train. We opt for the three-day pass at £40 reckoning that the tickets should last until our last bus journey back to the airport.

A slow climb to the Manx Museum and a film is showing detailing the history of the island. We learn that it became an island 85,000 years ago and the first humans arrived 10,000 years ago. The island has welcomed ever since (sometimes reluctantly) traders and invaders. It’s likely that Celtic tribes from Ireland were first to set up shop as the Manx language (still spoken by a few thousand of the 84,000 residents) closely resembles Irish Gaelic. The Vikings arrived

sometime between AD800 and AD 815 to spread peace and love or as the locals described it, pillage and plunder. Although to give them due credit, they did set up the island’s first parliament, the Tynwald which is said to be the oldest continuing parliament in the world. You can visit Tynwald Hill (just a hop across the road on any bus route heading southwards) where every 5 July a ceremonial meeting is held.

The English launched their first territorial claim in 1290 when King Edward I took possession of the island. Over the next few decades Scotland and England engaged in a not so diplomatic tug of war until England won on penalties. King Henry IV granted the island to Sir John Stanley in exchange for two well-trained peregrine falcons, it is said. The Stanley family began their multi-generational rule homing in on smuggling as a key growth sector.

Industry arrived on this agrarian island



Ramsey Harbour

in 1854 with the building of the largest water wheel in the world at Laxey. Hop off the tramcar and take an uphill stroll to see this impressive feat of engineering as it continues to draw water from the lead mines deep below.

Snaefell Mountain Railway

You get a spectacular view of the old mine workings on the Snaefell Mountain Railway. From your tramcar step across the tracks and you can take the train for a 2,000 ft climb to the summit of the island's only mountain. It gets decidedly chillier as you ascend in 1900s rolling stock. The commentary tells you that the railway took only seven months to build. We could do with that team giving the struggling engineers on HS2 a helping hand.

At the top of the mountain you can view the so-called seven kingdoms – England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Heaven and the Sea. For us it was a bit misty so the only 'kingdom' clearly visible was the Snaefell café and a much needed steaming cuppa. From the top of Snaefell, a helpful map told us, the nearest land mass is the Mull of Galloway just thirty-one miles away to the north.

A slow, rattling descent with a view

of a spectacular reservoir in the ridges of three hills and we are back on the train to Ramsey. The coastline views are wonderful as ancient rocks merge with the swirling Irish Sea. This time we opt for the open tramcar and the wind pinches and pinks our faces. Being in the open air, you get a real

sense of this rolling landscape with yellow gorse bushes and verdant fields.

Ramsey

Ramsey has a golden sandy beach stretching around the bay. It seems to be a town where much work is done to keep the island folk supplied. The quay is covered in earth-moving machinery, piles of carefully stacked wood and building materials. It is a Sunday and most people seem to be post-prandial snoozing but there is a queue outside a shop. We investigate and it's a sort of designer ice cream parlour. We opt for Manx milk in a cone. This newish Gelateria must be the talk of the town as more people arrive and line up patiently.

The town has two piers. One appears to be derelict but the other offers a bracing walk. At the end there is a seat in a suntrap. Aching feet are rested and a few selfies attempted. As this is Sunday almost all the shops are closed. It resembles Sundays decades ago. The day of rest from work and retail. Perhaps a welcome change for some visitors whilst an annoyance to others.

Douglas

We take the bus back to Douglas. It might be Sunday but the buses are running and very punctual. The drivers seem to be frustrated TT riders as they thunder along the narrow roads. No fairy welcome on this route but the mists of Manannan embrace the hilltops.

Back in Douglas, we make our way to The Fig & Olive restaurant on Market Street for a dinner made more anticipatory by the lungfulls of fresh air we have experienced on our travels. It has to be fish so we opt for local scallops with black pudding, cod and John Dory. The food is fresh and succulent. We will sleep well tonight.

Peel

The delight of a full English hotel breakfast



Peel Castle



Peel Bay Beach from Peel Castle

Picture: Joseph Mischyshyn – <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en>

cannot be underestimated; the finest way to start a day away. Another coastline beckons, we are off to Peel on the far side of the island. Another efficient bus journey and a picture postcard town comes into view. Peel Castle dominates the headland. The audio tour tells me that construction was begun by the Vikings in the eleventh century. Whatever did the Vikings do for the Isle of Man? Well, quite a lot it appears. The castle is now owned and maintained by Manx National Heritage. They have a reciprocal arrangement with the National Trust so take your cards if you are members and you can get free entry. Unfortunately, we left ours at home so money had to change hands. The castle now has only one resident, Moddey Dhoo, the black dog ghost. Not evident on my visit. Pause and stare over the ramparts and the view is awe inspiring. There are the remains of a cathedral in the centre of the castle. It is an unusual addition to a place built to defend and repel invaders. A shop in the town bills itself as San Tro Peel. There is certainly a Riviera feel to the place if you can ignore the biting wind.

Over a coffee we get into a conversation with a retired teacher who has lived on the island for fifty-four years. (On our travels we encounter an openness and friendliness that is very heart warming.) Our teacher friend concedes that whilst the island is a wonderful place to raise children they all, eventually want to leave for the mainland, be that England, Scotland or Ireland. That does not bode well for the future. Her husband came over to help build Peel's power station and never left. So there is some hope in this reverse migration.

Manx Kippers

We order Manx kippers to set us up for our day trip southwards to Port Erin. Devereau's and Moore's are two very old family businesses dating from the 1800s. They guarantee what is described as the ultimate sensory experience transporting you to the rugged Isle of Man coastline with every bite. Very true but take a bottle of water with you afterwards. By the way you can go online and order kippers by post vacuum packed or boxed. They also smoke bacon, cheese, salmon and even rock salt. Go on treat yourself.

The steam train is out of action for a couple of days as Easter preparations get

underway so we are pointed to a bus stop close to the hotel and told that any bus will take us to the southern town. We wait and get into conversation with the head gardener of Douglas. He is preparing to plant three thousand plants in the famous sunken gardens that border the promenade. He is forty-three and was born on the island and wishes to retire here. His children come home from school and immediately strip off their uniforms and are soon paddle boarding and surfing. He warns us about the Manx weather. One moment you can be driving with sunglasses on and then you hit a wall of rain and stormy weather just a few miles down the road. Changeable does not really describe it. It occurs that weather reports on the island should be every twenty minutes or so.

Just under an hour and we are greeted by a stunning coastal village. There are beach huts in pink, yellow and green adjacent to the Cosy Nook café and bar at the far end of the beach. We try to imagine a beer on the terrace overlooking the bay on a hot summer's day. Is it getting colder? Maybe the open aspect to the Irish Sea is, shall we say, unhelpful. Atop Bredda Head on the far side of the bay is Milner's Tower donated by a locksmith and safe maker from Birkenhead who was so taken with the

place he donated funds and his expertise. The Tower, accessible by a coastal path, was built in 1871 in the shape of a key and a lock to honour his philanthropy.

Although trains are not running, the station is open and four workers in high vis jackets are laboring over bacon sandwiches close to an open fire. The wooden building seems unchanged for a century. Just down from the station the church is open and choral music echoes around the intimate warm space. If you are searching for peace and tranquility this building, this village offers it aplenty.

Time to leave and our bags are packed with kippers, square sticks of rock (an island specialty) and enough tea towels to keep the next series of Masterchef fully stocked. A poster at the airport points out that your holiday does not have to end now. You could relocate, work and give your family a fresh air fillip. All that and the best kippers and scallops you have ever tasted. We said Slane Ihiat (goodbye in Manx) to the fairies this time but it should have been au revoir. *Richard Dove, a freelance journalist and novelist, broadcasts on BBC Radio 4's From Our Own Correspondent and has appeared on BBC Radio Kent with his Footnotes podcast.*



Port Erin

The inventor of the Flying Shuttle

Arthur N. L. Kay



JOHN KAY WAS THE GRANDSON of Sir John Kay Bt. Of Woodsome, near Huddersfield in Yorkshire. The twelfth son of Robert Kay, he was born on 16 July 1704 at Rothwell's Park, Walmersly, near Bury in Lancashire. Sadly his father, a yeoman farmer, died three months before he was born. The young John received £40 as a legacy and it is believed that he enjoyed a good childhood and education as a result. John Kay was apprenticed to a reed maker at the age of fourteen and was married to Anne Holt on 29 June 1725 at the age of twenty-one.

John was a prolific inventor who first perfected wire reeds to replace the cane reeds in the hand looms of the period. Reeds were used in looms to control the

warp threads that passed through them and as Kay's metal reeds were far more effective than their cane predecessors, they became very popular and in great demand. He travelled extensively throughout the country selling his wire reeds until in 1733 he patented the flying shuttle. To put this into some historical context George II was on the throne at this time and British America consisted of thirteen colonies along the Atlantic seaboard. The Southern colonies supplied much of the cotton for the Lancashire textile industry.

The flying shuttle was the invention that completely revolutionised the weaving industry. It enabled one person to operate a very wide loom by mechanically firing the shuttle between the warp threads instead of passing it by hand. This greatly increased the rate of cloth production. Without the flying shuttle there would have been no demand for the spinning machines that followed and Lancashire's cotton and textile industries would never have developed to the point where they were able to bankroll the expansion of the British Empire. Indeed, the UK's industrial revolution might have been seriously delayed or even stillborn had it not been for the flying shuttle.

In 1753 John Kay's house in Bury was ransacked and designs and models of his inventions were destroyed by a mob of textile workers who thought the invention of these machines would destroy their livelihoods. As is so often the case the opposite was true. The jobs for textile workers increased dramatically as the textile industry was mechanised and the vast Lancashire textile mills were developed. Manchester was

transformed from a small market town into a thriving metropolis generating vast wealth and prosperity for the region.

John Kay himself made little from his inventions being a far better engineer and inventor than businessman. Many mill owners and textile machinery manufacturers cheated him of the royalties due to him for his designs. A group of them formed the Shuttle Club, members of which contributed jointly to pay for their defence against Kay's patent law suits. John Kay spent much time and money defending his rights through the courts and although he won many of the cases, the costs of litigation almost bankrupted him.

John Kay created several other inventions including a card setting machine; improved methods of spinning twine, worsted and mohair; wind and horse powered pumps; a powered tape loom; malt kilns and salt pans. It is believed that he also assisted Richard Arkwright in the development of the water frame spinning jenny that was patented in 1769. This was a significant improvement on the original spinning jenny invented by James Hargreaves. Arkwright was more of an improver of existing designs than an inventor himself, but he was a shrewd businessman and amassed a considerable fortune from his textile milling and machine related activities.

Disillusioned by the actions of the mobs of angry workers and the treatment he received from mill owners and textile equipment manufacturers John Kay moved to France where he set up as a manufacturer of his designs in Paris with help and encouragement from the French government. Again, he made little wealth from his activities and again, other manufacturers pirated his designs. He moved out of Paris and lived modestly in the country to the South. There is no record of his death and no known grave but it is thought that he died somewhere in the South of France around 1780. He would have been seventy-six.

By then Britain was fighting the American war of independence and the Bourbon war with France at the same time.

A large memorial commemorating John Kay's achievements was funded by subscription led by Henry Whitehead, and erected in Kay Gardens in Bury. It was designed by the Bristol based architect William Venn Gough and the bronze statues and plaques are all by John Cassidy. In 1908 Kay Gardens was opened by Mrs Henry Whitehead together with the Earl of Derby who unveiled the monument. Refurbished in 2011, it stands today a little the worse for pigeon droppings but otherwise intact.



The John Kay Memorial, Kay Gardens, Bury in Lancashire



Welcome to Newcastle . . . New South Wales. A Leyland OPD2/1 bus heading for the State Dockyard in February 1976. Submitted by G.M.S. Lauder-Frost

HELP YOUR SOCIETY – BY MAKING A DONATION IN YOUR WILL

The Society and our Charitable Trust are helped greatly if there are Legacies and Bequests. By making a posthumous gift of money or property you may also reduced your Estates inheritance tax liability.

The options for a donation, in your Will, are:

- A Legacy of a specific sum;
- A Bequest of specific property;
- A Bequest of the residue of your Estate or a Share of it with other charities or individuals.

What to do to help us in your Will:

If you wish to include a donation in your WILL please consult your Solicitor.

Members of the Society can take advantage of a 50% discount offered by **Omni Lifetime Planning**
See advertisement below for details

A simple form of Legacy might include the following words:

*"I hereby bequeath, free of tax, the sum of £ to The Royal Society of St George (P.O. BOX 397, Loughton, IG10 9GN, England).
OR to The Royal Society of St George Charitable Trust (Registered Charity No.: 263706)
and the receipt of the Hon Treasurer or other proper Officer for the time being of The Royal Society of St George shall be a
complete discharge of such Legacy"*

This wording can easily be adapted to cover the Bequest of a Property or of All, or Part of, the residue of your Estate. In any case of doubt please ask your Solicitor or get in touch with the Society's Administration. This is especially appreciated if you intend to lay down conditions as to how the Bequest should be used.



First grand match of cricket, played by members of the Royal Amateur Society on Hampton Court Green, 13 August 1836

A brief history of cricket

Jim Duggan

CRICKET, IS ENGLAND'S national summer sport, which is now played throughout the world. It is believed to have begun, possibly as early as the thirteenth century, as a game in which country boys bowled at a tree stump or the hurdle gate into a sheep pen. This gate was made-up of two uprights and a crossbar resting on the top of them. The crossbar was called a bail and the entire gate a wicket. The fact that the bail could be dislodged when the wicket was hit made this preferable to the stump, the name of which was later applied to the uprights. The wicket had acquired a third stump in the 1770s. By 1706 the pitch was twenty-two yards long.

The bat was thought to be a branch of a tree, shaped like a modern hockey stick. The change to a straight bat was made to defend against length bowling, which had evolved with cricketers in Hambledon, a small village in southern England.

Eleven-a-side

The earliest reference to an eleven-a-side match, played in Sussex for a stake of fifty guineas, dates from 1697. In 1709 Kent met Surrey in the first recorded county match at Dartford, and it is probable that about this time rules existed for the conduct of the game, although the earliest known version

of such rules is dated 1744. It is probable that cricket was limited to the southern counties of England during the early eighteenth century, but its popularity grew and eventually spread to London, notably to the Artillery Ground, Finsbury, which saw a famous match between Kent and All-England in 1744

First-class cricket

First-class cricket began in 1772. Three surviving scorecards exist of 1772 matches organised by the Hambledon Cricket Club. The three matches were all between a Hampshire XI and an England XI, the first played at Broadhalfpenny Down on 24 and 25 June. Hambledon was the predominant



Broadhalfpenny Down, the location of the first First Class match in 1772 is still played on today
Picture: Hendersuk. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en>



cricket club in the second half of the eighteenth century before the rise of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in London.

Lords

Formed from a cricket club that played at White Conduit Fields, Marylebone Cricket Club moved to Lord's Cricket Ground in St Marylebone borough in 1787 and became the MCC. In the following year it published its first revised code of laws. Lord's, which was named after its founder, Thomas Lord, has had three locations over its history. Moving to the ground in St. John's Wood in 1814, Lord's became the headquarters of world cricket.

All bowling was underhand until early in the nineteenth century. Later came "the round-arm revolution," in which many bowlers began raising the point at which they released the ball. This caused furious controversy and in 1835 the MCC rephrased the law to allow the hand to be raised as high as the shoulder. The new style led to a great increase in pace. Gradually bowlers raised the hand higher and higher defying the rules.

Overhand bowling

Matters were brought to a head in 1862 when an England team playing against Surrey left the field at London's Kennington Oval in protest over a "no ball" call. The argument centred on whether the bowler should be allowed to raise his arm above the shoulder. As a result of this, in 1864 the bowler was officially allowed to bowl overhand (but not to cock and straighten the arm). This change dramatically altered

the game, making it more difficult for a batsman to judge the ball. A bowler was allowed to take a running start from any direction and for any distance. Now bowling overhand, the ball could reach speeds above ninety mph (145 km/hr). As the ball is usually delivered so as to bounce on the pitch before the batsman can hit it, the ball may curve to the right or the left, bounce low or high, or spin toward or away from the batsman.

Only the best batsmen could cope with fast bowling, because the poor condition of most pitches made it more difficult for a batsman to predict the motion of the ball. As the grounds improved and batsmen grew accustomed to the new bowling style they went on the offensive.

Outstanding batsmen

In the early twentieth century so many runs were being scored that debate ensued on reforming the "leg-before-wicket" law, which had been introduced in the 1774 laws to prohibit a batsman from using his body to prevent the ball from hitting his wicket. But the heavy scores were actually due to the performances of several outstanding batsmen, such as W. G. Grace, Sir John Berry Hobbs, and K. S. Ranjitsinhji. This was the golden age of cricket.

Balls per over

During most of the nineteenth-century standard overs were made up of four deliveries. In 1889 five-ball overs were introduced in first-class cricket, with a move to generally use six-ball overs in 1900



The first English team to tour overseas, on board ship to North America

International cricket

The first ever international cricket game was between the US and Canada in 1844. The match was played at the grounds of the St George's Cricket Club in New York.

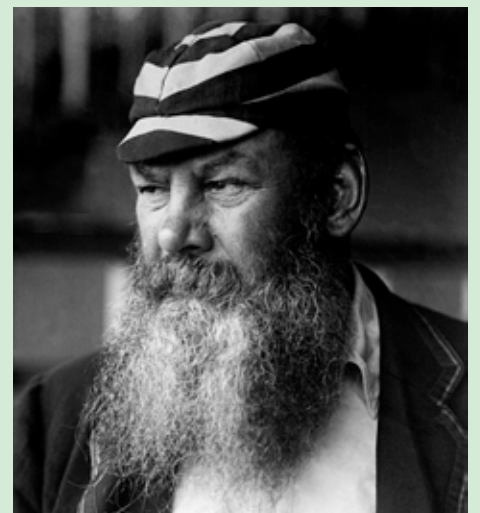
In 1859, a team of leading English professionals set off to North America on the first-ever overseas tour (pictured above) and, in 1862, the first English team toured Australia. Between May and October 1868, a team of Aboriginal Australians toured England in what was the first Australian cricket team to travel overseas.

In 1877, an England touring team in Australia played two matches against full Australian XIs that are now regarded as the inaugural Test matches. The following year, the Australians toured England for the first time and the success of this tour ensured a popular demand for similar ventures in future. No Tests were played in 1878 but more soon followed and, at The Oval in 1882, the Australian victory in a tense finish gave rise to The Ashes.

South Africa became the third Test nation in 1889.

National championships

In 1890 the official County Championship was constituted in England. Soon afterwards, in May 1894, the sport's first-class standard was officially defined. The ICC re-defined first-class status in 1947 as a global concept.



W. G. Grace photographed by George Beldam, c. 1902

Mary's Choice – a poem

Alexandra Wilde

MY GRANDMA, ALICE WOODS, was my inspiration for the poem, and concerns her first romance, in 1911, when at Church she met a young man called Ernie Lewis. She was seventeen, he was eighteen, and every Sunday, as they walked back to her house after the service, he would carry her prayer book and hymnal for her.

One Saturday, about a year after they had met, they went to New Brighton for the day, but on the ferry going home to Liverpool, Ernie Lewis's father was on the same boat, and he saw them sitting together. The next day, my Grandma knew immediately that something was amiss, especially as Ernie did not carry her books for her as he usually did on the way home. When they reached her gate, he said, "We can't see each other any more. We're too young. If you've got no-one else, I'll come back for you when you're twenty-seven."

My Grandma told me, "Twenty-seven! That was nine years! Nine years!" In 1912, that must have felt like a life time, and of course in those days, if you weren't married by the time you were twenty-one, a girl was considered to have been "left on the shelf." Looking back, my Grandma also remembered so many young men had been killed in the First World War, and lots of young women missed out on getting married, anyway. When Ernie Lewis said goodbye, my Grandma said she was so bitterly unhappy at the time, she gave up on her studies. She had a fine academic brain, and had passed the Oxford preliminary exams, but she got a job and got on with her life. Her father was horrified – and furious! His reaction – delivered in strident, patriarchal tones – was: "That boy has ruined your life!"

She married my Grandfather in 1916, and I'm sure she loved him, too, but until the day she died, she talked about and never forgot her first love, Ernie Lewis. She saw



him once more, after she had been widowed in 1943, and before she went out to East Africa in 1948, to see what else life held in store for her; it was clear he had not forgotten her, either, but it was too late to rekindle their old flame. The photograph of my Grandma, taken when she was twenty-one shows a look of wistfulness in her eyes. I think she was really beautiful. She often wondered what path her life would have taken, if her romance with Ernie Lewis had been allowed to flourish.

We never know what dreams and hopes are cherished in people's minds.

Well, I hope you enjoy reading *Mary's Choice*, and a little bit about my Grandma's life. I must also mention, my Grandma didn't go into a care home, so that part of the poem is poetic licence. Grandma lived with my Mum, and then my Mum lived with us, so they were with their loved ones, right to the end of their lives; and we have been all the better and happier for it.

Mary's Choice

"You must meet Mary!" the Matron enthused, Trundling her out, like a prize on display:
 "Her room is single and spacious, with very fine views
 "Of the gardens, and beyond them, the bay!"
 Yes, indeed, thought Mary; she was mentally fine
 And could count backwards from one hundred in sevens;
 She knew what to say, and how to dispense Sweet wisdom all laced with sound common sense.
 "You must chat to Mary!" the Matron encouraged
 "She's led such an interesting life!
 "An inspiration to all whom she meets; she enchants
 "She knows how to turn away strife."
 Mary smiles and selects what they all want to hear
 Whilst another lass lives in her head:
 She aches to be young, to be foolish, in love, In a life on a pathway untrod.
 "We all love Mary!" the Matron exclaims
 "With her smile and her sweet disposition –
 "She's our resident star! And no-one gainsays
 "Her 'senior resident' position."
 But at night, Mary's wakeful, as the choices she's made
 In her life file past her in turn;
 Her eyes can still dance, if her feet have grown slow
 And her passions continue to burn.
 "She is so full of joy!" the Matron disclosed,
 "She's so charming, so patient – so kind!
 "A shining example of how old age can be,
 "For people of similar mind!"
 But in a covert part still resided
 In Mary's mind, things that no-one could know:
 And she hugs to herself in those long, darkling hours
 Her lost choices of so long ago.

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

If your answer is yes, then you are in an ideal position to help raise funds for our Charitable Trust – and at no cost to you. Read on . . .

If you buy goods online or participate in grocery home shopping, then please check out the "easyfundraising" scheme below, as our Charitable Trust can get a donation every time a purchase is made through it by you.

Simply go to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/royalsocietyofstgeorgecharitabletrust

If you then wish to participate, sign up with the **Royal Society of St George Charitable Trust** as your chosen charity, and continue shopping online as normal using this site as your portal. There are over 2000 participating stores which include; John Lewis, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Amazon etc. It's absolutely free to you and our Charitable Trust can gain donations from the participating retailers of up to 2.5% or more of the value of your shopping when you use it.

What's more, they will send you a confirmatory email once the participating retailer has processed your transaction, letting you know how much has been donated to the Royal Society's Charitable Trust on your behalf.

National Army Museum hosts Sikh seminar

Members of The Royal Society of St. George were present at a Victorian Military Society seminar on Saturday, 29 April, to hear historians – including the Sikh writer, Gurinder Singh Mann – discuss the origins, conduct and legacy of the Anglo-Sikh wars of 1845 and 1849.

Held at London’s National Army Museum, the day of illustrated talks also included a remarkable display of war gaming and military modelling – with a warlike elephant centre-stage on the Sikh side!

Gurinder spoke eloquently about a shared history; and how, from a far-off time of war, modern political destiny and heritage has been shaped.

His book, *The British and the Sikhs ~ Discovery, Warfare and Friendship c1700-1900* is available from the publisher, Helion and Company.

(Picture by S. Millson.)



Coronation in style



Stuart Millson and Nick Dutt enjoying an evening cruise along the historic River Thames in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in May this year.



East Malling WI in the Coronation mood!

A large knitted crown formed the centrepiece of the Coronation display at East Malling village green, Kent. The hardworking members of the local Women’s Institute, once again, honoured a great national occasion with their needlework skills! Thank heavens for ‘jam and Jerusalem’!

(Picture by S. Millson.)



To King Charles III

On your Majesty’s Royal Coronation
Our nation, Sir, sends salutation.
From a Prince to a King
Care and joy still to bring.
Dedication to nature
In every creature.
A Sovereign with charm
For a Reign of calm.
Committed like Mother,

Forthright like Father.
Keeping our Kingdom
Shielded through Wisdom.
Chief Charity Patron
Of unique inspiration.
Loved from northern Highlands
To Commonwealth islands,
Millennial Monarchy.
God Save Your Majesty

John Bush

Norfolk’s Patriot Poet

St Ives School, Haslemere receive ‘Double Excellent’ ISI Inspection 2023

In early May this year, St Ives School in Haslemere received the positive news that it has been regarded as ‘Double Excellent’ by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) after their Inspection of the school in January 2023. The ISI inspects against the statutory Independent Schools Standards, which cover all aspects of school life. Schools are measured in two areas – the

quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements and the quality of the pupils’ personal development. St Ives received excellent in both areas. This is the highest level of accolade a school can receive.

Kay Goldsworthy, Head Teacher at St Ives School said “We are extremely pleased to have received the highest level of grading from a school

inspection and are thrilled at the comments and observations in the report about our pupils and their attitudes to learning, the dedication and outstanding levels of teaching of our staff and the kindness that is integral to the culture at St Ives. It is an exceptional read.”

The full report can be found on St Ives School’s website at www.stiveshaslemere.com. The report is filled with exceptional praise, with comments like ‘Senior leaders and staff place a great emphasis on kindness, this is demonstrated in the relationships observed between pupils of different ages. For example, pupils throughout the school play happily and purposefully together at break time. Pupils frequently express approbation for each other and during discussions they spoke with great pride about the opportunity to share messages in the gratitude box and receive feathers of kindness.’



The King’s coronation at Camelsdale Primary School in Haslemere

The King’s coronation was totally embraced by Camelsdale Primary School in Haslemere as it decided to teach the children all about this historic occasion. And working towards holding its very own coronation ceremony. A special assembly launched the two day whole school project with the children learning all about the different regalia

which would form an integral part of the ceremony. Different classes then took on the different responsibilities to make each of the items as well as design themselves a crown! Year Five children were responsible for learning about and making a collage of King Charles I and King Charles II before adding in King Charles III. The Year R

children made the coronation chair, whilst Year One children created the orb, rods and sceptre!

The children wore smart clothes and their crowns to the coronation. The re-enactment included the presence of people from different faiths, the Prime Minister, the Arch Bishop of Canterbury and a female Bishop and members



of the Royal Family. The order of service mirrored that which was to take place on the following day with the national anthem sung, the coronation

flag raised and the whole school enjoying a coronation tea party as a finale!

The children certainly learnt a lot and when it came to

watching the real coronation, they had a very good understanding as to what was happening. Making the crowns, orb, sceptre, amula, bracelets, rods and rings all made more sense as history unfurled before their eyes.

Seventy-seven of the school community then enjoyed being part of the Haslemere Coronation Celebration Procession through the town on Bank Holiday Monday. Parents, staff and children paraded behind members from The Order of St George and members of The Royal Society wearing their St George's Day outfits and waving their flags. It was wonderful to see so many of the town turn out to cheer them on!

The celebrations then



continued the following week with a Big Top and circus arriving on the school site followed by the children taking part in a variety of circus workshops. Balancing peacock feathers, juggling, spinning plates, hula-hooping and using diablos and twizzle sticks all added to the coronation memories. What a memorable time was had by all! Long Live King Charles III!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Love our traditions



Life member of The RSStG, David Ashton, sent the following letter to The Daily Mail for St. George's Day.

English patriots seeking proper celebration our own National Day should join the non-sectarian and charitable Royal Society of St George (details online), which not only campaigns for this particular objective, but also fosters truthful knowledge of our history and cross-generation love for our traditions and, although not party-political, is pledged to combat any activity likely to weaken England.

David Ashton, Norfolk.

A reply to David Ashton . . .

In the last edition, Life Member, D.L.W. Ashton, contributed a piece concerning the ancestral identity of England. The article prompted a response from one of our British-Asian members, who writes . . .

I'm not entirely sure what Mr. Ashton means by ethnic group! For example, I was born in England but my parents are from India. But as I am born in England I'm happy

to identify as English, or British-Asian. Are you suggesting only white people can identify as English?

Among my neighbours some white people have married Greeks, Romanians, Chileans, etc. Are their children English if they identify as such – even if they are not Anglo Saxon? Even people such as Boris Johnson has Turkish ancestry and dare I say King Charles has Greek, German and Scottish ancestry.

In my own case I studied English history at A-level and fully identify and “associate” with characters from English history. I also have an interest in Indian history and the history of other countries such as USA.

When I was about ten years old we studied the English civil war: I identified with Prince Charles and Prince Rupert because they were the only children featured in that story – not because they were white!

You mention mother tongue profusion and religious incongruity. English language evolves and different religions come to our land – Judaism, Catholic and Protestant religions (nothing new there).

People identify themselves in different ways: ‘world citizen’, European, British and English. Even that changes – thankfully it's more usual to see some non-white people representing Britain/England these days.

You mention indigenous customs and those of newcomers: I celebrate both. For example, this Saturday I'm going on an Easter Egg hunt but I also celebrate Hindu festivals. (Not too much of an issue there!)

Indra Sikdar

Cinque Ports pride



On a May visit to the historic town of Tenterden in Kent, but not far from the ‘border’ with East Sussex, I came across the fine old Town Hall proudly flying the flag for the Coronation. Like New Romney (now well inland) Tenterden was one of the mediaeval Cinque Ports, which in those ancient times provided men and maritime defence for for the Realm. Today, the town retains a pleasant atmosphere, permeated by history, clear civic pride and the spirit of an illustrious past.

Peter Gibbs, Kent

English Gardens

The summer months bring out the best in gardens, great and small, says Elaine Gordon

HERE IN ENGLAND the habit of nurturing plants seems to be inbuilt: even people living in flats can be found tending their balcony gardens or window boxes, whether to grow flowers to brighten up a dull landscape, or herbs to enliven a salad. We also love visiting gardens, as the success of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS), which has been opening gardens for charity since 1927, can testify. The scheme started with just over 600 gardens open to the public and charged one shilling per head, raising over £8,000 to help support district nursing. By the 1930s even Sir Winston Churchill and Vita Sackville West were opening their gardens to the public under the auspices of the NGS. Since then the scheme has grown enormously and nowadays there are thousands of gardens open every weekend during the summer and on some weekdays too. The range is breathtaking, from rolling acres to tiny cottage gardens (and that is before one considers the mouthwatering offerings of tea and cake). Every weekend during the summer months the countryside

is dotted with large yellow and black arrows pointing to gardens open under the scheme and it's always enjoyable, and enlightening, to see garden owners' individual creations.

One can learn a lot from visiting gardens too. The owners are usually only too happy to explain why they planted what where, and to share their failures as well as their successes with the visitors. With such a variety of styles on display it is also possible to develop one's own ideas about landscaping and planting.

We went to visit a garden in Somerset last year – East Lambrook Manor. It was established by Marjorie Fish, who has been credited with creating the quintessential cottage garden (except that the cottage gardens so beloved by Victorian painters probably never existed in real life). Developed in the 40s, 50s, and 60s it is now recognised as being the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening'. She wrote extensively about gardening and was a renowned plantswoman combining common plants with rarer species in her exuberant, densely-packed borders. It is well worth visiting

and must be overwhelming in the height of summer when everything is at its peak.

It is a very clever garden and must have made such a huge impact on gardeners in the post war years to see such abundance in a relatively small space. Tiny paths meander around the borders where every plant seems to be jostling for space. However, it is not a garden I covet. For me, it is important to have space to breathe, to be able to sit and simply be: cottage gardens like East Lambrook Manor are far too busy for that. I like to be able to sit and absorb the dappling of trees on a green lawn, to hear the sound of water trickling down a rill, or to watch dragonflies dance above the surface of a pond.

I also like a view! As have many others down the ages since Capability Brown started serious landscaping works at Stowe. Just as in the case of the cottage garden there is a quintessential 'Englishness' about a landscaped garden, with its rolling acres, carefully placed groups of trees and artful follies. Such gardens are so different from the type of garden epitomised at East Lambrook Manor, which, in terms of acres covered, was much more 'domestic' in scale. The Capability Brown type of garden was gardening on a huge scale – or should I say 'landscaping'? There was an awful lot of manipulation of the landscape necessary to create the sweeping vistas we are so familiar with today. It was also gardening for the future. At the time these gardens were being laid out the owners knew that they probably wouldn't live to see their creations at their best. They were also not that practical: there would have to be a kitchen garden tucked away somewhere to provide the household with food and flowers.

But that is the great joy of garden visiting. No garden is the same as another and some will appeal more than others. But the common thread running through it all is that every garden pays homage to the beauty of nature and to our ability to turn that to our advantage, whether it be in terms of 'improving' a view, creating a riotous colour palette in a flower bed, or growing regimented rows of vegetables in the kitchen garden.



East Lambrook Manor ngs.org.uk



Omni Lifetime Planning Ltd specialise in Wills, Trusts, Asset Protection, Probate, Powers of Attorney and Funeral Plans.

We offer a 50% discount to members bringing the cost of a single will down to £75 and a pair of mirror wills down to £125.

www.omni-lifetimeplanning.co.uk
Tel: 01727 220053
mail: info@omni-lifetimeplanning.co.uk

Copy date for the December 2023 edition of

St George for England

31 October 2023

**To submit copy contact Stuart Millson
Tel: 07956 035821
email: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com**



English Clergy Association

Patron: The Rt Revd and Rt Hon
Dame Sarah Mullally, DBE,
Bishop of London;

President: Professor Sir Anthony Milnes
Coates, Bt, BSc, MD, FRCP

Chairman: Dr Peter M. Smith, LLB, PhD, FRHistS
36 High Street, Silverton, Exeter EX5 4JD
Telephone: 01392 860 284
Email: P.M.Smith@exeter.ac.uk

- **Holiday Grants for Clergy and families**
- **Information and perspectives**
- **Members' Magazine**



*Thou also shalt light my candle:
the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be light*
St Giles-in-the-Fields, Holborn, London WC2H 8LG



The Royal Society of St George

Annual General Meeting 2023

Saturday, 9 September, 14:00–15:00

**Broad Plain & Riverside Youth Project,
Clement Street, St Philip's, Bristol BS2 9ES**

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. To receive and adopt the minutes of last year's meeting.
3. Matters Arising.
4. To receive the Chairman's Annual Report.
5. To receive and adopt the Examined Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022.
6. To receive the Chairman of the Charitable Trust's Annual Report.
7. To approve revised Bye Laws and new RSSG Regulations.
8. To re-elect such members of Council who, retiring in rotation, offer themselves to serve a further term under Bye law thirty-six to elect new members of Council under Bye law thirty-nine and to appoint those who have been co-opted.
9. To appoint Accountants as General Examiner to the Society.
10. Any Other Business (to be notified seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting).

By Order of the Council, 1 July 2023

Please contact the office if you would like a postal ballot and a copy of the 2022-year-end accounts. (NB we can only send out postal ballots after 9 August once the council nomination deadline has passed so people can vote.)

Register your attendance with Liz at the office by no later than midnight on Tuesday, 5 September.

Council Nominations to be lodged with Liz at the office by no later than 9 August. Nominations to be supported by one Council Member and three fully paid up RSSG members. (As per Bye Law thirty-nine.)



Broad Plain and Riverside Youth Project

MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATIONS – DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

MANY DISCOUNTS ON BOOKS AND TOURS:

- **25% off Breese Books when ordered online.** The largest producer of new Sherlock Holmes novels in the style of Conan Doyle. Please visit www.baker-street-studios.com and quote "RSSG25"
- **15% off historical location guide books ordered online** such as Downton Abbey, Inspector Morse, Midsomer Murders, Harry Potter and James Bond. Please visit www.baker-street-studios.com and quote "RSSG15"
- **£50 off specialist detective tours** to various areas related to filming e.g. Downton Abbey, Inspector Morse, Midsomer Murders etc. Please visit www.detective-tours.com for more information.
 - **£50 discount off Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery events for small, medium and large party sizes.** Please visit www.murder-mystery.com If a Branch or group of members would like to organise a trip to film locations or have a period costume murder mystery please telephone Dr Antony Richards on (01223) 473025

NEW 20% discount for RSSG members, on all books, limited edition prints and recordings produced by RAILWAY CAT CREATIONS

All our items can be viewed on the website: www.railway-cat.co.uk, but please contact us directly either by e-mail on railwaycat@clara.co.uk or by phone on 01708 557288, to order at this special members' discount.

MRFLAG.COM Ltd 15% DISCOUNT

on all products except sewn flags. Telephone Kath the Sales Manager on (01792) 650044 or email Kath at sales@mrflag.com and state that you are a member of The Royal Society of St George.

10% DISCOUNT FROM OF CABBAGES & KINGS

a source of design-led gifts and homeware by British based artists, designers and crafts people. Please visit www.ofcabbagesandkings.co.uk and enter code "ST GEORGE" when checking out.

10% DISCOUNT FROM KNIT WITH ATTITUDE

a small independent yarn shop that specialises in eco-friendly and ethically produced yarn and accessories for hand knitting and crochet. To receive a 10% discount please visit: www.knitwithattitude.com and enter discount code "St George" in your shopping cart before checking out. Alternatively please quote this code when visiting the shop at 127 Stoke Newington High Street, London N16 0PH.

OMNI LIFETIME PLANNING LTD 50% DISCOUNT ON WILL WRITING

Bringing the cost of a single will down to £75 and a pair of mirror wills to £125 for Society members
www.omni-lifetimeplanning.co.uk
Tel: 01727 220053
email: info@omni-lifetimeplanning.co.uk

10% DISCOUNT ON TAX RETURNS.

Benefit from many years of experience in tax and the same high standard of service expected from the best Accountancy firms but at a much lower price **FROM £100 PER TAX RETURN plus A FREE REVIEW and 10% DISCOUNT.** Please email phoenixreturns.tax@gmail.com or telephone (01793) 827620.

15% DISCOUNT OFF THE ENGLISH TOASTMASTERS ASSOCIATION TRAINING COURSE

The courses are being offered at

15% LESS AT £2,082.50 – A SAVING OF £367.50

Training includes three full days after which further training is available on demand within the annual membership fee.

Meetings are held throughout the year with two special meetings including breakfast and luncheon. These two special meetings are held in April close to St George's Day and in October around Trafalgar Day at the County Hotel in Chelmsford, Essex close to the Association's HQ in Danbury.

Further training is available on demand and included in the annual fees covering such subjects as marketing as a Toastmaster, Masonic Ladies Festivals and Corporate Functions.

With prices charged by Toastmasters generally ranging from £250.00 to £750.00 per event, this is wonderful work for the right person and is greatly rewarding regardless of the type of work that is undertaken.

Please see www.englishtoastmasters.co.uk for full details.

Email info@englishtoastmasters.co.uk

Telephone (01245) 222392 or 07971 409977.

HOTEL AND CAR HIRE DISCOUNTS:

- **20%–30% discount on hotel accommodation** below similar offers available on public websites.
- **20% discount on car hire** through Alamo and National
- Your Society also benefits by receiving 2.5% on every booking made with no extra cost to you.

Please visit: www.membertravelspecials.com/RSSTG.aspx and help your Society by making this your preferred means of saving money when booking hotels or car hire.

JOHNSONS STEAK HOUSE OFFER A 10% DISCOUNT OFF YOUR MEAL TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE AND THE MILITARY FROM TUESDAY TO THURSDAY

The newly built Steakhouse and Bar at Church Farm, Church Street, Old Hurst, Huntingdon, PE28 3AF serves home grown produce reared on the farm. Lunch is served Tuesday to Saturday from 12 pm to 3 pm and dinner from 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm with a Sunday Carvery available from 12 pm to 3 pm. For reservations please telephone: 01487 824658 option 3, Email: info@johnsonssteakhouse.co.uk or contact through Facebook @johnsonsfarmshop.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lloyd James with suggestions of other discounts or reciprocal arrangements with other organisations by email at ldjstg@gmail.com or telephone (01793) 827620

BRANCHES LIST

BRANCHES IN ENGLAND

**The All-Party Parliamentary Group
The House of Commons**
(Membership is only open to Lords, MPs
and staff of the Palace of Westminster)

Bath & District

Nick Lennard, Chairman
Email: nicklennard@gmail.com

Bolton

Mr. Chris Houghton, Chairman
Email: chris.houghton@rssg.org.uk

City & County of Bristol

Mr D Stinchcombe,
Email: dennismbe@riversideyp.org

City of London

Deborah R.J. Black, Honorary Secretary
Email: honsecretsrg@btinternet.com

City of Westminster

Mr. Alan Broomhead, Chairman,
Email: alansco@btinternet.com

Danbury

Mr. Richard Palmer FMETA C.Inst.S.M.M.
President The English Toastmasters
Association,
Mobile: 07971 409 977
Email: info@englishtoastmasters.co.uk
Website: www.englishtoastmasters.co.uk

East Anglia

Mr. John Stannard, President
Tel: 01502 512 734
Email: johnr.stannard@talktalk.net

Fenland

Mr. Brian Kierman, President
Email: brian@kierman.co.uk
Telephone: 01945 463 774

Furness

Mr. D. Ward,
Email: davidward@msn.com

Gloucestershire

Mrs Margaret Fuller
Email: glosrssg@btinternet.com

Greater Manchester

Mr. M. J. Riley,
Email: michaeljriley@btinternet.com

Halifax and District

Mrs Geraldine Carter, Hon Secretary
Email: gmcarter.rssg@gmail.com

Haslemere

Nick Hinchliffe, Chairman
Email: nbhconsulting@btinternet.com
Mrs S Hankers,
E.mail: shirt.berley@gmail.com

Huntingdon

Mrs Sarah Gifford, Chairman
Email: sarahmgifford@btinternet.com

Leeds

CLr Wyn Kidger, Chairman
Email: Wyn.Kidger@leeds.gov.uk

Leicestershire

Mr Stephen A. Warden, President
Email: stephen.warden@virginmedia.com

Lowestoft

Mr Brian Caton
Email: b.caton3@btinternet.com

North Downs

Wing Cmdr Mike Sutton, Deputy Chairman
Email: mikesutton@blueyonder.co.uk

North Surrey

Robert Freeman JP, Chairman
Email: robertfreeman_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Northern Ireland **COMING SOON**

Northumbria Branch

Mr. A. J. Nicholls, Chairman,
Email: tonymicholls23@btinternet.com

Radford

Mr Phil J Harwood,
Email: philjamesharwood@hotmail.com

Rushmoor

Lt. Col Leslie G.A. Clarke
Telephone: 01483 810 492
Mobile: 07710 230 379
Email: Leslie.larkfield@btinternet.com

St Neots

Mr B Chapman,
Email: barry.chapman@live.co.uk

Seahaven

Linda Wallraven, Chairman
Email: lindawallraven@gmail.com

Seven Hills

Mrs. Christine Hirst, Chairman
Telephone 0113 253 5647
Email: hirjo43@hotmail.com

Sheffield

Mrs Margaret Jennifer Clark, Secretary
Telephone: 0114 264 0524
Email: jenniferclark16@btinternet.com

Shropshire

Mr. David Knott, Chairman
Tel: 01743 368 552
Email: daveknott42@hotmail.com

Swale

Susan Thomas, Treasurer
Email: susanthomas2609@hotmail.co.uk

Taunton and Exmoor **NEW BRANCH**

CLr Martin Straus, Chairman
Email: martingstrauss1@gmail.com

The Tower Of London

(Membership only open to Yeomen and
employees of the Tower of London)

Warwickshire

Mr. A. Clive Benfield,
Email: clive.benfield@benfieldgroup.co.uk

Waterloo

Mr. Bob Smith, Chairman
Email: bob.smith@rssg.org.uk

Wiltshire

Mr. Lloyd James, Chairman
Email: ldjstg@gmail.com



OVERSEAS BRANCHES

Abu Dhabi

Mrs. Pauline Moffet, Chair
Email: rsggauh@gmail.com or
paulinemoffetuso@gmail.com

Adelaide

Mrs D Bone,
Email: saintgeorge@adam.com.au

Brisbane

Mrs V Skinner,
Email: roystonskinner@optusnet.com.au

British Columbia

Mr. Shawn Wade, President
Email: shawnwade@hotmail.com

California

Princess Karen Cantrell, Chairman
Email:
royalsocietysaintgeorge.ca@gmail.com

Carolinian

Mr. John M. Shannon
Email: john.m.shannon@gmail.com

Costa Blanca

Mr. R. G. T. Hunt MBE, Chairman,
Email: roberthunt@hotmail.com
Email: admin@stgeorgecostablanca.com

Dar Es Salaam

Mark Golding – President
Email: mark.p.golding@gmail.com

Delaware (USA)

Mr. Andrew A. Lundgren, Secretary
Email: andrew.a.lundgren@gmail.com

Denmark

Mr. Simon C Mears, President
Email: rsgdenmark@gmail.com

Devonport

Mrs Elizabeth Page,
Email: cageypagey@gmail.com

Gold Coast

Mr. Graham Rumble
Email: gprumble@yahoo.com

Halifax & Nova Scotia

Carol Dodds, President
Email: colin.dodds@ns.sympatico.ca

Hong Kong

Jim Wardell, President
Email: jimwardell@moorerecovery.hk
Tracy Poon, Secretary
Email: tracypoon@moorerecovery.hk

Kuala Lumpur & Selangor,

Ray Bolland, President
Email: president@stgeorgesmalaysia.com
Website: www.stgeorgesmalaysia.com

Lisbon

Mr. Arthur Milton, Chairman
Email: chairmanrbc@gmail.com

Madrid

Dr F. E. F. Price MBE
Email: freddie.price@live.co.uk

Manila **NEW BRANCH**

Sir Matthew Pajares-Yngson KCR KStG FRSA
Email: rssgmanila@freckenham.org.uk
Tel: +632 7906 7637

Nairobi

Mrs Janet Barlow (Secretary)
Email: janmac85@gmail.com

Paris

Andrew M.G. Simpkin, President
Email: andrew.simpkin1@gmail.com

Port Elizabeth Women's Branch

Sandra Strang, Secretary/Scribe
Email: bruce_sandra@telkomsa.net

Sabah

Mr M Steel, President,
Email: mjsteel63@gmail.com

South Florida

Roy Yates, President
Email: president@baccbroward.org

Sydney

Mr P M Cavanagh,
Email: E11r@bigpond.net.au

Texas

Cheryl Rios, Honorary Secretary
Email: cheryldar@hotmail.com

Toowoomba

Mr. Bob Anderton, President,
Email: paulmunson53@gmail.com

Victoria Branch (formerly Melbourne)

James McCarthy OAM, JP, President
Email: rsstgmelbourne@gmail.com

Warwick

Mr P Munson,
Email: paulmunson53@gmail.com

Zimbabwe (Harare)

Mr. Brian Heathcote, President,
Email: bheathcote@zol.co.zw

UK AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

English Toastmasters Association

Mr. Richard Palmer FMETA C.Inst.S.M.M.
Mobile 07971 409 977
Email: info@englishtoastmasters.co.uk
Website: www.englishtoastmasters.co.uk

Shropshire War Memorials Association

Mr Clive I Blakeway
Email: clive@cblakeway.plus.com
Tel: 01952 550 205

Stourbridge Society of St George

Mr Keith Harris,
Email: keith.harris4@gmail.com.
Mobile 07973 266 842

Victoria Cross and George Cross Association

Mrs Rebecca Charlotte Maciejewska,
Email: secretary@vcandgc.org

The Knights of

St Thomas of Canterbury **NEW GROUP**

Lord Mario Cires, KGCST
Email: order@knights-saint-thomas.co.uk

The Order of St George

Stuart A. Notholt, Grand Scrivener
Email: scrivener@orderofstgeorge.co.uk
Phone Number: 01892 871 662



OVERSEAS AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

St George's Society Of Toronto

Robert Baines, President
Tel: 416 597 0220
Email: admin@stgeorgesto.org
Website www.stgeorgesto.org

The Society of St George, Philadelphia

Mr. William B. Thompson, President
Email: wthompson1204@comcast.net

The St George's Society Of Baltimore Limited

Mr. Harry T Aycock, President,
Email: htaycock@verizon.net

The St George's Benevolent Society of Hamilton

Mr John W.S.Naismith, President, Email:
st.georgesbenevolentsocietyham@gmail.com

AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

Staff and children of Camelsdale Primary School

Camelsdale Primary School, School Road,
Camelsdale, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 3RN
School Tel No: 01428 642177
School email:
office@camelsdale.w-sussex.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Sarah Palmer

St George's Primary School, Wallasey

St George's Road, Wallasey, Merseyside
CH45 3NF
Tel: 0151 638 6014
Email: schooloffice@stgeorges.wirral.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr. Bernard Cassidy

St Ives School

Three Gates Lane, Haslemere, Surrey
GU27 2ES
School Tel No: 01428 643734
School Email: office@stiveshaslemere.com
Head Teacher: Kay Goldsworthy

Gildersome Primary School

Town Street, Leeds LS27 7AB
Tel: 0113 201 2450
Head Teacher: Mrs C M Hoyle
Email: info@gildersomeprimary.org.uk

Chavagnes International College

96 Rue du Calvaire
Chavagnes-en-Pailliers
France 85250
Mr. Ferdi McDermott, MA (Hons), PGCE,
MEd, FCCT, FRSA, FSA Scot
Email: headmaster@chavagnes.org

AFFILIATED UNIVERSITIES

University of Bolton

Mr. Aris F. Mattheou
Email: A.F.Mattheou@bolton.ac.uk
Executive Director, External Relations
University of Bolton Deane Road Bolton
BL3 5AB
Tel: 01204 900 600 www.bolton.ac.uk

AFFILIATED CADET GROUPS

Staines and Egham Sea Cadets

The Lammas Park, Wraysbury Road,
Staines, Middlesex TW18 4TT
Telephone: 01784 469064
Commanding Officer: S/Lt (SCC)
Lucy Seex RNR – Unit OIC Mobile:
07808 029 631.
Email: co@stainesseacadets.org

London Area Sea Cadets

HMS President, 72 St. Katharine's Way,
London E1W 1UQ
Email: london-area@ms-sc.org
Tel: 020 7481 7370/1/2/3
London Area Commanding Officer –
Commander James Nisbet, MA, VR, RNR
www.sea-cadets.org

Wisbech Sea Cadets T.S. Falcon 373

Officer in Charge: P.O. (SCC) Sharon Emery
Mobile: 07534 907 306
Email: oic@wisbechseacadets.org.uk

SHOP WINDOW

All items are available to order on our website www.rssg.org.uk with payment via PayPal to our email address info@rssg.org.uk

Orders can be placed over the phone +44 (0) 20 3225 5011 and payment made via debit/credit card. All major debit or credit cards are accepted. (No Diners Club or American Express).

Or place your order via email (info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com) and pay by bank transfer to:- Bank: National Westminster Bank Plc • Account Name: The Royal Society of St. George • Account Number: 14742497 • Sort Code: 60-07-29 • BIC: NWBK GB 2L • IBAN: GB19 NWBK 6007 2914 7424 97

Or pay by cheque, in favour of the Royal Society of St. George, and sent together with your order to our office address, P.O. BOX 397, Loughton, Essex, IG10 9GN.

FOR BRANCH OFFICERS' REGALIA, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.



Ref: RSSG003
Miniature medal with presentation pouch. Medal to be worn on the right breast. 23mm x 80mm
£58.00
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG05A
Metal Gilt Enamel Pin Badge Butterfly Clutch Fastener 23mm x 25mm
£8.00
MEMBERS ONLY



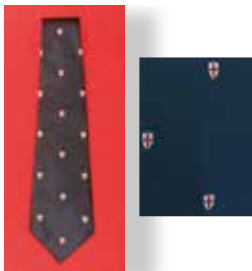
Ref: RSSG05B
Metal Gilt Enamel Pin Badge Screw Back Fastener 23mm x 25mm
£8.00
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG05C
Metal Gilt Enamel Pin Badge Bar Pin Fastener 23mm x 25mm
£8.00
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG006
Metal Gilt Enamel Bar Brooch 38mm x 27mm
£15.00
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG13A
Multi-Motif Shield Tie – Polyester
£18.50



Ref: RSSG012
Navy Polyester Members Tie with Armorial Bearings
£19.00
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG014
Tie Slide in Presentation Box 53mm x 28mm
£17.50
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG010
Black Embroidered blazer badge with gold coloured wire 100mm x 114mm
£25.00
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG011
Navy Blue Embroidered blazer badge with gold coloured wire 100mm x 114mm
£25.00
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG029
Large Blazer Button 20mm diameter
£4.50
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG030
Small Blazer Button 15mm diameter
£3.50
MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG009
Red Enamel Cuff Links in Presentation Box 18mm diameter
£19.50



Ref: RSSG031
2ft by 3ft St George's flag with eyelets
£6.00



Ref: RSSG032
3ft by 5ft St George's flag with eyelets
£7.50



Ref: RSSG007
Hand Painted Heraldic Plaque (Armorial Bearings) 45mm x 180mm
£62.00
MEMBERS ONLY

SPECIAL OFFER BUY ONE GET ONE FREE – MIX AND MATCH

The Royal Society of St. George is the Premier Patriotic Society of England whose objects are:

- (i) To foster the love of England and to strengthen England and the Commonwealth by spreading the knowledge of English history, traditions and ideals.
- (ii) To keep fresh the memory of those in all walks of life who have served England or the Commonwealth in the past, in order to inspire leadership in the future.
- (iii) To combat all activities likely to undermine the strength of England or the Commonwealth.
- (iv) To further English interests everywhere to ensure that St. George's Day is properly celebrated and to provide focal points all the world over where English men and women may gather together.

The Royal Society of St. George
P.O. BOX 397, Loughton, Essex, IG10 9GN, England
Telephone 020 3225 5011
Email: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com
Website: www.rssg.org.uk
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RoyalSocietyofStGeorge
Twitter account: @RSSGGeorge
LinkedIn: The Royal Society of St. George Official Group



The Royal Society of St. George
Founded in 1894
Incorporated by Royal Charter
Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
Season's Greetings

RSSG 15 C

5 RSSG "Season's Greetings" Christmas Cards with envelopes.
150mm x 150mm
£5.00 MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG15A

5 Blank RSSG Cards with Envelopes
150mm x 150mm
£5.00 MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG15B

5 St George's Day Greetings Cards with Envelopes
150mm x 150mm
£5.00 MEMBERS ONLY

SPECIAL OFFER – BUY ONE GET ONE FREE – MIX AND MATCH



Ref: RSSG016

Pack of 5 red RSSG window/car stickers
77mm x 72mm
£2.50 MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG017

Full Membership Certificate
£6.00 MEMBERS ONLY



Ref: RSSG018

A5 Menu Covers with Armorial Bearings
Packs of 10
MEMBERS ONLY £6.00



Ref: RSSG022

St George's Day Envelope Stickers
2 A4 pages – 130 stickers
£2.50



Ref: RSSG024

Past copy of the *St George for England* Journal
Please contact the office for availability
£5.00

UK Shop Window Order Form

Please complete the order form and return it with your payment to:

RSSG, P.O. BOX 397 LOUGHTON IG10 9GN. Please make your cheques payable to "The Royal Society of St. George".

Ref No.	Description	Qty	Size	Colour	Price	Total Price

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE AND PACKAGING FOR UK ORDERS. INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMERS PLEASE ORDER VIA OUR WEBSITE OR EMAIL YOUR ORDER TO US AT info@rssg.org.uk FOR PRICES, POSTAGE AND PACKAGING

International Customers are responsible to pay for any additional costs such as duties, local taxes or custom clearance fees which may be imposed in their country of residence

NAME

ADDRESS

..... COUNTY..... POSTCODE

EMAIL TEL: DATE

Total amount of Cheque £.....

If you require any further information, please phone 020 3225 5011 or Email: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com

Payment may be made via PayPal to info@rssg.org.uk, by cheque or please call us on 020 3225 5011 to place your order over the phone.

All major credit or debit cards are accepted
For branch officer's regalia, please contact the office



The Royal Society of St George

Established in 1894 | Incorporated by Royal Charter | Patron: The Late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



The Royal Society of St George is partnering with Harney & Sons Tea Company to produce, market, and sell the Imperial Windsor Blend Tea, in support of the Royal Society's educational programmes for young people.

The Royal Society of St George (RSSG), a charitable organisation, was founded in England in 1894 with the goal of fostering English values and the English way of life. From its inception, it has enjoyed the support of prominent public figures in England and throughout the British Empire. Its first Royal Patron was Queen Victoria; since then the society has enjoyed the patronage of every reigning monarch, including the current British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. The Society's Charitable Trust actively provides financial support to help young people fulfill their scholastic and career potential.

Harney & Sons is a celebrated gourmet tea company located in Millerton, New York. Founded in 1983 by John Harney, it has grown from a hands-on cottage industry into one of the leading gourmet tea companies in the USA. It is still a hands-on family business now headed by John's sons, Mike and Paul Harney.

Harney & Sons has produced The Imperial Windsor Blend exclusively for The RSSG. The Imperial Windsor Blend is a medium bodied tea with briskness and a wonderful aroma, containing black teas with rose petals.

The partnership will produce, market, and sell the Imperial Windsor Blend tea globally, with particular emphasis on promoting the tea to its direct, branch, and affiliate members throughout the world. In return for the exclusive right to market and sell this RSSG-supporting blend, RSSG will receive a quarterly royalty of 10% of gross sales, allowing The RSSG to build its support programmes and assist more young people, needed now more than ever.

About The Royal Society of St George

The objectives of The Society as laid down in its Royal Charter are to:

- Foster the love of England and to strengthen England and the Commonwealth by spreading the knowledge of English history, traditions and ideals;
- Keep fresh the memory of those in all walks of life who have served England or the Commonwealth in the past, to inspire leadership in the future;
- Combat all activities likely to undermine the strength of England or the Commonwealth; and
- Further English interest everywhere to ensure that St. George's Day is properly celebrated and to provide focal points all the world over where English men and women may gather together.

USA, CANADA, INTERNATIONAL AND BULK ORDERS – please contact Harney & Son's distribution agent,

Mark Cooper via telephone - +164 65 29 93 11 - or via email – markcooperltd@verizon.net

The Royal Society of St George Mission Statement

"To promote the character and true diversity of England and its people"

We achieve this by:

- Supporting the Monarchy, our Charter and our democracy
- Being proud of English values and character
- Protecting English Heritage, Faiths, History and Traditions through education, practice and culture
- Celebrating and embracing the social and cultural diversity within England – Past, Present and looking to the Future
- Recognising and supporting local and regional identities, eccentricities, customs and products
- Uniting the nation and encouraging the celebration of St George's Day
- Challenging doctrines that threaten to undermine our objectives and mission, whilst upholding the right to free thought, speech and movement
- Championing campaigns and supporting like-minded (non-political) groups with an English focus
- Supporting England's role in maintaining the unity of the United Kingdom and of the Commonwealth

Journal Advertising:

Full Page Colour £400
Half Page Colour £250
Quarter Page Colour £150
Eighth Page Colour £100
All prices are exclusive of VAT

Extra insertions:

1–3 insertions 5% discount
4–6 insertions 10% discount
7–12 insertions 15% discount

Mechanical Data

Full Page: 267 x 190 mm
Full Bleed: 303 x 216 mm
Half Page: 130 x 190 mm
Quarter Page: 130 x 92.5 mm
Eighth Page 62.5 x 92 mm

Vital matter 6 mm from edge of page on all sides

Publication Dates

April 28 February
August 30 June
December 31 October

Contact: Elizabeth Lloyd

Tel: 020 3225 5011

Email: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com

Website: www.rssg.org.uk

The Royal Society of St George,
PO Box 397, Loughton, IG10 9GN,
England

Are you interested in the Royal
Society of St George?

Would you like to join us?

Application form on our website at
www.rssg.org.uk

Or telephone the office on
020 3225 5011

The Royal Society of St George

Vision

To be widely recognised as the premier English patriotic society; attracting members from all walks of life; celebrating important dates in English history; supporting and encouraging the young; sharing and maintaining our Culture; Heritage and traditions; having a voice on issues that affect our country; and supporting charitable causes.