

St GEORGE FOR ENGLAND

December 2023

In this edition

The RSSG blows its own trumpet!

Bookworm Richard Dove, finds a wealth of literary heritage in Manchester

Purcell – cold genius of our isle

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



SPECIAL OFFER FOR RSSG MEMBERS

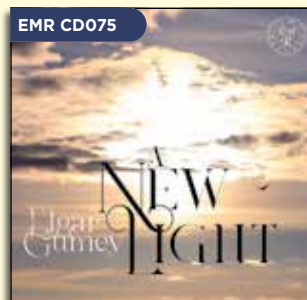
PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MUSIC-LOVING FRIENDS AND FAMILY OR A TREAT FOR YOURSELF!



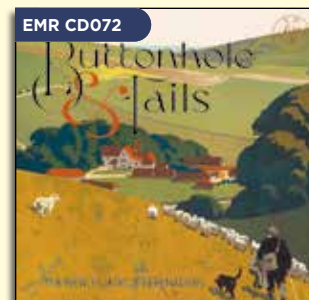
ENCHANTED PLACES
The complete Fraser-Simson settings of A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh – *The Complete Hums of Pooh, Stories and Christopher Robin Songs*
Grant Doyle (baritone)
John Kember (piano) • Brian Sibley (narrator)



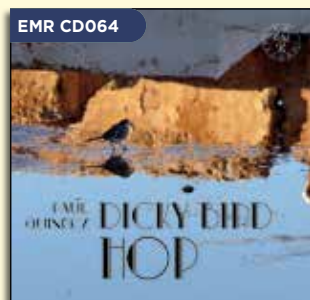
CHASING MOONBEAMS
Works by MADELEINE DRING, SIR EDWARD GERMAN, BILLY MAYERL, IVOR NOVELLO, ROGER QUILTER, CYRIL SCOTT and others
Paul Guinery (piano)



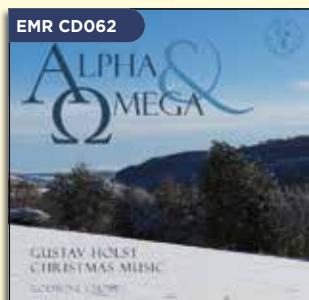
A NEW LIGHT
SIR EDWARD ELGAR: Sonata; *Salut d'Amour*; *Chanson de Nuit*; *Chanson de Matin*;
IVOR GURNEY: Sonata in D major
Rupert Marshall-Luck (violin)
Duncan Honeybourne (piano)



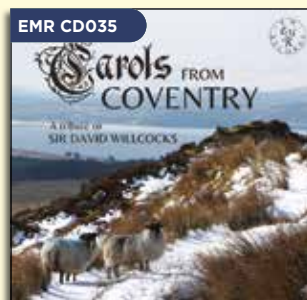
BUTTONHOLE AND TAILS
Favourite songs by NOËL COWARD, RAY NOBLE, IVOR NOVELLO, FLANAGAN AND ALLEN, NOEL GAY and others
New Foxtrot Serenaders



DICKY BIRD HOP
Light Music Classics by ARNOLD BAX, YORK BOWEN, ERIC COATES, NOEL COWARD, BENJAMIN DALE, MADELINE DRING, BILLY MAYERL, HAYDN WOOD and others
Paul Guinery (piano)



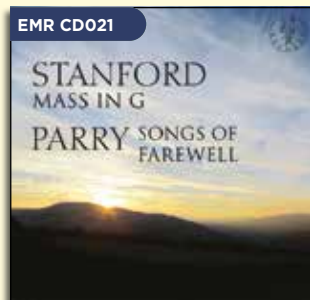
ALPHA & OMEGA
Christmas music, carols, and organ works by GUSTAV HOLST
Godwine Choir
Alex Davan Wetton (conductor)
Edward Hughes (conductor)



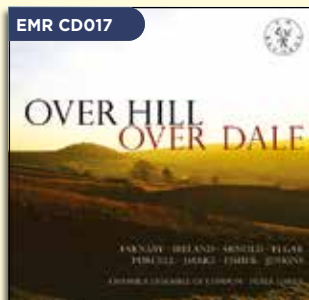
CAROLS FROM COVENTRY
Traditional carols in the classic, famous DAVID WILLCOCKS arrangements
Saint Michael's Singers
Paul Leddington Wright (director)



SET IN SILVER
Works for Chamber Orchestra by BRIDGE, DELIUS, ELGAR, IRELAND, PURCELL and WALTON
Chamber Ensemble of London
Peter Fisher (director)



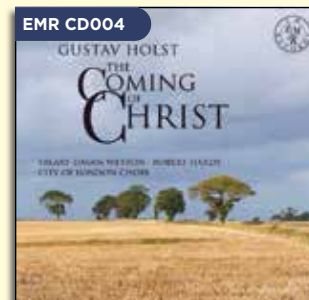
STANFORD: Mass in G; PARRY: Songs of Farewell
The Choir of Exeter College, Oxford
The Stapeldon Sinfonia
George De Voil (director)



OVER HILL, OVER DALE
Music for string orchestra by MALCOLM ARNOLD, HAROLD DARKE, EDWARD ELGAR, JOHN IRELAND and HENRY PURCELL
Chamber Ensemble of London
Peter Fisher (director)



JOHN GARDNER Christmas Cantata Christmas Carols Organ Concerto
City of London Choir • The Holst Orchestra
Hilary Davan Wetton (conductor)



GUSTAV HOLST The Coming of Christ and other choral works
City of London Choir • The Holst Orchestra
Hilary Davan Wetton (conductor)
Robert Hardy (reciter)

Single disc £10.00 (RRP £14.99)

Double-disc sets £15.00 (RRP £18.99): EMR CD032-33 and EMR CD082-83

POSTAGE & PACKING: UK – £3.50 for 1 disc; £6.00 for 2-10 discs.

Please contact EM Records for larger quantities or for overseas delivery.

Offer available by sending a cheque payable to "EMF Endeavours Ltd" (including P&P, see above for prices) to EM Records, PO Box 123, Clunton, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 7BP listing the number and titles of discs you would like to buy, along with your name, address and email address or phone number.

Visit www.em-records.com for further details of subscription schemes, audio-clips and to purchase discs or contact Director Em Marshall-Luck at em.marshall-luck@em-records.com or on 07808 473889.

Contents

Vol 21. No. 3 – December 2023
Front Cover: Fox in the snow

- 4** From the Chairman
- 5** Editorial
- 7** My England
- 8** Trust Reports
- 12** Branch News
- 15** Overseas Reports
- 16** Trafalgar Day
- 17** Marching Bands
- 18** Stormy Weather



- 18** Myths and Legends
- 22** St George Around the World
- 23** This Realm, This England
- 25** Memorials of England
- 26** Music of England
- 27** 50/50 Club
- 28** Academic England



- 29** News From the Commonwealth
- 30** Derek Carpenter's Christian England
- 32** Airmen of England
- 34** Hands Across the Water
- 35** St George in ...
- 37** The Transplanting of England
- 38** Architecture of England
- 40** Letters to the Editor
- 41** Gardens of England
- 42** 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** Commonwealth Echoes
- 45** Obituary
- 46** Arts Review
- 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: @RSSStGeorge

LinkedIn – the Royal Society of StGeorge Official Group

Opening times: Monday to Thursday, 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Editor: Stuart Millson

Assistant Editor: Andy Smith

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 Marshal 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 – Andrew Smith FRHistS FCJ – 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

Council Member – Stuart Millson

Council Member – Ben Sear – International Branch Representative

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

Treasurer – Lloyd James

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

USA and Canada Branch Representative – Mark Lanyon

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 THE LATEST edition of the Society's Journal. Another great publication and the result of a lot of hard work from our editorial and design teams. Many thanks to them for everything they do to pull this together.

I hope you have all had a great summer and most of you have had a chance to get away for some time and make the most of some of the nice weather we had.

After a relatively quiet time, things are starting to pick up again now. We've held our AGM in Bristol and our annual Battle of Britain Lunch at the RAF Club. More information about these events is included elsewhere in the Journal. As I write there are a number of Trafalgar lunches and dinners in the diary as well as our Annual Standards Service on 22 October.

Anniversary

Looking ahead to next year, the Society will be celebrating our 130th anniversary. Quite an achievement and something that should be celebrated. Over the years we have had many great English men and women who have been members, many of whom have had a significant impact on our great country – and in some cases the wider world! It's also seen a lot of changes as this country has evolved and how it is viewed – and not all for the better. Whilst I would



The King during his recent state visit to France
 © Crown copyright 2023

encourage branches to commemorate this anniversary, as a Society we will be holding a special banquet at Stationers' Hall in London on 12 July 2024. Please save the date and I hope to see many of you there.

In addition, next year is also the eightieth anniversary of D-Day. There will be many events commemorating this date and the sacrifices made. As a Society we are encouraging members and branches to hold fish and chip lunches or dinners as the National Federation of Fish Friers have moved the 2024 National Fish and Chip Day to the 6 June, to help raise funds for a number of relevant and deserving charities. More details can be found later in this Journal.

As has been previously mentioned, it is very concerning that the pride in our country and our history is in such decline, and in some ways being encouraged amongst younger people in schools and universities, where freedom of speech and ideas appear to be constantly under attack. We as a Society, whilst embracing change for the better, also need to stand up for who we are, our history, traditions, values and ideals.

At our recent AGM, Stuart Millson and Ben Sear were voted onto the Council along with Scott Hanlon, who had his previous co-option confirmed. Stuart is the Editor of this Journal and Ben is picking up the co-ordination with our overseas branches. Welcome to all of you and I look forward to working closely with them and the other members of the Council.

As I've mentioned before, growing our membership is key to the long-term survival of the Society, so please talk to your friends and colleagues about the Society and what we stand for, and encourage them to join and help us as we move forward into the next 130 years with a solid and growing membership base.

And if you'd excuse the proud parent moment, it was a very special honour for our son, James, who recently led the Honour Guard for his ship, *HMS Iron Duke*, to welcome HM The King during his recent state visit to France.

We will continue to keep in regular contact with our branches and members through visits, newsletters and regular zoom calls, but if anyone has any suggestions or comments, I'll always be very pleased to hear from you and hope to be able to meet many of you during the next year.

By the time you receive this, I suspect it will be getting close to Christmas, so may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year.

Best Wishes,
Nick Dutt

AGM:

This year, on 9 September, our AGM was held at the Broad Plain and Riverside Youth Project, Bristol thanks to Dennis and Edna Stinchcombe.

We do try to alternate the location of the AGM each year between London and elsewhere in the country. It was disappointing that only seventeen members were able to attend in person, but eleven members we able to attended via Zoom, making us quorate. We also received thirty-two postal votes.

During the AGM, we were able, with a couple of minor suggested amendments, to approve the changes to the Bye Laws and the new RSSG Regulations. These will now be submitted to the Privy Council for approval.

It was noted that next year the Society will celebrate 130 years since its founding by Howard Ruff. A celebration banquet is being planned for 12 July 2024 at Stationers' Hall, London. More details will follow. This incidentally is also the anniversary of King Athelstan being declared the first 'King of the English' in 927.

Special thanks to RSSG member Angus Scott, who for the last few years has been saving a pound a day, which he donates to the Society at the AGM. At this AGM he drove down from Eastbourne to hand over £728 in cash for the last two years. Many thanks Angus!

I also had the pleasure of presenting a Certificate of Affiliation to the Knights of St Thomas of Canterbury.

I am very grateful to Liz and Jade in the office, the Council and membership for their continued hard work and support over the past year.

It was great to see what Dennis and Edna have achieved at the Broad Plain centre over the forty-eight years they have been there, supporting many young people to give them the best opportunity in life. We had the pleasure of meeting a young lady there, Hollie Haskins, who at sixteen, through the centre's support, is now the NAGBC National Champion, England Boxing National Champion, the TRI Nations Champion and European Champion 2023. Hollie is first and only female champion boxer in Broad Plain's 130 year history. Well done to all involved!

Nick Dutt

Battle Of Britain Lunch

Ninety of us gathered at the RAF Club for our annual Battle of Britain Memorial Lunch, on fittingly Battle of Britain Day itself, 15 September. As usual, it was a fun and very social gathering, and we experienced the excellent fare and service from the club staff. It is a very special and fitting setting for this event.

The Society's own Vice President, ACM Sir



Stephen Dalton, welcomed and proposed the toast to our many visitors. He also introduced our guest speaker, AVM Chris Elliot, who is now the Controller (CEO) of the RAF Benevolent Fund. During her speech, AVM Chris Elliot made a point of remembering the fantastic and brave efforts of the Few and all those that supported them, at such a challenging time, that resulted in Hitler cancelling his planned invasion of these isles and changing the course of the war. She went on to explain what a great job the RAFBF has been doing – and continues to do - to support the RAF community, serving personnel, veterans and their families. They are always in need of more support to keep being able to offer the vital services they provide – that they have been doing since the RAFBF was founded by Lord Trenchard in 1919.

Further information about the RAFBF can be found on their web site www.rafbf.org.



AVM Chris Elliot

EDITORIAL

The thankful villages

MANY YEARS AGO, when working for *This England* magazine, the Editor – the late Roy Faiers, who had also founded the title – asked me to write a piece on 'The Thankful Villages'. The latter were the handful of communities in England to which, at the end of the Great War, all of the men who had answered their country's call, safely returned to their wives and sweethearts. In our relatively comfortable times, we tend to forget about the strain and sacrifice of those far-off years – no TV, radio and internet in those days: just reports in newspapers and the odd letter home (taking some weeks to arrive) from the men at the front.

In the village of East Malling, Kent, there was little to be thankful for in 1918: so many local lads did not return, and you can imagine the great sorrow, which united cottage and manor alike in those desolate post-war years. One of the fallen, a member of the officer-class, Lt. Col. James, was married in the village church in June, 1917: just under a year later, his widow (the daughter of the parish's vicar), was mourning his loss – her husband killed in action.

Recently, people in the village began to notice that the names engraved into the stone of the war memorial were beginning to fade; and that the structure itself was looking a little weather-beaten, even grubby.

Thanks to East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council's Chairman, David Thornewell, putting this local landmark on the agenda, the memorial has now been restored. The story is an example to us all (see page 25).

Now, dear reader . . . if you live in a community where a monument or statue needs restoration or support, or if you have an example of a local hero who has been forgotten or neglected, please contact us. *St George for England* may be able to help publicise your campaign. We need to remember and honour our past, and to ensure that those who fought and died for their country are never forgotten.

Stuart Millson

Corrections and clarifications

Eton Mess, or East Malling 'mess'?! The Editor apologises for letting slip a mistake in the North Downs branch report: 'mess'

should have been 'ness'! Also, a capital offence: englishwoman (page 13) – should have been Englishwoman.

The Beauty of England



River Kent, Kendal



My England

Carl Portman

carl.portman@hotmail.co.uk

THE THING ABOUT THE ENGLISH is that many people the world over believe us to be ‘eccentric’ and I suppose in some part that is true. My dictionary defines eccentricity as ‘deviating from a usual or accepted pattern, and unconventional in manner or appearance.’ Personally, I celebrate this aspect of our culture. Let me share a few gems with you. The eighth Earl of Bridgewater held banquets where he insisted that his guests dressed in formal attire with polished shoes. Nothing unusual in that, except for the fact that all of his guests were dogs. John Mytton, the Sheriff of Shropshire (1796-1834) went hunting naked, owned a

thousand hats and drank eight bottles of port a day. He once astounded his dinner guests by riding into the room on a bear which got so excited that it bit his leg off. He died after setting his shirt alight to try to cure hiccups.

The Countess of Mount Edgcumbe went everywhere with her pig, and the two were inseparable, whilst the second Lord Strathcarron (1924-2006) toured Europe on a motorcycle with his wife Eve strapped to him with a rope in case she fell asleep and a butler followed behind in a three-wheeler accompanied by his favourite parrot. Sir Patrick Moore, the great astronomer was, I am proud to say a personal friend and he was very eccentric in both his attire and his

opinions. He hated the Germans because ‘Hitler killed the only girl I ever loved’ and he was of the opinion that no woman should ever be in control of a ship, because they would surely crash it. You should find him on YouTube.

As for me, I like to keep people guessing. One day I might be wearing a heavy metal tee shirt, the next a smart striped but colourful blazer and straw-boater hat. Then again, my bright orange camouflage trousers enjoy a good run out. Oh, being a chess player is always useful for being pigeon-holed as eccentric, as is being a collector of arachnids. I leave you with ‘dead eccentrics’ and the wonderful epitaph afforded to one Thomas Scaife, who worked on the Birmingham and Gloucester railway but was killed by a boiler explosion in 1840. An eccentric friend wrote...

*My engine now is cold and still
No water does my boiler fill,
My coke affords its flame no more
My days of usefulness are o’er.
My wheels deny their noted speed
No more my guiding hands they heed,
My whistle too has lost its tone
Its shrill and thrilling sounds are gone,
No more I feel each urging breath
My steam is now condens’d in death.*

Yes dear reader, let us celebrate the English eccentric. In some ways they are the people that we all want to be, full of carefree self-expression and mind-boggling creativity. The world would be a much poorer place without them, it would be grey, not colourful. Here’s to the unconventional, the trailblazers and the free spirits.

Carpe diem



Carl and Sir Patrick Moore engaged in battle at the chessboard

Eightieth Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 2024
See page 43 for further details

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2023

Friday, 15 December – City of London Branch Christmas Banquet, Mansion House

2024

Saturday, 20 April – Annual Wreath-laying Ceremony and Cadets’ Parade at the Cenotaph

Friday, 12 July – RSSG 130th Anniversary Banquet, Stationers’ Hall, London

Friday, 6 September – AGM

Friday, 13 September – Battle of Britain Remembrance Lunch, Stationers’ Hall, London

Sunday 27 October – Annual Standards Church Service, St Gerge’s Church, Hanover Square



CHARITABLE TRUST REPORTS



Armonico Consort

On 5 June, Mr A Clive Benfield GCStJ, FRSA, President of The Royal Society of St George, Warwickshire branch, undertook the presentation of the RSSG Charitable Trust grant Certificate to Mr Christopher Monk of Armonico Consort in Warwick. Armonico Consort have undertaken an out-of-hours school project with young people from schools within the local area. This is known as 'A Singing Legacy Project.' There are two choir projects, one for the May Spring half-term holiday with a performance of *Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat* and one during the summer term with a concert in the Caves of Cheddar Gorge. The RSSG Charitable Trust were pleased to be able to match-fund these projects with a grant of £500 with the Warwickshire branch donation of £500, thus a total of £1,000.00 for these young people to perform.



The Commonwealth Resounds, Antigua and Barbuda

After a very short discussion with a member of staff from The Purcell School, I agreed to take part in the Alumni outreach trip with The Commonwealth Resounds. A charity which was created by Alison Cox, OBE, to help different countries within the Commonwealth reach their musical potential. It is also an incredible way for members on the trip to learn lots of new things, ranging from new musical practices, as well as many interesting cultural differences.

The trip was to consist of working with the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) to help them in preparing for three concerts that we would also perform in. One in Antigua and one

in the sister island of Barbuda. This was the first time that the orchestra would play in Barbuda, so this was very exciting. Two of the concerts would be based on the music we were working on together, whilst the other was a composition concert in which the young people would have the opportunity to write music for and have us play it in a concert.

Time to go

Very early on the morning of 8 July 2023, I met up with two other members of the trip to head to Gatwick airport. There was some nervousness between us, but mostly excitement. We were not sure exactly what we were going to be doing throughout the next two weeks, but we had been assured it would be an incredible trip.

On arriving at the hotel, tired and hungry, we had planned to chill out and get some dinner. Within two minutes we had been asked if we would go and play on a local radio station, hosted by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda! We of course accepted excitedly and a wind quintet of us hopped into a mini bus and made our way to the radio station. As we had never played together before, we sang through our parts on the bus, (rather badly) but thankfully when we played on the radio, it was not too bad!

Rehearsals

The next day after a hearty breakfast, we swam in the sea for a bit before getting ready to head out. We were heading to a cricket stadium in Antigua which was huge! We had very kindly been allowed to use it as the venue to help with rehearsals for the next few days.

On arriving at the cricket stadium, we met the young musicians we would be working with and started by doing some basic warm ups and exercises to get to know each other. Due to the horn player I was supposed to be working with being unable to attend, I was given two complete beginners to work with for the duration of the course. I was able to integrate them into sectionals and rehearsals for some of the time to allow them to observe rehearsals.

Over the next few days, the orchestra made huge progress in working on the small details of the music. They had worked really hard prior to us coming in the repertoire, so it was really nice to be able to go and support their continued progress.

On 15 July we undertook our first concert



which was an accumulation of the music we had worked on over the week. It went really well. The music was a mix of Disney classics and other pieces which really showed the talent of the young musicians, including instrumental and vocal solos.

Barbuda

The next morning we had to wake up early to catch the two hour ferry to the island of Barbuda. I am not affected by motion sickness thankfully, but it's fair to say I was in the minority there! It was an interesting boat trip. The views were stunning.

On arriving in Barbuda, it was clear to see they were still struggling from the aftermath of hurricane Irma in 2017. There were very few people around and resources seemed to be a lot less readily available, unlike in Antigua. The people we did meet were wonderfully kind and helpful.

After the concert being delayed due to some necessary equipment not being available, we sat down to start the concert. The decision to have the concert outside was in part due to the beautiful surroundings, but mostly due to the size of the orchestra not being able to fit inside any of the buildings in Barbuda. This seemed like a wonderful idea, but aside from the incredibly hot sun, it started raining about two-thirds into the concert! We unfortunately had to stop playing to ensure that no instruments were damaged due to the conditions, but the audience were incredibly grateful regardless and enjoyed what they heard. It was a very special day.

The next day we set off back to the cricket stadium to perform in the composition concert. It was incredible to see how much work the young people had put into their creations, even whilst being so busy working with us! It was lovely to hear all of their compositions come to life and felt like a pivotal moment for the musical future of Antigua and Barbuda. Many of the young musicians had not ventured into composition before, but it was clear that many of them wanted to keep exploring this element of music and creating more music in the future.

Tour of Antigua

On the final day of the trip, we were treated to an island tour of Antigua. We got to see a lot about its dark history surrounding slavery which was both thought provoking and incredibly sad. We also got to see many wonderful parts of the island and got to understand the local way of living better and meet new and wonderful people.

After spending time looking around the island, we were then taken to see sting rays and even had the opportunity to swim with them. After this, we were taken to a small island which was the home of many tortoises. As a big tortoise lover, this was one of the highlights of the trip!

In the evening following this, we went to watch the local steel pan band play. I have seen steel pans being played before, but nothing compared to the incredible spectacle that was the steel pan band in Antigua. The band consisted of over 100 players and each player had to learn the music for memory and play difficult intricate music strictly in time. I don't think there's a way of describing how amazing it was, but it is something I will never forget. Although they were rehearsing for an upcoming competition, they were very generous with their time and allowed us to have a go at playing, as well as playing many well-known songs to us, which was exceptionally kind.

The next day we had to say a sad goodbye to Antigua and Barbuda. It had been an incredible trip in which we met some of the most wonderful people and experienced new and exciting things we could not have dreamed of. It was a massive honor to be allowed to take part on this trip and I hope the work we did with the young people was helpful and enjoyable for them too!

I have to say a massive thank you to The Royal Society of St George as without their incredible support, it may not have been possible for me to take part in this trip. Their incredible generosity and support is more appreciated than I could ever explain and I thank the wonderful work they do for other people too!

Hamish Webb, 29 August 2023



Burnley Road Bowling Green Club

Our club – Burnley Road Bowling Green Club, planned a Funday on Sunday, 23 July 2023 to allow the club members and children an opportunity to use the Bowling Buddies junior bowls sets on the bowling green, paid for via a grant from RSSG Charitable Trust. However, the weather was atrocious, so as not to lose the opportunity we set up the bowling challenges within the club house, within a very restricted space, showing how adaptable the bowls set could be. Our bowlers assisted, providing guidance to both non bowlers and their children; outcome – a good day was had by all.

Sunday, 20 August, we tried again, great weather this time. Bowling activities were taking place all over the bowling green; although there were fewer children/adults on the day, due to school holidays, our bowlers again provided guidance to all the children and members who participated on the day. Bowlers and users were impressed with

the versatility of the Bowling Buddies sets, during the day the bowlers and club agreed that we could extend use of the sets, attempt to set up a Bowling academy for children on a Saturday morning in season, hold more bowling/fun days at the club during the summer months as well as sending letters out to the local schools as soon as possible, with one school already confirming attendance in 2024.

Treasurer, Burnley Road Bowling Green Club, 31-August-2023



'Project John Ltd'

The RSSG Furness branch Chairman, Paul Broom, along with RSSG Furness branch Council Member, Rachel Diss, had great pleasure in being able to undertake the Presentation of the RSSG Charitable Trust grant Certificate along with the match-funded cheque totalling £984.00.

The Presentation was made to Representatives of 'Project John Ltd' an organisation who provide assistance to young people, aged between sixteen and twenty-four, to secure affordable accommodation within the Barrow-in-Furness area. The organisation also offers help and guidance with the many challenging aspects for young people, which includes; benefit advice, accommodation advice and options, debt management and budgeting, employability skills, independent living skills, legal advice, and early help assessments.

The RSSG Charitable Trust grant was to assist towards activities for the young people who live within the Project John's supported accommodation.

RSSG Furness branch, 22 September 2023



The Royal Hospital Chelsea

On Monday, 4 September 2023, joined by my fellow RSSG Charitable Trust Trustee, Shirley Hankers, RSSG Chairman (and

ex-officio Trustee), Nick Dutt had great pleasure in joining with Alan Broomhead, Chairman of the RSSG City of Westminster branch, Westminster branch Secretary, Annabelle Emney and Westminster branch Council Member, Louise Fairweather to undertake the RSSG Charitable Trust match-funded donation of £500.00, making a total of £1,000.00 donated to The Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Our match-funded donation was to assist with the important veteran care work which we hope will help make a vital difference to the lives of all current and future Chelsea Pensioners.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea has provided a safe haven for Army veterans for over 331 years. It was interesting to learn from Mr Allan McLaren, Head of Fundraising and Business Development, how the 'First Pensions' were chosen also the site on which the Royal Hospital Chelsea now stands. I was particularly impressed with the length of time Mr McLaren, dedicated to us for the day and his knowledge, despite his modesty was excellent and his good humour made our visit all the more special. We also had an insight, from Mike, one of the 'Trainee Guide' Chelsea Pensioners, (you have to have lived at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for two-years before you can be accepted as a 'Guide'). Mike's training certainly was coming into practice with his informing us of many other features of the early Pensioners lives at the Hospital compared to those current inhabitants.

My overriding thoughts are that this was an excellent day, a unique opportunity to see one of our historic institutions and especially to meet some of the fascinating characters that live there.

Going into more detail I would add that it was fascinating to gain a glimpse of how the Chelsea Pensioners live and how they used to live, to understand something of its history and origins. Seeing the Great Hall and Pensioners Club were of particular interest to me, so to be fortunate enough to dine there and enjoy a glass of Chelsea Pensioner Ale was a real treat.

I wasn't aware, until that day, of the connection Margaret Thatcher had to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, in particular her raising of funds for the infirmary in her name and I was surprised to find this is where she, in the beautiful Wren Chapel, worshipped, with it being her, living very close, 'local church'. She is buried along with her husband Dennis, in the Cemetery in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. For me this was an added interest that made for a very enjoyable and memorable day.

Pre-arranged Visits and Tours can be arranged via the RHC website. I do recommend, if you can, a visit.

*Lloyd James, RSSG Charitable Trust Treasurer
RSSG Wiltshire branch Chairman* ▶



Twenty-fifth World Scout Jamboree - South Korea

Thank you so much for your generous support for the jamboree, the Jamboree was amazing, and I wouldn't have been able to go if it wasn't for you, I really appreciate it. The whole experience from every training camp, getting to meet so many new people, make new friends and experience new cultures, I am so grateful. Thank you so much, this trip gave me so many memories that I will cherish for a lifeBme.

The experiences and memories I gained from the jamboree are invaluable. Furthermore, it helped me grow further as a person by helping me develop my social skills, resilience, adaptability to change and so many skills I would have not gained anywhere else. Even though the time at the physical jamboree site was limited, I still made friends from all over the world who I hope to keep in contact with for as long as possible.

I am so thankful for going to the jamboree that I am going to try my best to help as many other people as possible with their personal jamboree journey.

I'm doing this in the spirit of paying forward the kindness you showed me. Currently, I'm going to help on the next selecton event for the next international Girl-guiding trip and I'm going to run more sessions at the Brownie unit I already volunteer with.

I have added photos from some of my favourite memories on the trip. From the sun setting over the jamboree itself to seeing traditional Korean dancing, trying on traditional dress, visiting markets, and going to two separate stadiums for a concert and a baseball game. I am so



grateful for each and every one of these experiences and will remember it for a lifetime. Thank you so much.

Alice O'Neill

Callum Wheatley

Member of Spinnaker Explorer Unit. Young leader at Windmill Hill in Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs.

Dragon City

Dragon City was where we spent most of our World Scout Jamboree. During our stay, we got treated to an all-you-can-eat breakfast.

Our first half of the stay was at the Ibis Hotel in Dragon City, this hotel was four stars and had a shop built in. The second half of our stay was in the Novotel which was the five-star hotel in Dragon City, We were treated to great views and only two people per room.



Seoul E Land Football

UK scouts got a very warm welcome to the football match and the atmosphere was amazing, there were chants, songs, and even Mexican waves. We managed to interact with so many other UK scouts during this trip.

Colour Museum

The colour museum was extremely fun as there were giant ball pits and different picture opportunities as well.

Korean War Memorial

The Korean War Memorial was a great visit during our time in Seoul as we learned a lot about Korean history, and it was fun to see all the vehicles and weapons used during the Korean War.



Culture Day

Since we unfortunately didn't get the chance to have our culture day on the campsite, we came together at SaRang church to embrace each others culture and listen to Korean music, and watch a traditional Korean performance.



Closing Ceremony Gangnam

A small part of Seoul that is very well known for the famous Gangnam style dance and was very very cool to visit as we got to stand under the famous statue in Gangnam.

Traditional Korean Palace DMZ

The DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) was created after North Korea and South Korea ceased fire on 27 July 1953. The Demilitarized Zone is still active as the Korean war hasn't stopped and is a line to hold peace.

Water Sports

The water sports was a great chance to cool down and just to let go, everyone had so much fun doing this it was incredible.

Bears Baseball Match

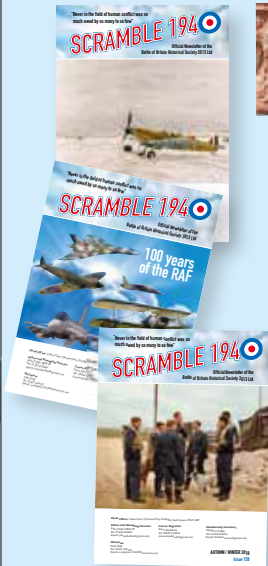
The baseball match was great as we got a chance to interact with people from all around the UK and watch some great baseball.

Last Day

On the last day, we got the freedom to do what we haven't done yet. Me and my friends decided to get the metro to explore a random South Korean city. Whilst we were there, we treated ourselves to Starbucks and pizza. We were then fortunate to be able to watch an amazing sunset as we were returning home.



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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BRANCHES

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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

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

In August Branch members enjoyed a lovely summer lunch at Egypt Mill, Nailsworth. The former mill is Grade II* listed. The oldest parts of the building date from the fourteenth century, but the majority dates from the sixteenth century. The building and surrounding gardens are well maintained and there were many baskets and pots of flowers, so an attractive venue. Pat Ayres, Branch Chairman, put together a quiz on the county of Gloucestershire, which was much enjoyed, despite some of us realising we are not as knowledgeable about some parts of our large county as we thought (or perhaps should be!). A small prize was given to the winner and runner up.

In September the Branch took part in the annual Gloucester Day Parade, which celebrates the lifting of the siege of Gloucester in 1643. The Branch Standard was paraded by Carole Hoban, Branch Standard Bearer. Several hundred representing charities, county organisations and membership groups, marched behind St George (also known as Phil Pembridge) on his charger, the Mayor and councillors. A large crowd watched as they wound through the streets of the city.

In October Branch member, Lt. Col. (ret'd) John Lee, presented to a well-attended meeting 'A Tale of Two Cities'. This covered the history of one city, Ypres, but in two incarnations - pre and post World War I. The seed of John's interest was planted when he saw the name 'Ypres' in a book as a child and wondered about the pronunciation. John and his wife, Pat, have visited Ypres and the surrounding area many times and have become very familiar with the history. John has laid a Remembrance wreath at the Menin Gate, Ypres, for Gloucestershire Branch on many occasions.

John told members that the city grew from an ancient town, known to have existed at the time of the Romans. It is probably named after the River Ieperlee on the banks of which it was founded.

During the Middle Ages Ypres was a prosperous Flemish city with a population of 40,000 and renowned for its linen trade with England. It played an important role in the history of the textile industry, but in the thirteenth century a major fire ruined much of the old city. The famous Cloth Hall was built after this fire. During this time cats, then a symbol of the devil and witchcraft, were thrown off Cloth Hall, possibly because of the belief that this would get rid of evil demons. Today, this act is commemorated with a triennial Cat Parade.

The city passed through French and Spanish hands and became part of the Austrian Netherlands. It had long been fortified to keep out invaders. Parts of early ramparts from the fourteenth century still survive near the Rijsepoort (Lille Gate). Over time earthworks were replaced by sturdier masonry and a partial moat. Major works were completed at the end of the seventeenth century by the French.

So this first city of Ypres passed through several regimes, experiencing prosperity and upheaval - but then came World War I.

Ypres occupied a strategic position because it stood in the path of Germany's planned sweep across Belgium and into France from the north. During the five battles of Ypres there was huge cost to human life and the city itself was nearly obliterated. English-speaking soldiers often referred to Ypres by the deliberate mispronunciation 'Wipers'. British soldiers published a wartime newspaper called *The Wipers Times*. In 1920 King George V awarded the Military Cross to the City of Ypres, one of only two awards of this decoration to a municipality during World War I, the other being Verdun.

Winston Churchill proposed leaving Ypres as a mausoleum and by late 1920 the decision had been made by the British Government that the Menin Gate and its



A sea of poppies at the Menin Gate (photo by John Lee)

immediate surroundings would be used as a memorial. However, the Belgians had already begun to rebuild the area and so the second city of Ypres in John's 'Tale of Two Cities' arose, using money paid by Germany in reparations. The main square, including the Cloth Hall and Town Hall, was rebuilt as close to the original designs as possible. The Cloth Hall today is home to In Flanders Fields Museum, dedicated to Ypres's role in the First World War and named for the poem by John McCrae.

The Menin Gate Memorial bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. The memorial, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick, was unveiled by Lord Plumer on 24 July 1927. Since 1928 every evening, at exactly eight o'clock, the buglers of The Last Post Association have played their moving tribute. In early 2023 the monument was closed for extensive restoration works, expected to be completed in time for the memorial's centenary in 2027. A number of Branch members will be laying wreaths at Remembrance Day Services around Gloucestershire this year.

John was thanked for a carefully researched and extremely interesting presentation.

The next event in the Branch's calendar will be the annual New Year Lunch on Sunday, 7 January 2024 at Bowden Hall Hotel, Gloucester. Planning for the forty-fourth St George's Day Service to be held on Tuesday, 23 April 2024, at St. Barnabas Church, Gloucester, is well underway.

The committee is putting together what they hope will be an attractive variety of events and visits for next year and, once confirmed, details will be posted on the Branch page on the Society's website. Alternatively contact Margaret Fuller, Branch Secretary, by email at glosrsg@btinternet.com or by telephone 01291 625059.



Gloucestershire Branch Standard with St. George on Gloucester Day 2023

NORTH DOWNS

Past President: Gp. Capt. Patrick Tootal, OBE

It has been a busy year for the North Downs Branch. Deputy Chairman, Wing Commander Mike Sutton (accompanied by stalwart members of his family!) led us in a further fundraising event at the Larkfield Summer Fair, generating much-needed income for local charities.

One of our beneficiaries is the relatively new unit of the Sea Cadets, based at the Malling School. The budding Royal Naval recruits were out in force on Sunday 23rd July for the Patronal Festival of St. James the Great, at which the Bishop of Rochester, The Rt. Revd. Dr. Jonathan Gibbs, blessed the foundation stones of the church's new community room.

Our Branch is proud of its association with the Cadets ~ the church community and the wider village sharing in that sense of pride at the appearance of this friendly and disciplined group of young people.



The ceremony at St. James the Great Church, East Malling

SEAHAVEN

Ann Abbott

August is the month when we let our hair down and have a lovely summer picnic in a local hall. Most of our Members are past the days of sitting on the grass and enjoy a proper chair and table in the hall. It is a bring and share event which makes our meal varied and delicious. We also had a light-hearted quiz prepared by our President which produced much laughter and dare we report – a lot of cheating!

We were once again fulfilling our serious role later in August by the laying of a Wreath of Remembrance for the eighty-first Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. On 19 August 1942 the Canadians, stationed locally, were heavily involved in this raid. They departed from Newhaven East Sussex. Many never returned and their names are read aloud each year at the Canadian Memorial, Newhaven East



Nick Dutt with Sir Peter Field and National Standard Bearer Frank Holland

Sussex. The event was attended by the Deputy Lieutenant for East Sussex Brigadier Anthony Lamb, MBE, VR, on behalf of The King, LCDR Brian J. Mombourquette and Warrant Officer Naomi Franklin Canadian Armed Forces CFSU Det London, Mr Allan Bishop Canadian Flag Bearer and Cllr Julie Carr Mayor of Newhaven together with other dignitaries. The Canadian, French and British National Anthems were all sung and Wreaths were laid by many local organisations together with our own Wreath laid by our Chairman

Our Battle of Britain dinner was well attended by Members and our after dinner speaker, Sqn Ldr Bill Giles, entertained us with personal reminiscences of his service in the RAF but he also spoke of the magnificent sacrifices made during the Battle of Britain and also the Dieppe Raid in which the RAF was heavily involved.

Trafalgar Day was celebrated with a formal dinner and an interesting talk about Admiral Lord Nelson's life and

achievements from his earliest days as a Midshipman up to the glorious victory at Cape Trafalgar and his subsequent tragic death.

The evening was further enhanced by the presentation by National Chairman, Nick Dutt of a Certificate to Sir Peter Field, KCVO, KstJ, JP, past Lord Lieutenant for East Sussex in respect of Sir Peter becoming a Vice President of The Royal Society of St George. Sir Peter, a branch member, will, we know, bring his extensive experience to The Society in his role as a Vice President.

The day after Trafalgar Day, several Members attended the beautiful Service held at St George's Church Hanover Square, London. It is always an honour to attend with other Branches on these special occasions and to enjoy this Annual Service. The Service was further glorified by the magnificent singing of the Choir.



Nick Dutt presents a certificate to Sir Peter Field



Sqn Ldr Bill Giles

BRANCH SPOTLIGHT

ST NEOTS

Events Officer: Sue Barnes

We held our first informal event on St George's Day in 2006 and some seventeen years later we are going strong.

Our foundation certificate was presented in February 2007 by RSSG Chairman James E. Newton (pictured below with Mayor of St Neots and Branch President Cllr Paul Ursell, Member of Parliament Jonathan Djanogly, Chairman John Dickinson and Keith Whittingham) at a formal event supported by many local charities, community, ex-services and sporting groups.

Since being formed, the St Neots Branch has held three major celebrations each year for St George's Day, a black tie Trafalgar



dinner and a summer commemoration of Waterloo Day.

The branch has frequent group cultural and heritage tours and events ranging from the Newmarket Stud, stately homes, battle prom concerts and Shakespeare performances. An unforgettable tour was of the Tower of London and Ceremony of the Keys. Through the Societies central office connection with the Beefeaters, we were privileged to be invited for supper in the Beefeater's private bar.

The St Neots Branch makes charitable donations to good causes in our community. More recently we have introduced a monthly lunch club which has been very popular with members, their friends and families.

Flags for children

At the recent Coronation weekend our members could be seen giving hundreds of free goodie bags and England flags to children attending the local miniature railway. We hope to further extend our engagement with the local community. In collaboration with the English Tug-of-War Association we have obtained Council funding to hold a Tug-of War event for local groups and promoting traditional English sports and pastimes.

Our committee meets on a regular basis to discuss forthcoming events, the next

one being our Black Tie Trafalgar Dinner where we will finalise the format for the evening as well as arrange entertainment and, of course, traditional singing and flag waving to conclude the evening.

The St Neots Branch held their Trafalgar Dinner at St Neots Golf Club on Saturday, 21 October. There was a great turnout of members and their guests who enjoyed a superb menu and wine. Thanks to all the staff at the Golf Club for providing an excellent service.

Alex Turner entertained us with monologues based on Trafalgar and *HMS Victory*. Mike Van de Kerkhove also provided tales from Davy Jones Locker, both of which were very interesting and raised a few laughs.

The evening was concluded with the traditional singing and flag waving.



Trafalgar Dinner at St Neots Golf Club

TAUNTON AND EXMOOR

Chairman: Cllr. Martin G Straus

Members of the Branch Committee have been active during the year. Our Chairman Martin Straus was elected to the new Taunton Town Council in May and has become its Deputy Leader. Paul Smith, our Public Relations Officer, now looks after marketing for Taunton Town Football Club, which has been achieving great success. We have sadly had resignations by our Treasurer, Terry Warner and our Secretary, Christine Holyoake, both of whom have moved. We are grateful for their



Vivary Park Gates

contributions and are currently seeking a new Secretary and a Treasurer.

St Martin of Tours

On St George's Day our Chaplain, the Reverend Adrian Prior-Sankey, MBE, conducted a service attended by 2,000 members of the Scout and Guide movements and their families in Taunton's beautiful Vivary Park ('Vivary' referring to the location's former use as fish ponds for successive Bishops of Winchester who regularly entertained royalty in their Castle located in the heart of the town). He spoke of the example of selfless service rendered by St Martin of Tours who cut his cloak to warm a freezing beggar. The historic word for cape led, in time, to the label 'Chaplain'

In recognition of his many years of service to the Christian Church in the county, the Bishop of Bath and Wells installed Adrian as an ecumenical Prebendary of Wells Cathedral (a member of the College of Canons) during a service of Evensong on 26 September. Branch members have offered their congratulations for this rare honour, only the third such appointment in the Cathedral's long history.

Paul Stewart, a Taunton resident, has made a film about Myer Jacobs, the first



Reverend Adrian Prior-Sankey

Mayor of Taunton when the Mayoralty was reinstated in 1877. (The Town Charter had been withdrawn in 1650 for disloyalty.) Mr Jacobs was an Orthodox Jew, and an objection was raised by a local vicar, as he had not been baptised. There was significant correspondence in the Press (which reached as far as Jamaica), but the appointment was subsequently upheld. If interested, these are the links.

The trailer: <https://vimeo.com/825104651>.
The full film: <https://vimeo.com/845558889>

We are working towards a recruitment campaign and plans are already afoot to share in the Beacon-lighting activities across the County to mark the eightieth anniversary of D-Day on 6 June 2024.

OVERSEAS BRANCH NEWS

KUALA LUMPUR AND SELANGOR

President: Ray Bolland

It was a momentous year for the Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Branch, as we reached our Centenary and celebrated with a Gala Dinner styled with a Gatsby/Roaring Twenties theme. Not very English, but what an opportunity for our members and guests to dress in style.

As the evening opened with welcome drinks, we had a close-up magician walking round, amazing guests with his dexterous sleight of hand. Once seated, a local dance troupe launched in to the Charleston with vim, vigour and no small measure of skill and flair. Following the dance, they taught some basic moves to our lady members, which was highly amusing.

HE Charles Hay, MVO, the then British High Commissioner gave a very amusing valedictory speech, concluding

his attendance at Loyal Society Events with the same event as his first in 2019. Our special guest, Alex Yoong, who was Malaysia's first ever F1 driver, gave an entertaining speech, with honest opinions about the state of Malaysian sports. Through the generosity of a wide range of sponsors, we held a very successful raffle. As well as the food, GandTs, wines, beers, ports plus Stilton and a birthday cake were enjoyed by all.

Next year's event will have a Bond theme and is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 20 April.

We also ran a number of smaller weekly events each month – Midweek Lunch, Sunday Roast Lunch, Quiz Night and Indoor Golf. Quarterly, we hold tasting classes on beverages such as gin, rum and tequila. Our next tasting is on craft beer, in January. We are also trying to fit in a wine tasting evening, to give members the opportunity

to stock up for Christmas. On a similar note, we are currently running a Christmas Cocktail Competition, in conjunction with one of our favourite bars, where the winners' concoctions will be sold over the Christmas season.

We recently held our Trafalgar Night Dinner, with the High Comm's Defence Advisor and his Deputy gracing us with their presence and a fair amount of banter too.

We close off our events this year with a Christmas Lunch on Sunday, 10 December, with soup, turkey and all the trimmings, homemade Christmas pud, cheeseboard, singsongs and silly games.

Our membership has been steadily growing since our Centenary Dinner and now stands just over 100. We hope to increase this number as 2024 goes on, by developing our existing events and formulating new ideas.



Gatsby themed Centenary Dinner



Ray Bolland giving the President's speech



Teaching the Charleston Moves

PARIS

Our man in Paris, Andrew Simpkin, was invited to the Arc de Triomphe and the Senate to meet King, Queen and President during the recent Royal visit to France.

Andrew reports that crowds yelled: 'Vive le Roi!' as the Royal party enjoyed the Parisian atmosphere and welcome. Our correspondent informs us that he also appeared for us on French television, discussing the Royal visit and the meaning of monarchy.



His Majesty the King is saluted by a Royal Naval officer (the son of our National Chairman, Nick Dutt). The scene is from the last day of the Royal tour, a visit to HMS Iron Duke at Bordeaux.



The King and I... Andrew shakes hands with our monarch, as His Majesty and President Macron greet well-wishers



Andrew Simpkin on French TV. Astonishingly, Andrew gave over twenty hours of interviews for the networks!

TRAFALGAR DAY

Nelson remembered

Andy Smith

A very moving ceremony was held in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral on the eve of Trafalgar Day, at the tomb of our great national hero, Admiral Lord Nelson.

RSSG Council members Commander James Nisbet and Andy Smith represented the Society at this ceremony, which is an annual event organised by the 1805 Club in conjunction with St Paul's Cathedral.

The 1805 Club commemorates Horatio Nelson and the sailors of the Royal Navy whose victory at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805 made England safe from invasion by the Emperor Napoleon.

Nelson's fleet of twenty-seven British ships faced a combined French and Spanish fleet of thirty-three ships under Admiral Villeneuve. By the end of the battle the British had captured twenty of the enemy ships and even captured Admiral Villeneuve himself. No British ships were lost.

It was one of the most decisive battles ever fought at sea. This stunning British victory can be attributed to Nelson's brilliant leadership and tactical genius,

and the courage and superior training of Britain's Navy, especially the gunnery skills of our sailors.

Nelson was mortally wounded at the height of the battle and died at the moment of victory.

Hundreds of thousands of people crowded the streets of central London to watch his funeral procession three months later; it has been described as the largest public event ever in the history of London.

More than 200 years later, Nelson is still regarded as one of our nation's greatest heroes.

The RSSG is honoured to be able to take part in the annual service for Lord Nelson at St Paul's Cathedral. We organise our own events, nationally and at branch level, to celebrate Nelson's victory at Trafalgar, but the wreath-laying ceremony and service in the crypt of our 'national cathedral' is one of the highlights.

Wreaths were laid at Lord Nelson's tomb by representatives of the 1805 Club, the Society for Nautical Research, the Sea Cadets, and the RSSG.



The monument to Lord Nelson in the cathedral.

"ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY."



The resting place of the victor of Trafalgar, with some of the other wreaths – including that of the Sea Cadets and 1805 Club



RSSG Council members Andy Smith and Cdr James Nisbet, RN



Cdr Nisbet with the RSSG wreath at Nelson's tomb

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.

A RSSG Branch Band?

Stephen A Warden, JP. President, Leicestershire Branch

IN RECENT TIMES, I have detected a slight but perceptible increase in the interest of the marching band. For my part, my life long connection with producing community music started as a Boy's Brigade bugler with the Sixteenth Leicester Company. There was a break from band connections, but not music, for most my working life when in the army and 999 services. On early retirement twenty years ago, I picked up music making again with enthusiasm. Self-taught, I have been a church organist, played brass and wind instruments as well as managed two bands and founded one a decade ago which is still going strong. I will condense into this article a subject worthy of a book.

Band Leader

As with all band types, the main hurdles are acquiring a band leader, also called the conductor, the band members, music scores, uniforms and instruments. A band leader not only needs to understand the band instruments used, but have also a good theoretical knowledge of music notation and interpretation as well as being personable. I have known some good musicians who failed as band leaders because their personality unnecessarily alienated band members. As for a uniform, to keep costs down, a good few community bands are using clothes from retail outlets by asking members to have their own black skirts/trousers and shoes with a simple same coloured fleece or jacket.

Band Members

Band members are out there, it just takes time to encourage them to step forward. Many adults in society have a longing to play music and secretly strum, bash or blow at home. Advertising widely a new band forming up which will train members does yield results in towns and cities. The old saying applies here, "if you build it, they will come". So, what does it take to create a band?



Drum and Bugle Band

The answer stems from deciding which type of band fits the purpose. If you want a band to lead parades, provide a bugler[s] for ceremonies or put on a static show at summer fetes or galas, then a drum and bugle band will do just fine and is the easiest to create. The side drum, which hangs from a sling just below drummer's belt line, is pretty well known so no need to describe how to hit a drum skin here. A new bugle will cost approx. £275.00. However, usable one's are available on a well-known auction site for a s little as £50.00. Pre-owned side drums are not commonly sold so a new one will cost approx. £350.00.

The brass Bugle is not quite so well-known these days. A simple Bb [B flat] brass instrument to learn, it only plays five natural notes; mid C G C E G. All achieved with very slight lip movements called the 'embouchure'. With these five notes, not only bugle calls, the most well-known being *Last Post* of course, can be played but there are many tunes available. All bugles can be in Bb so they can all play from the same music copy. Once trained, a drum and bugle band can make quite a good musical catchy sound, and you do not need many band members. Two side drummers and six buglers is a reasonable start. If marching is on the agenda, a bass drummer will be useful to keep the music timing and help keep step.

Brass Band

Brass bands, as the name indicates, use only brass instruments, traditionally cornets,

flugels, tenor horns, baritones, trombones, euphoniums and basses. All the instruments listed above will be in three or four different keys. In other words, they could not use the same music copy to play from. Therefore, music scores will be more expensive than a bugle band to buy. All brass band members have their own instruments of choice and many their own music stand so get the members and you get the instruments also. A brass band can also put on concerts which brings in revenue

Wind Band

Finally we come to the wind band. Here, all forms of wind instruments can be included; trumpets, cornets, flugels, flutes, saxophones, clarinets, tenor horns, trombones, bassoons, euphoniums, basses as examples. The main differences between the wind band and the bugle band is the wind band can achieve a greater harmonic and textured sound. Side and bass drummers will be required if a marching wind band is part of the plan. Creating a wind band is much the same as creating a bugle band but with additional considerations for the band leader. Most wind instrumentalists will have their own instrument of choice so recruited members and instruments may well appear as one. As with the brass band, a wind band can also put on concerts which brings in revenue.

Hopefully the above answers some questions about creating a band of some simple or more complicated type. Once you have the branch asset of a band, they will need somewhere to rehearse and store the band equipment and music library.

A satellite image of a large hurricane or tropical storm over the ocean. The storm has a distinct eye and is surrounded by dense, swirling cloud bands. The surrounding ocean is dark blue, and some landmasses are visible at the bottom of the frame.

STORMY WEATHER

How Storms Develop

AGNES, BABET, CIARÁN, DEBI, Elin, Fergus, Gerrit . . . what do these names have in common? They are the given names to the 2023/24 storms and they go on until the end of the alphabet. At the time of writing, autumn this year has seen the first three named storms to hit the UK: Agnes, Babet and Ciarán.

What is low pressure?

Low pressure is a type of weather system which brings cloud, wind and rain to the UK. If the low pressure system is intense enough, it may become a named storm.

The UK is positioned on the globe just where cold polar air from the north meets warmer tropical air from the south, these cross at what is known as the polar front. Above where the polar and tropical air masses meet a stream of strong wind is formed, known as the jet stream.

Jet streams are bands of strong winds, reaching up to 200 mph. They can be found at six to ten miles above the Earth's surface (at about the cruising altitude of commercial aeroplanes). They can move weather systems around the globe. In winter, the jet stream separates cold, Arctic air from warmer large-scale tropical air of the mid-Atlantic. The jet streams location varies due to fluctuations in the environment.

The storms mostly form in the winter months. When the temperature differentiations between the polar and tropical air masses are at their greatest is when storms usually form. This mostly occurs during the winter. The polar front becomes unbalanced, which in turn allows large disturbances in the form of vortices or cyclones to form.

These instabilities can cause waves or disruptions along the jet stream, which can cause the formation of Atlantic depressions to further deepen at the surface as they are steered towards the UK, so they are significant to the UK's weather.

So, warm air rising creates a low pressure zone at the surface. Air from the surrounding area is sucked into the space left by the rising air. The strong winds of the jet stream within the upper atmosphere, remove and replace rising air from the Atlantic more rapidly than the air is replaced at lower levels, and therefore reduces the pressure in the centre of the cyclone. This larger-than-normal low pressure at the Earth's surface produces the strong winds of winter storms. Additionally, heavy rain is created by the collision of the two differing air masses.

The deep low pressure systems, that are comparatively widespread over the North



Atlantic, frequently track past the north coast of Britain and Ireland and on into the North and Norwegian Seas. However, they can sometimes track at lower latitudes where they can affect almost any country in Europe.

The "Great Storm" produced winds of ninety-eight miles per hour at Gorleston in Norfolk on 16 October 1987; winds of ninety-two miles per hour were recorded at Wattisham in Suffolk on 25 and 26 January 1990 (the Burns Day Storm); and at Andrewsfield in Essex winds of seventy-nine miles per hour were recorded on 27 and 28 October 2013 (St Jude's Storm).

To be classified as a hurricane a storm must have sustained wind speeds of seventy-four miles per hour and over.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale¹

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a one to five rating based only on a hurricane's maximum sustained wind speed. This scale does not take into account other potentially deadly hazards such as storm surge, rainfall flooding, and tornadoes.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale estimates potential property damage. While all hurricanes produce life-threatening winds, hurricanes rated category three and higher are known as major hurricanes. Major hurricanes can cause devastating to catastrophic wind damage and significant loss of life simply due to the strength of their winds. Hurricanes of all categories can produce deadly storm surge, rain-induced floods, and tornadoes. These hazards require people to take protective action, including evacuating from areas vulnerable to storm surge.

Having said that, hurricanes cannot form at the latitudes of the UK. They require much higher temperatures at the sea surface to develop than exist close to the UK. However, if a hurricane travels towards the pole, it can make a transition into an extratropical or post-tropical storm. The UK is sometimes affected by extratropical storms such as ex-Hurricane Ophelia in 2017. Occasionally, very low pressure at

UK latitudes can produce near hurricane strength winds. The most widely publicised such depression occurred on 16 October 1987, known as The Great Storm.

This years autumn storms

The storms since August have been caused by an unusually strong jet stream that has moved further south than is usual for this time of year.

The first named storm was Agnes which hit in September – unusually early. This was followed by Babet which became cut off from the jet stream, causing it to stall over the UK. Slow-moving storms such as Babet can produce more persistent rainfall over one region and cause flooding and are predicted to become more common in a warmer climate. Loss of life was reported in the UK.

Storm Ciarán – an extra-tropical cyclone, unusual among North Atlantic storms, which rarely produce both heavy rain and high winds over large areas made landfall on 1 November in south-west England. It produced heavy rain and wind speeds of up to 108 miles per hour.

Low pressure in the eye of the cyclone deepened rapidly as it moved over the UK, dropping by more than twenty-four millibars in twenty-four hours to a near-record low of 953 millibars.

More wet and windy conditions ahead?

Winter storms that hit northern Europe could unleash heavier rainfall in future due to climate change, as warmer air holds more moisture. Scientists are less certain about how wind will differ in future storms, as the relevant processes, such as those causing changes in the jet stream, are more complicated.

However, research suggests that storms which combine high winds and extreme rainfall, like Ciarán, will happen more often over northern Europe in future. This will compound the risks of climate change as the effects of flooding and wind damage accumulate.

¹ National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center.

Left: Hurricane Isabel about 400 miles north of Puerto Rico on 14 September 2003. At the time, Isabel was generating maximum sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, making it a rare and powerful Category five hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane scale

Folklore of the Pembroke Welsh Corgi

Jim Duggan

INSPIRED BY THE IMPENDING launch of the Cambrian branch of The RSSG (see page 36) and our editor's tales told to me in an emailed video of a fathomless pool inhabited by the Tylwyth Teg, I was inspired to look into Welsh folklore. It brought me to tales relating to the legend of Corgis and Fairies.

First impressions of the Corgi are of an adorable, fluffy dog with long ears and short, stubby legs. They are affectionate, friendly and fiercely loyal to their owners. However, they are tenacious and spirited animals with one of the best work ethics in the dog world. In fact, it's why they are regarded as some of the best herding dogs in the world.

But the story and history of the Welsh Corgi is a mysterious one, full of interesting Welsh folklore, fantasy and fairy tales.

Fairies and Corgis

In the 1940s the folklore of how fairies gave us the Corgi, was described in a poem, *Corgi Fantasy*, published by Anne Biddlecombe of Dorset England. Anne describes Corgis as magical creatures developed by the fairies and given to the mortals as a gift.

As the popularity of the Corgi grew in Wales, this legendary story gained momentum, having been passed along for several generations into the homes of Corgi owners and fans all around the world.

There are many versions of this legend three of which are recounted below. Incidentally, it involves only the Pembroke Welsh Corgi – and not the Cardigan variety.

1. From the King and Queen

The legend of the fairies and Corgis can be traced back to the ancient times of Wales. Back then, they lived in harmony with the surrounding woodlands of Wales.

While fairies could fly, they didn't have the stamina or the strength to fly long distances.

As a solution they created a creature upon which they could ride to travel further distances – the Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

However, one day, while the Queen and King of the fairies were riding their Corgis, they noticed a family of humans doing hard and laborious work just to keep themselves fed. Every time they rode by, they would see the same family working with little time to rest and enjoy life.

Being compassionate mythical creatures they were overwhelmed with pity and sadness for the poor humans. In that moment, distracted by the depressing scene, the King stumbled and fell off his Corgi. The Queen hurriedly dismounted her own Corgi to tend to the King.

Although the two fairies were unharmed, their Corgis didn't even notice their fairies had fallen off and they continued riding off into the sunset.

Worried that the Corgis would be lost, the King immediately called for a search party to bring the two back. However, the Queen stopped him, saying, "there's no need – the Corgis will find the mortal humans who may need them more than us."

The corgis eventually wandered into the poor family's farm, where the children brought them into home to show their parents. They knew instantly that these strange and magical animals were gifts from the fairies of the woods. From that point on, the corgis became invaluable helpers on the farm and cherished by all the people of Wales.

2. Kids Found the Corgis

Another commonly-told tale of the discovery of Corgis involves two lucky children. Two children were playing in the woodlands of Wales when they stumbled upon two Corgis. At first, they didn't think too much, mistaking these mythical creatures for mere foxes. After all, the Corgi's pointed ears, classic red coat and sharp nose look similar to that of a fox.

After playing with the Corgis for the day, the two children decided to take them home. Their father then tells them that the dogs are actually gifts from the fairies.

How did he know this? He points out the fairy saddles still on the dogs' backs, explaining that fairies would ride them and use them to pull coaches or herd cows.

3. The Fairy War

Another version of the legend starts with a fairy war. Two fairy tribes, the Tylwyth Teg and the Gwyllion fairies, had just fought in one of the biggest wars in the mythical kingdom.

In times of war, the fairies rode into battle on their trusty Corgis. They were quick enough to attack, but also, according to the legend, sturdy enough to withstand the magical firepower.

Unfortunately, two Tylwyth Teg fairies were killed during this battle. While the tribe was having the funeral for the fallen fairies, two children playing in the woods stumbled upon the ceremony. Overwhelmed with emotion, the tribe offered to give the two kids the Corgis that belonged to the fallen soldiers.

As the Corgis were passed onto the children, a fairy spoke fondly of the dogs' talents, saying "they are trained warriors in their own right, but they are more than warriors. They are great helpers for the fairy folk."

The fairy dogs were perfect for herding cows, he explained. Their short stature kept them out of the way of flying hooves when they nipped at angry cows' heels.

The Logic to the Legend

The legend may actually explain a lot about the Pembroke Welsh Corgi.



The word "cor" in Welsh actually translates to "dwarf" in English, while the word "gi" translates to "dog." When put together, the direct translation of Corgi is "dwarf dogs!" Could the dwarf be referring to the fairies?

The high energy and short stature of the battle-forged Corgi would be excellent in combat and on the battlegrounds of the much smaller fairies.

Further, most corgis tend to have a darker patch of fur under their shoulders that resembles a mark of a saddle. In fact, that patch of fur is often still called the "fairy saddle" today!

Tylwyth Teg

"Fair family." The fairies of Welsh folklore. The tylwyth teg live in caves and on mountains, and are seen dancing in moonlit nights on the velvety grass, clad in airy and flowing robes of blue, green, white, or scarlet. They never speak and only communicate by signs, and are versed in country lore. They are unable to touch iron. Although they are generally friendly, if mischievous, they covet golden-haired human children and will often kidnap them, leaving changelings or crimbils in their place. This plentyn-newid ("change-child") has the exact appearance of the stolen infant, at first; but it soon grows ugly of face, shriveled of form, ill-tempered, etc. A lengthened form is y tylwyth teg yn y coed, "the fair family in the wood," or tylwyth teg y mwn, "the fair family of the mine." They are called Bendith y Mamau, "the Mother's Blessing," in Glamorgan. To name fairies by a harsh epithet is to invoke their anger while speaking of them in flattering phrase is to propitiate their good offices. Goats were believed to be on very good terms with the tylwyth teg, who every Friday night comb goats' beards to make them decent for Sunday.

ST GEORGE AROUND THE WORLD

A millennium of alliance

Rebekah Spencer finds folklore and history associated with our Saint in old Iberia.



Rush hour in Castelo Branco!

houses and excellent restaurants and cafes serving simple local food. Look closely, though, and you may see the occasional small statue: a certain figure from antiquity bearing a sword.

Here is one such St George placed in a strategic position in the Rua da Santa Maria. He offers not just a spiritual defence of

the home, but also serves as a symbol of renewed strength – cheering yourself up, inspiring yourself to grip life with renewed vigour.

Most famously, the Castle of Sao Jorge guards the ancient capital, Lisbon, a symbol of a millennium of alliance between England and Portugal.

THE PORTUGUESE TOWN of Castelo Branco has many winding streets, dotted with old shuttered

SKYSCAPES OF ENGLAND



A stormy sky loomed over the flat, farmland landscape of Romney Marsh, Kent, on 1 May this year; a storm moving across the heavens, with sunshine and a procession of white clouds following in its wake.

Once, in mediaeval and Tudor times, a genuine marshland of



creeks and water margins, crossed by a causeway (now the main road to Old and New Romney), the Marsh ~ now reclaimed from the tides ~ continues to cast a spell on those attracted to its quiet churches, ruins and restful, wide views.

(Words and pictures (above) by Stuart Millson.)



Characteristics of the English

From his Cumberland redoubt, Stephen Garnett keeps a close watch on the nation

IT'S ALWAYS PLEASANT to brighten up someone's day, which I undoubtedly did, albeit unintentionally, when checking into a hotel recently. All I did was give the young man at reception my name, address and car registration. I thought it was fairly mundane information, but no, it was "awesome". And not only that, when he asked "May I book a table for yourself for dinner this evening?" and I replied that myself would be delighted if he could perform such a service, so pleased was he with my response that I was immediately elevated to the status of "legend". Too much praise is embarrassing, so modesty forbids me describing the adulation and plaudits I received next morning when I handed him my room key and said goodbye.

Whenever the subject of England and the English comes up, the question of what actually constitutes Englishness is usually discussed. I have heard many answers, some of which swept across large subjects such as geography, history and politics, others that concentrated on our national characteristics as people: our sense of humour, our habit of discussing the weather, etc. I would add to this second list, the generosity of English people in donating to charities and volunteering to help worthwhile causes, and also the way in which, very occasionally, inspirational men and women appear who, having suffered or witnessed tragedy in their lives, launch their own charities and turn their personal pain and loss into something positive that helps others.

One such inspirational individual is Nikki Scott. In July 2009, Nikki, then aged twenty-eight, received the terrible news that her husband Lee, a corporal in the Second Royal Tank Regiment, had been killed in Afghanistan. As well as having to come to terms with the loss of Lee and all that it meant, Nikki had the heartbreaking task of explaining to their five-year-old son Kai that his daddy would not be coming home. She now also faced the prospect that their seven-month old daughter Brooke would grow up never having known her father.

Nikki could have spent the next few months in mourning and feeling sorry for

herself, but after seeing the devastating effect that the loss of Lee had on their little boy, and recognising that there must be hundreds of others going through the same torment, she was spurred into action. Exactly a year later, supported by family and friends, she launched Scotty's Little Soldiers, a charity for bereaved military children.

At the beginning, ten children, including Kai and Brooke, received support, but once the determined and very likeable Nikki appeared on television and radio, donations of money and gifts for the children on their birthdays poured in. In 2012 Nikki won the *Sun* Military Awards for support to the Armed Forces and today hundreds of children across the UK are provided with support and guidance: counselling, holidays at Scotty Lodges, special experiences, educational grants . . . and the feeling that they are not alone. Children who have lost parents, who were in the Armed Forces, through illness, accident or suicide are also supported.

In 2021 Nikki Scott was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM). Anyone who wants to add their tribute to this remarkable woman's work can find details on the website: www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk

Law and order

A friend who lives in an area recently described by an estate agent as "a quiet backwater" was awoken one Sunday morning in April by noises that sounded like the thud of a pile driver, the clanging of a hammer on an anvil, the screech and vibration of a pneumatic drill and the voice of someone shouting to be heard above the constant racket. When she went outside to investigate, she discovered that it wasn't the return of heavy industry to the town that was the cause of the deafening disturbance: the noise was blasting out of the open window of a nearby house. The two young



The Repair Shop artisans

men inside the shaking building were high on drugs, so when she asked them to turn down the noise they muttered something inaudible above the din and the commotion continued. My friend then telephoned the police but they were equally unresponsive, even though the two culprits were known to them as drug users who had caused trouble in the past. They were sorry but it was nothing to do with them. She needed to contact the local council.

Given the police force's unwillingness and inability to respond, perhaps it's time to bring back the old English custom of rough music. In days gone by, someone who had offended or brought shame on the community would be visited by a crowd of local people who demonstrated their displeasure by banging saucepans and beating drums outside the miscreant's house. It would certainly show those two louts what their neighbours thought of their behaviour. And, however noisy it was, the sound created by the pans would still be more musical than the earsplitting din that shattered the peace of that Sunday morning.

Classic TV

There is certainly a lot of rubbish on television today: I usually seek refuge from the main channels by visiting Yesterday, Sky Arts, Talking Pictures TV, BBC4, or, when I need my occasional "fix" of *Columbo*, 5 USA. Having said that, I never miss an episode of *The Repair Shop* on BBC1. The traditional skills demonstrated by Jay Blades and the wonderful men and women in the barn are a joy to behold and the stories behind the objects they repair, together with the joy their restoration work brings to the owners of the miscellaneous items, is always uplifting and heartwarming. Sadly, a recent report compiled by the charity Heritage Crafts has classified over 250 trades as endangered, critically endangered or extinct. Critically endangered crafts include chain making, fan making, clog making, Sussex trug making, watch making. The charity issues grants to artisans to support their work and provides a focus for craftspeople, groups, societies, guilds and anyone who cares about preserving traditional skills. For further details visit heritagecrafts.org.uk



Corporal Lee Scott, whose death has inspired a movement that has gone on to support hundreds of bereaved military children



Nikki Scott



Yours Sincerely, Goodbye

I was recently in touch with a large insurance company, a well-known business whose name and date of foundation conjures up a grand Victorian building with pillars, statues and polished wooden floors, a huge staircase, a manager in a panelled office behind an imposing desk and staff who work there all their lives and who receive a gold watch when they retire. My email correspondence from them began as might be expected, with “Dear Mr Garnett”, followed by an answer to the question I had originally asked, and a polite “Yours sincerely” at the end. We exchanged a few more emails, all to do with business, but by the fourth communication from the “underwriting team” it seemed that, at some point during the back-and-forth discussions of “claims”, “compulsory excess” and “accidental damage” we had become great mates. The final email began with “Hi Steve!” and concluded with “Take care!”

These exchanges came to mind when I read the result of a recent survey which suggested that, as traditional handwritten or typed letters are increasingly replaced by emails, within ten years the use of formal words and phrases such as “Dear”, “Yours sincerely” and “Yours faithfully” will be no more. Instead we shall have “Hiya”, “Cheers”, “Ta” and “Speak soon”.

It’s all a result of instant messaging and the wish to be quick, apparently. I find it too casual, familiar and lazy. Here we go again: another stone that helped to keep us courteous, careful, upright and steady has crumbled beneath our feet.

Great Song, Wrong River

During the last half-century fashions in popular music have come and gone but one singer-songwriter who survived all the changes and retained an international following, while at the same time selling in the region of fifty-million records, was Roger Whittaker who died in September at the age of eighty-seven. His rich baritone voice and trademark whistling made him instantly recognisable, with songs such as *The Last Farewell*, *I Don’t Believe in If Anymore* and *Durham Town (the Leavin’)* endearing him to audiences and bringing him occasional chart success. The last of these, which reached number twelve in

the pop charts in 1969, was particularly beautiful and poignant, although it did contain a line that created some adverse comments in the northeast of England. Roger reminisces about “sitting on the banks of the River Tyne”. Unfortunately, Durham sits on the banks of the River Wear; the Tyne flows through Newcastle, some twenty miles to the north. Never mind, it’s still a lovely song!



National Helpless Service

When I read a report that the supposedly underfunded NHS England are creating three new departments called “Equality, Diversity and Inclusion”, “People and Culture” and “People and Communities”, staffed by 240 people and costing £14 million I felt so sick I thought I might have to call a doctor. Fortunately I had BBC news on the television at the time so I knew that such an action would probably be futile. They were showing pictures of striking junior doctors on picket lines. I have to say that for all the hardship and overwork they are having to endure, they seemed to be having great fun, waving their placards at passing motorists and grinning and giggling amongst themselves. If, as the saying goes, laughter is the best medicine, the next time they go on strike perhaps the thousands of people on NHS waiting lists who have had their treatments delayed or operations cancelled should go along to their local hospital and join them.



Monster Raving Loony Party

The year 1983 was a tumultuous one for United Kingdom politics: in June, Margaret Thatcher was re-elected as Prime Minister with a majority of 144; following his defeat, Labour leader Michael Foot resigned, to be replaced by Neil Kinnock; and David Owen took over from Roy Jenkins as leader of the SDP. Momentous though all this was, earlier in the year, on 26 February, another event

had taken place that would change the face of British politics forever – at Bermondsey in southeast London, Screaming Lord Sutch became the first member of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party (OMRLP) to contest a by-election.

The fortieth anniversary of the pop singer and his party’s entry into politics has passed without comment, but from that moment onwards no General Election has been the same. As sober, smartly dressed candidates from the main political parties wait on election night for the returning officer to announce the results, the chances are that alongside them on the stage, pricking any pomposity, will be a gaudily dressed figure wearing a huge rosette and with a peculiar name. The OMRLP has contested every general election since and seventy-six by-elections. All the candidates have lost their deposits, so the green benches at Westminster have sadly been deprived of colourful members such as Sir T. Fied, The Flying Brick and Sir Oink A Lot.

Screaming Lord Sutch died in 1999 but the Official Monster Raving Loony Party, now under the leadership of Howling Laud Hope, continues, and in preparation for the next general election has a “manicfesto” packed with policies. These include: just as the MOT ensures that a car is roadworthy, a ROT will be introduced to make sure all roads are car worthy; Oyster cards will be renamed “Sardine Cards” to better reflect experiences when travelling on public transport; in Brexit trade deals Germany will be required to pay for treatment of measles, and Spain will be required to pay for cases of Spanish flu; potholes deeper than three inches will be marked with a yellow plastic duck; playgrounds will be redeveloped for people of all ages.

There often seems to be little difference between the policies of the main parties, so perhaps a vote for the OMRLP might be worth considering. . . .

Once Upon A Time . . .

In a poll of readers organised by Amazon Books UK, the following lines were voted the top five starts to a novel:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. *1984* by George Orwell

All children, except one, grow up. *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie

In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien

Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* by J. K. Rowling

Restoring a well-loved village landmark

David Thornevell reports on how work progressed in Kent on an important local heritage site

AS REMEMBRANCE DAY approached this year, it was good to see our listed war memorial on the East Malling village green recently cleaned. The work was delayed by Covid and we now await the arrival of the man to make more legible the names of the fifty-three villagers killed in World War One and the forty-five added after World War Two.

The memorial stands at the crossroads of East Malling Village opposite the King and Queen Public house and within sight of the nearby St James the Great Church. Erected at a cost of nearly £600 it was overseen by the local War Memorial Committee, as happened in towns and villages across the country.

Gothic revival

It was designed by church architect J. N. Comper and carved by W. D. Gough of Kennington. Sir John Ninian Comper (1864 to 1960) was one of the the last major architects of the Gothic Revival. He designed many memorials after the First World War, including the Welsh National War Memorial in Cardiff and others at Oakham and Uppingham both in Rutland. Like East Malling, these two were created in collaboration with William Drinkwater Gough (1861 to 1938). It is this which has led to our memorial being listed.

East Malling's memorial as can be seen in the picture, is crowned by a Gothic Canopy with religious scenes within its arches. They are the Crucifixion; the Virgin and Child; St Martin of Tours; and of special interest to the readers of this magazine, St George and the Dragon. The names are arranged in alphabetical order around the plinth. No distinction of rank is given and there is one woman on the WWII list, Constance Dora Newell.

Wartime loss

Sadly, the WWI list records the death of three sons of the Chittenden family of Larkfield, then a hamlet within the parish, with one dying in 1915 and two in 1916. A loss it must have hard for the family to bear.

The memorial was unveiled on 31 October 1920 by Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee, Bart, KCB, KCMG, CVO.LLD, Commander-in-Chief of the Nore and hero of the (first) battle of the Falklands.

The local paper reports that there was a service in the church when all the names were read out from the altar, but the actual unveiling took place in the afternoon. A photograph shows a good attendance with everyone standing on the green around the memorial and that it was fine day.

It records by name the major landowners, Sir John Twisden and Miss Twisden, and

the Wigan family attending, plus those from the "big houses" across the parish, with titles such a Major or Colonel. A snapshot of a different world no longer found in the parish. Though in contrast many of the names recorded on the memorial still have descendants in the general area.

Also present were East Malling Scouts and the separate group from Larkfield, both of which still exist.

In his address the local Vicar records that some parishioners had been out to France, Flanders and elsewhere on the war's main fronts. In a reflection of the times he spoke of the gratitude owed to those who had responded to the call of of their country and that "The Huns" should not strike against their loved ones, or their country.

Unknown warrior

He also spoke of the of the unknown man who was being brought to England in ten days' time with his funeral procession along the crowded streets of London to rest with those who, he said, had in past times done so much for England.

In his address Admiral Sturdee used the opportunity to refer to the "coal strike" saying it was "not of service to the state". He said the country had a great future in store, but if discontent was caused it would not be a very bright one.

The service had started, it is recorded, with the hymn *O God our Help in Ages Past*. It ended with the Vicar again reading out all the names followed by the Benediction. Lastly two Scout buglars sounded the *Last post* and *Reveille*, ending with the *National Anthem*. This is similar to what still happens on Remembrance Sunday across the nation.

It is to be hoped with the restoration of the memorial, those visiting the village green will see the names and think about them – pondering the lives and times of those who served and reflecting on our own debt of gratitude to them.

David Thornevell is Chairman of East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council. A keen walker and local-history enthusiast, David is a member of the North Downs Branch of The Royal Society of St George.



Work gets underway at the East Malling War Memorial. (Pic: S. Millson.)

The cold genius of the isle

Stuart Millson

A glimpse into the life of Henry Purcell, the seventeenth-century English composer – long ahead of his time . . .

THE ENGLISH EARLY-BAROQUE-era composer, Henry Purcell (1659-95) is forever associated with the birth of opera (or masques) in this country – works such as *King Arthur* and *The Fairy Queen*; with the creation of semi-operatic scenic cantatas (his music for *The Tempest*); and with expansive works for church and state, especially his odes for the era of William and Mary and their Glorious Revolution – and, later, funeral music of intense mourning for Queen Mary.

At the time of the preceding Stuart dynasty, composers such as William Lawes, wrote very much for the delight or diversion of the Royal court: just half-a-century later, “serious” music had emerged as a force to be reckoned with, especially in the theatre – as a form of art increasingly enjoyed by the wider society, with provocative political allegory never far from the surface. A perfect example is the 1691 opera, *King Arthur* (with libretto by John Dryden) – a work which goes far beyond the boundaries of any conventional theatrical format: the story of the ancient groves inhabited by the mythical warrior-king of the Britons, but with overtones of the contemporary struggle in Purcell’s England between the cause of James II (the rightful heir – but a Catholic) and the triumph of the Protestant succession, in the form of William of Orange. With its famous, ethereal patriotic air, *Fairest isle* – a slow, contemplative song sometimes extracted from the score and performed as a piece in its own right – Purcell emerges as a “composer-laureate”, long before the era of the national-composers of the late-

nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, with their oratorios of *Blood and State* (Parry) or *Banners of St George* (Elgar).

Purcell also embraced within the pages of *King Arthur*, possibly the first definitive English mysticism – a theme which, again, we tend to associate with musicians of an epoch much closer to our own, such as Vaughan Williams – with his *Flos Campi* or *Five Mystical Songs* or Holst – his unchanging, unforgetting Wessex landscape of *Egdon Heath*. Purcell brings us into a markedly supernatural country, of charms and prophecies, and the extraordinary presence of a ghostly character, the ‘Cold Genius’ – a singing spirit of frost, ice and wasteland, brought to stuttering life by a shivering bass singer, accompanied in a curious pre-echo of twentieth-century music by the icy, scratchy, toneless, guttural bowing of string instruments. And we find in other works by Purcell, a composer ahead of his time; with the rumble of wind and thunder machines in *The Tempest*; with waves of scurrying strings suggesting a rushing tide about to break across the land – a scene straight from Benjamin Britten’s 1945 Suffolk opera, *Peter Grimes* (credited as the first great English opera since Purcell).

As a concertgoer or buyer of recordings, it is sometimes worth remembering your first experience of a particular work – and often more fun to replay that memory (or vinyl disc) and compare it to the many other versions which have proliferated in the intervening years. I first encountered Purcell’s *Chaconne* on a record-buying expedition in 1981, the work appearing on a Decca LP collection entitled *English Music for Strings*; a 1968 recording made at Snape Maltings, with Benjamin Britten conducting the English Chamber Orchestra.

The *Chaconne*

The *Chaconne*, or ‘Chacony’ as it is sometimes written, is the name of a type of old-world dance-form, made up of variations (in the case of Purcell’s piece, eighteen in number) which flow effortlessly into one another; and founded upon what musicians would know as a “ground-bass theme”. Britten, a great admirer of the late-seventeenth-century composer, Henry Purcell (and of older English music generally), was immediately attracted to the gently-noble, faintly melancholic melody of the *Chaconne*, which had been preserved in a collection of Purcell manuscripts, stored away in the British Museum.



The Flowering of the English Baroque (Henry Purcell), sculpture by Glynn Williams located in Victoria Street near Buckingham Gate.

Photo: Beata May/London

Even with Britten’s modern string instrumentation and the rich reverberation it creates, we are transported in the first moments of the work to an England of 300 years ago: of lute- and viol-playing gentlefolk at courts and country houses; of misty deer parks and an adjoining countryside of ancient steadings – and yet, despite the clear antiquity of the style, there is a universal essence to this music (very much like Bach) which somehow defies time. And could that timelessness be the very essence of Purcell: that shaper of national myth in music; a figure – long dead – who still comes back to life as the cold genius of the isle?

This article first appeared in the online cultural magazine, *The Brazen Head*. www.brazen-head.org



Portrait by John Closterman, c. 1695

50/50 CLUB



Support the Royal Society of St George

Support the Royal Society of St George and win yourself cash prizes by joining the Society's own lottery – the 50–50 Club.

The 50–50 Club was launched in January 2011 and by the end of 2015 had raised more than £5000 in much needed funds to assist with projects to promote the Society and its objectives.

More participants will ensure more income for the Society and larger prizes.

Details of the Lottery are as follows:

The 50-50 Club takes the form of a monthly Lottery.

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

There is no limit to how many numbers one person can sponsor but numbers will be allocated on a strictly first-come – first-served basis. If number/s selected by

members have already been purchased the next nearest number will be allocated.

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

Fifty per cent of monies collected from those sponsored numbers will be given in prize money, with the other fifty per cent going to the Society to achieve it's four stated objectives and contribute to the Charitable Trust.

The prize money will be split into three prizes as follows: *First Prize:* Sixty per cent; *Second Prize:* Thirty per cent; and *Third Prize:* Ten per cent.

The Application/Sponsorship Form and Rules can be downloaded from the Society webpage: www.rssg.org.uk. Entries do not have to be purchased by individuals. Maybe your Branch could sponsor some numbers?

Enter another world!

Bookworm, Richard Dove, glories in Manchester's treasury of books and learning

WHERE IS THE OLDEST library in the English-speaking world? You might take a guess at some dusty annex of an Oxford College or maybe a gilded relic in London's Inner Temple. Well, it is in the centre of Manchester. Take a short walk down the hill from Manchester Victoria station and you enter another world. The buildings date back to the 1600s. Chetham's Library has been in continuous use for over 350 years. It was founded under the will of a moneybags merchant Humphrey Chetham who made his pile in textiles, banking and ultimately landownership. He became rich buying and selling fustian, a hard wearing fabric made of linen and cotton. He used his wealth to invest in property indirectly resulting in the library.

Chetham tried to buy medieval College House in Manchester late on in his life but was knocked back. His idea was to set up a school and a seat of learning for the city's poor. He believed that poverty could be alleviated by education. He had set up scholarships for twenty-two unprivileged boys from Manchester. He stated that curing ignorance was a route to a better life. He left instructions in his will for the executors to strain every sinew and purchase College House to create a library that should be open to everybody. That stipulation remains to this day.

College House was eventually acquired and it was in a poor state of repair. It had been used as a prison and an arsenal. It was in a desperately poor part of Manchester surrounded by slum housing.

Sir Humphrey, who had reluctantly accepted a knighthood, spent his final months sketching out how the library should be designed and its guiding aims and objectives. Proximity to the Rivers Irwell and Irk meant that any book collection had to be housed on the first floor to obviate any issues with damp. Chetham set out how he wanted the library to be constructed and how it should operate. It would be a chained library where books could be used by anyone but they would stay in the library. His will also

outlined (and left the then huge sum of £200) the design of five small libraries that could be located at churches in the locality. These were designed to have books chained upon desks or to be fixed to the pillars or in other convenient places. The books should be 'godly English Bookes for the edification of the common people'. He wanted anyone and everyone – who could read – to have access to learning in every subject. And he did not want the light-fingered to disturb his vision of enlightenment.

As you tour the library you can still see the books and manuscripts that Sir Humphrey instructed his twenty-four feoffees or governors to acquire. There are twenty-four oak stools with 'S' shaped hand-holds for readers. The work of joiner Richard Martinscroft can still be seen in the elaborate shelving. Early manuscripts focused on theology, law, history, medicine and science. You can view a first edition of Dr. Johnson's pioneering English dictionary, newly rebound in white leather.

Initially, the books and manuscripts were ordered on the shelves purely by size. A catalogue was written in 1791 in Latin. By the mid-eighteenth century the Library's collection had outgrown the original shelves and they were increased in height with the books unchained. Gates were installed in the book sections to prevent theft. You were effectively locked in whilst you researched blood letting or Darwin.

On my visit, a lady in overalls was apparently locked in whilst gently dusting the priceless volumes. To this day, all you have to do is call them and outline what you are interested in researching. Books will be gathered and you take a seat in the reading room and follow up that theory on leeches or the inequities of the window tax. You do not have to be a Phd student or a distinguished professor.

Two big names took up the open offer and their table and window seats are pointed out on the tour. Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels spent the summer of 1845 reading together. If they had glanced through the alcove window they would have seen the sorry state of the English working classes. The books that the two men studied are available for perusal and you can buy a postcard showing the table and alcove if you so wish. Their six weeks



of research led ultimately to *The Communist Manifesto*. You have to wonder what the library's founder, an autocratic philanthropist, would have thought of such an endeavour.

In the mid-1500s, Dr. John Dee went one better and decided to both work and live in the library. He was a philosopher, astronomer, contemporary of Nostradamus and official conjurer to Elizabeth I. Sadly, a role that has largely ceased in contemporary Government. He enjoyed speaking to the dead so he had many interlocutors as he roamed the corridors and quadrangle.

There are over forty medieval manuscripts including the thirteenth century *Flores Historiarum* by Matthew Paris, a chronicle of world and English history as well as a compendium of Middle English poetry. For those students of MPs expenses, there is Horace Walpole's account of money spent on his house at Strawberry Hill. There is also a seventeenth century prose and verse miscellany containing letters by Sir Walter Raleigh, Francis Bacon, John Donne and Ben Jonson.

You now do not need to be in Manchester to appreciate the Library's unique collection. In 2014, many of the most unique manuscripts were digitised to make them available to online users.

But online you get no sense of this magnificent timbered edifice. The shelves and their pens have a unique ambiance. The vaulted ceiling is remarkable and the ancient volumes seem to sing to you as you wander the corridors.

I had to leave early from the tour to catch a train and the guide led me to the administration office where there is a sign pointing out boldly that on the sixth day God created Manchester. He must have had a hand in this quite wonderful library too. I will be back.

Richard Dove produces the Footnotes podcast series and broadcasts on BBC Radio 4's prestigious programme, From Our Own Correspondent.



Humphrey Chetham

Improved trade and benefits for citizens

Commonwealth Secretariat partners with UK and Australia to support Commonwealth Small States

THE COMMONWEALTH Secretariat, a long-standing advocate for Commonwealth Small States, on 5 July 2023 announced the extension of two projects aimed at bolstering their capacity and engagement in the critical areas of trade and human rights.

The projects, co-funded by the governments of the United Kingdom and Australia, are a concerted effort to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and the promotion of human rights in these countries.

This announcement came as world leaders attended the fiftieth anniversary of CARICOM (the Caribbean Community) and participate in the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting that week, which the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC attended.

Secretary-General Scotland used the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of these new projects for Commonwealth Small States, including in the Caribbean, and to discuss how the Secretariat can continue to support their efforts to achieve economic resilience and sustainable development.

Empowering Small States to Capitalise on Global Trade Opportunities

The first project co-funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) supports two trade advisers in the Commonwealth Small States Office (CSSO) in Geneva, offering technical support and advisory services to Small States missions in Geneva and their capital-based officials.

This will help these Small States to participate more effectively in negotiations on existing and emerging trade issues at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The project supports Small States on areas such

as agriculture and food security, fisheries subsidies, digital trade, investment, WTO reform, trade and environment and trade and gender.

Speaking about the importance of these projects, Jo Lomas, UK Envoy to the Commonwealth said:

"I am delighted that the UK will continue to support trade and, with Australia, human rights advisers to work with the Commonwealth small states. These advisers play an important role in assisting small states in navigating the multilateral system and delivering real benefits for their citizens."

The continuation of this project, which will be supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat's International Trade Policy team, will support Small States in navigating these complex trade negotiations, especially ahead of the WTO's upcoming thirteenth Ministerial Conference in February 2024.

By empowering Commonwealth Small States to capitalise on global trade opportunities, the project seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, reduce poverty and inequality, and contribute to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SAMOA Pathway for sustainable development in small island developing states.

Promoting Human Rights

The second project co-funded by the UK's FCDO and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) helps Commonwealth Small States and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to effectively engage with UN mechanisms and implement their international human rights obligations. By offering targeted technical assistance and capacity development, the project aims to increase the voice and visibility of beneficiary member states in the work of the Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review mechanism, and Treaty Bodies.

Ambassador Amanda Gorely, Australian Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Geneva) and Australian Ambassador for Disarmament said:

"Commonwealth Small States bring vital perspectives to international human rights mechanisms, and their engagement with the UN Human Rights Council and Treaty bodies is a cornerstone of this engagement. The Commonwealth Small States' Office (CSSO) provides a critical link between governments and the multilateral human rights architecture in Geneva."

"Australia, together with the UK, is proud to support the CSSO Human Rights Adviser positions, enabling the sharing of information, the provision of expertise and the delivery of technical assistance."

Challenges such as limited resources and expertise have hindered Commonwealth Small States and LDCs' engagement with human rights mechanisms, resulting in reporting backlogs and reduced influence in decision-making processes. This project, which will be supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Human Rights Unit, will work towards reducing these obstacles and empowering these small states and LDCs to promote and protect human rights at the international and national levels effectively.

Dr Arjoon Suddhoo as Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General said:

"We take great pride in our partnership with the UK, extending the Trade project at the CSSO, and jointly with Australia and the UK, continuing the Human Rights project. Our Advisers are well respected in Geneva and play an indispensable role, empowering and supporting Commonwealth Small States to amplify their voice, influence and participation within these critical multilateral regimes."

Both projects will be based at the CSSO in Geneva and will work closely with member states, relevant stakeholders and other international organisations. The CSSO in Geneva accommodates the permanent delegations of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Pacific Islands Forum, as well as the permanent missions of Guyana, Malawi, Samoa, Seychelles and Vanuatu.

The Commonwealth Secretariat extends its gratitude to the governments of the UK and Australia for their unwavering support and funding to make these projects a reality. Their commitment demonstrates a shared vision to empower Commonwealth Small States, ensuring a more prosperous and just future for these nations.



Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, KC

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of fifty-six independent and equal countries.

It is home to 2.5 billion people, and includes both advanced economies and developing countries. thirty-two of the members are small states, including many island nations.

Member governments have agreed to shared goals like development, democracy and peace. Values and principles are expressed in the Commonwealth Charter.

The Commonwealth's roots go back to the British Empire. But today any country can join the modern Commonwealth. The last two countries to join the Commonwealth were Gabon and Togo in 2022.

'... on a hundred thousand successive Sundays ...

Breaking bread and sharing wine – when the ordinary becomes extraordinary



THE DOMINICAN PRIEST, Gregory Dix, in his classic work about the Eucharist called *The Shape of the Liturgy*, published in 1945, wrote of just a few of the multitude of occasions when Holy Communion has been celebrated and the reasons for it:

“... for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the proclamation of a dogma or for a good crop of wheat; for the wisdom of the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die; for a schoolboy sitting an examination or for Columbus setting out to discover America; for the settlement of a strike; for a son for a barren woman”; and, he says, “one could fill many pages with the reasons why men have done this and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this . . .”

It's a well-known piece of writing, but what is less well known is the way in which he continues, asking what effect receiving this sacrament might have had on countless others, and he illustrates just one:

“There is”, he writes, “a little ill-spelled ill-carved rustic epitaph of the fourth



Gregory Dix

century from Asia Minor: ‘Here sleeps the blessed Chione, who has found Jerusalem for she prayed much.’ Not another word is known of Chione, some peasant woman who lived in that vanished world of Christian Anatolia (the modern-day Turkey). “But”, he continues, “how lovely if all that should survive after sixteen centuries were that one had prayed much, so that the neighbours who saw all one's life were sure one must have found Jerusalem!” And then he asks, “What did the Sunday eucharist in her village church every week for a life-time mean to the blessed Chione – and to the millions like her then, and every year since? The sheer stupendous quantity of the love of God which this ever repeated action has drawn from the obscure Christian multitudes through the centuries is in itself an overwhelming thought”. *The Shape of the Liturgy* – Dom Gregory Dix

What did the Sunday Eucharist mean to Chione? And what does it mean to those millions all over the world who come faithfully week by week to receive this sacrament?

There are a number of titles by which the sacrament is known, and each contributes a little to an understanding of its meaning. In many of the Free Churches such as Baptist, Methodist, Evangelical or Reformed, it is called “The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper” and that takes us right back to the “upstairs room” on the night before Jesus died. There on the table, as they met to celebrate the Jewish Passover, were bread and wine, the basic food and drink of his day, the things of hospitality, much as tea and biscuits are with us today. Jesus used those very ordinary things of life to symbolise something extraordinary, his body and blood, his own life: having shared those elements of bread and wine Jesus commanded his followers to do the same “in memory of me” – and through the centuries the Christian Church has done that. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is a remembering of what Jesus did and what He commanded us to do. In remembering, Christians bring something from the past into the present – hence the title “the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper”.

But it is also called “Holy Communion”; “holy” means something which is set apart for God to use in a special way, and “communion” is the bringing together of two words, “common” and “union”. “Common” means not ordinary, as we often use the word today, but that which is to be shared and which is available for all, as in the *Book of Common Prayer*, or The Common, that piece of public land across which we can all walk. The word “union”

means that in which Christian people are made one, one with Christ and one with each other. So – Holy Communion, that which is set apart, bread and wine, and that which is shared and which, in the sharing, the Christian community of very different individuals is made one.

Another name is “The Eucharist” and that title comes from a Greek word meaning “giving thanks”, and at the heart of every Communion Service is the great Thanksgiving Prayer in which God is thanked and praised for what He has done through His Son Jesus Christ, and in which the elements of bread and wine are set aside and consecrated, so that they are no longer ordinary bread and wine but, in a very real sense, the body and blood of Jesus, the very life of Christ Himself.

In some places it is called “The Mass”, and that's the title given to it in the Roman Catholic Church. Until the middle of the last century the Service in the Roman Church was in Latin; the disadvantage was that not everybody, of course, could understand every word. But it had the advantage that wherever you were in the world and went into a Roman Catholic Church you would recognise the action and the drama – it was certainly catholic, universal, in that sense. At the end of the Service there was a little rubric, or an instruction, in Latin, “*ite missa est*” – “off you go, you are dismissed” and from that little phrase came the word “Mass”: but that title is a reminder that the action of the Eucharist can never stop in church or wherever it is celebrated, because Christ is received only in order that He may be shared with others in a largely unbelieving world.

Whichever title is used for this Service, the initial action itself took place in an upstairs room in Jerusalem: let's focus on that upper room. There has been some suggestion that it may have been in the house of the parents of John Mark, the author of the first Gospel to be written. We know that John Mark was a young boy at the time of Jesus' ministry, and in his account of the betrayal and arrest in the garden it seems that he may have put his signature on the piece he was recounting. Perhaps Jesus had often been to that house, to that room, before, and had become a familiar friend to the family. Perhaps he had told stories to young John Mark and the boy had become very fond of him. Perhaps he had been intrigued by those coming to his home that evening and, like any inquisitive young lad, having his sleep disturbed and now in his pyjamas, had his ear to the door to listen to what being said and done. Perhaps that sense of intrigue had been



The Last Supper – Leonardo Da Vinci

heightened when the door burst open and Judas went out into the night. I've used the word "perhaps" a number of times because all that is surmise, but there is an interesting verse at the end of the account in which Mark writes "a certain young man, dressed only in a linen cloth, was following Jesus. They tried to arrest him, but he ran away naked, leaving the cloth behind."

We know that on his future travels Peter took John Mark with him – Luke tells us that in the Acts of the Apostles – and Mark will have heard Peter recount the words and actions of Jesus over and over again, so that when Peter was put to death in Rome in the year 64 Mark wrote down the stories that Peter had told. What is attributed to Mark might perhaps be, indeed, the Gospel according to Peter. But in writing that one verse about the young man dressed only in a linen cloth, was Mark saying "I was there, too"? That's one theory, though most scholars would say that the Gospel was by an anonymous writer and that the name was attached later in order to link it to an authoritative figure. I like the more imaginative one!

There is a book by Joseph Cottler titled *Man with Wings*: it's the story of Leonardo da Vinci, and was published in 1942. Leonardo's depiction of the Last Supper is, of course, one of the world's most famous paintings commissioned at the end of the fifteenth century by the Duke of Milan, Leonardo's patron. It was painted on the refectory wall of a religious community, and portrays the shock and horror on the face of each of the disciples when Jesus announced that one of them was to betray him. Joseph Cottler tells the story in this way:

"Some three years had passed since he had begun to work in Santa Maria delle Grazie. One day the scaffold was taken away and people crowded into the refectory. A solemn hush fell upon the room. The mystic drama, elsewhere to be contemplated in peaceful settings, here broke through the solacing dust of fifteen centuries and embroiled every spectator in its pathos

and terror and guilt. To every man present it spoke and said: Look! It happens in a room like this one you yourself are in. The table and the utensils are indeed the very same. Those are the creases of a freshly spread table-cloth, for it is the feast of the Passover. . . . Something terrible has happened. The Master has dropped his eyes mournfully, and stretching out His arms in forgiveness has said: 'Verily, verily, one of you shall betray me.'"

The words are spoken simply, but they have thrown the disciples into confusion. On either side of Jesus is a swaying, gesticulating group. Every man is touched and involved. Peter has sprung to his feet; he whispers vehemently to John, who sits at the right hand of Jesus: "Who? You must know. Tell us who, and let us fight."

In his excitement Peter grabs a knife, lurches against Judas who, thrown forward, knocks over the salt. Judas is a study in fright. In his right fist he clutches a money-bag. Involuntarily he puts out his left hand, as though to ward off a blow.

"Surely", he seems to stammer, "you cannot mean. . . . You would not suspect me, by any chance. . . ." His face is drawn, his body tense. He is at bay.

Behind Peter is Andrew who holds up his hands in horror: "Heaven shield us!"

Bartholomew and the younger James bend forward excitedly: "Who is it, Master? Say who."

On the left of Jesus, the elder James throws out his arms, and his head sinks in despair. Over his shoulder Thomas raises a forefinger like a question-mark.

"Let us consider," he speculates. "One, you say. . . ."

Philip bends forward: "Is it I, Lord?" he pleads passionately. "Thou knowest it is not I. Look Thou but into my heart."

At the far end of the table the patriarch Simon stretches forth his hands in protest: "What can this mean? I do not understand it at all."

Matthew and Thaddeus turn to him with the utmost excitement. Matthew appeals to

him to speak to the Master. "Speak", urges Thaddeus. "We will know who is the arch-fiend among us."

And among the spectators many a man searched his conscience, asking, like Philip: "Is it I, Lord?" Others, like Peter, searched the conscience of their neighbours.

"Leonardo is right," murmured the humble and devout hearts. "Judas, too, is close to the Lord, like all his flock. Not apart."

That, then, is the background to the taking and breaking of bread and the sharing of wine which has happened "on a hundred thousand successive Sundays" and will doubtless continue until time is no more.

The Eucharist is something intensely personal, and yet it is a corporate act – it is something which Christian people do together. It is something in which each plays a part and in which each is deeply involved – like those disciples grouped around that table with their Lord in that upstairs room. In the early days of the Church each brought their own piece of bread and their own small flask of wine to the Service, and that represented the offering of themselves, an offering which they believed Christ would transform as they believe He does today. Augustine wrote "There you are upon the table – there you are in the chalice".

Christians believe that every Communion is a remembering of their Lord; every Communion is a reminder of the sacrifice He made on Calvary; every Communion is a coming of the living Christ to be present in all His power and glory; every Communion is God giving Himself to be received, handled, and seen by those who have the eyes of faith.

And at its heart are the basic things which are the stuff of life, ordinary things, bread and wine, the outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace, in which Christ Himself comes to those who stretch out their hands that there He may lay Himself as once He did upon a cross of wood, the real presence of a living Lord and Saviour.

And so –

Be gentle when you touch bread.
Let it not lie uncared for, unwanted.
So often bread is taken for granted.
There is such beauty in bread –
Beauty of sun and soil,
Beauty of patient toil;
Wind and rain have caressed it,
Christ often blessed it.
Be gentle when you touch bread.
Be loving when you drink wine,
So freely received and joyfully shared
In the spirit of Him who cared;
Warm as a flowing river,
Shining and clear as the sun,
Deep as the soil of human toil.
Wind and rain have caressed it,
Christ often blessed it.
Be loving when you drink wine.

Canon Derek Carpenter writes from Kent

Honouring the Sir George Dowty Memorial

Martin Robins reports on the Summer 2023 Report of the Sir George Dowty Memorial Committee at Cotswold Airport, 1 July



The one remaining Lancaster still flying in this country graced the Kemble sky | Matt Fuller

THE EVENT PASSED SEAMLESSLY with perfect weather. The attendance was more than 1,000 of which a quarter were Dowty related. Amidst a host of aircraft, classic cars, and other fascinating features two events were paramount.

The one remaining Lancaster still flying in this country graced the Kemble sky. This iconic aircraft with the Dowty designed and manufactured undercarriage never fails to stir the emotions. Fresh from celebrating the eightieth anniversary of the Dam Busters raid she drew all eyes – many of whom had tears flowing. An event to remember until the end of days.

The sing-along of Second World War songs accompanied by Peter Cruwys on the digital piano. Peter brought his 1942 song sheet to play the same songs that so uplifted Dowty employees in the dark wartime days. His remarkable musical skills gave a complete lie to his advanced years. Sir George Dowty's grandson in law led the singing of *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*, *The White Cliffs of Dover*, *There'll*



Sir George Dowty



Dowty Meco factory complex

Always Be An England and We'll Meet Again. An occasion to tear at your heart strings – simply unforgettable.

The Committee would like to record their appreciation to the Air Chief Marshall and the MOD personnel who made the Dowty attendance possible.

Statue of Sir George Dowty.

The Committee have commissioned a bronze life-size statue of Sir George Dowty astride a Lancaster aircraft wheel. No decision has been reached regarding its location though his home town of Pershore are very keen for the statue to be erected there.

The Committee will issue a note when a decision has been made as to location -together with details of the unveiling ceremony.

Dowty Mining Papers.

Following his hugely successful paper entitled *The Dowty Contribution To The Battle Of Britain*, John Whitaker has written a sequel describing the contribution Dowty made to the Mining industry. Alongside this Mr Richard Leitch has written a history of Dowty Mining and Dowty Meco.

Please contact any Committee member for a copy.

Sir George's son's speech

The following is a reproduction of the speech by Sir George's son, George, given at the event held on 1 July 2023.

I would like to thank Martin and his team – Will Mundy for their efforts in organising the Dowty Section at this brilliant event and in memory of my late father and the founder of Dowty Group of Companies. And, for their magnificent efforts in promoting a lasting memorial to my father.

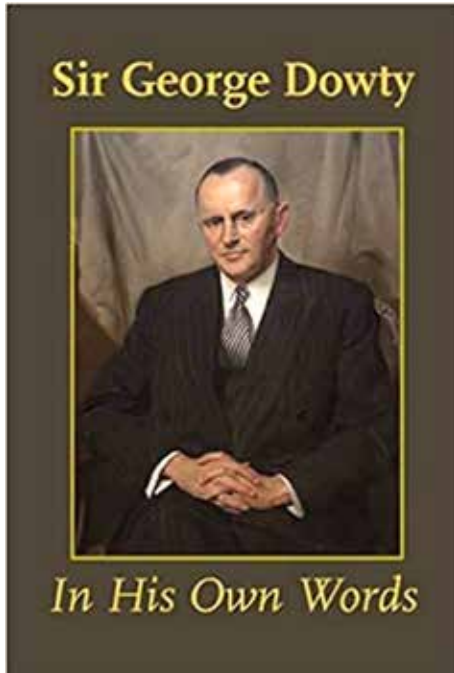
It is also a pleasure to meet many former Dowty employees and their families in this spectacular setting.

My father was always looking to the future and his next product or project. He designed and took out patents on a myriad of products. Some of these were state of the art of the day – such as the internally sprung wheel and even the simplest of products the Dowty Bonded Seal. Many not so successful. He was not afraid to give it a go.

Some of these ideas were conceived, to the annoyance of my mother at dinner parties where he would absent mindedly start scribbling a design on the back of his beloved orange du Maurier cigarette packet – then fine-tuned in his office into the early hours – ready for a design team meeting at 9 am the following morning. No time to be lost. A true inventor he was.

As with many of his era he would never speak much about the events of the traumatic war years which not surprisingly culminated in a nervous breakdown at end of the war. One cannot imagine the stresses of that time. My father was so proud that in the war no plane was grounded for lack of a Dowty spare.

It was only two years ago I unearthed an



old manuscript – which was my father’s autobiography *In His Own Words* which he dictated to his secretary Caroline shortly before he died in 1975. I am delighted to say that Caroline is with us here today. As also is another former Secretary – Helen. Not one word of the original manuscript has been changed.

I would like to share with you a few of quotes from the book which give a flavour of the amazing man he was.

“I never went anywhere without learning and acting on what I had seen.”

And “I have always maintained that good ideas are more important than money”.

In the war whilst trying to set up a manufacturing company in the safety of the IOM the shipment of machine tools was prohibited by Government. Not discouraged he circumvented this by having the machine tools dismantled and legitimately sent over in pieces. To quote:

“It would be no exaggeration to say that we owe our survival as a nation to our native capacity to outmanoeuvre bureaucrats.” How he would have hated the lawyer driven stifling risk averse safety culture which pervades our world today.

He also asks – what other qualities have I? “Arguably I’m a bluffer – certainly in the early days. The bluff was based on a measure of courage, hope, and determination to succeed. I have never told anybody something could not be done. Whatever the problems I turned round and made jolly well sure it could. I accepted the order first – and coped with the problems afterwards.”

It was widely appreciated that my father was a most compassionate employer. He put his employees interests first to the extent

that he tended to pay little heed to his own. Not quite the world we live in today.

As you know he was a great champion of apprenticeships. He was very sceptical in his day of educationalists neither it must be said did he have much time for most politicians. To quote him again.

“Any question as to the purpose of education was considered impertinent. The effect of expanding higher education is over production of graduates and tends to increase academic qualifications required to enter a career although the ability to pass examinations is not necessarily the best method of finding the practical men that industry needs.” Food for thought.

My father regarded the company and employees as his wider family. Even these many years on people still stop to tell me that that they or their father or mother worked for Sir George or did their apprenticeship at Dowty’s – and how much they respected him. Clearly, I am very proud of his legacy almost fifty years since he passed away.

Whilst the Dowty Company no longer exists today I am delighted that the name and logo live on with Dowty Propellers whose representatives we are delighted to welcome today.

Martin and Team – many thanks again and well done for organising this glorious celebration.

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 on page 46 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.



Friendship Community

US patriot, Mark Murawski, reports on a friendship initiative between our two countries

A FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY Relationship between the Arlington Heights Civic Association (ACHA) and the Bibury Parish in Gloucestershire, England, was recently recognized by the Arlington Heights Civic Association (AHCA). The Village of Arlington, which bears the same name as Arlington House and Arlington County, is located in Bibury Parish. The partnership's goal is to improve communication between the AHCA and Bibury Parish to foster goodwill between the two historically and culturally connected communities. Both places have a long history. While Arlington Heights Community is included on both the National Historic Register and the Virginia Landmarks Register, Arlington Row, located in the Village of Arlington, is on England's National Heritage List.

Coronation celebration

A group from Arlington County recently visited Bibury Parish to take part in the community's coronation celebration for His Majesty King Charles III. The weekend's events included a dinner to raise money for the neighborhood school, a viewing party for the coronation, a street celebration, and a jazz performance by some Arlington County locals. The residents of Bibury gave Mark Murawski, the representative from the Arlington Heights Civic Association, a painting by Lynne Edwards depicting the Historic Arlington Row cottages and a book outlining the town's history during the fundraiser event. Two books by Mark Murawski that describe Arlington County's history were presented to the people of Bibury. The Arlington Historical Society donated those volumes as a gift. A brief presentation on the connection between Arlington-Bibury, the Custis family, and Virginia was given by Craig Chapman, Chairman of the Bibury Parish Council, whose wife Heather is from Williamsburg, Virginia.

Carnival

A coronation watch party was held at the village hall on Saturday before a carnival. The Union Jack was prominently displayed throughout the village. Residents and guests turned out to see the historic event despite the weather. Following the coronation, everyone was invited to the carnival, where locals and visitors alike took part in games, ate food, and of course, drank wine despite the rain.

For charity, a raffle was held with donated items including the newest iPhone, bottles of wine and spa weekends. Mark Murawski was chosen to be the "special guest" raffle drawer. The event concluded with the loyal toast to His Majesty King Charles III. The loyal toast to His Majesty King Charles III brought the occasion to a close. A Sunday jazz concert featuring a group of Arlington County musicians headed by Mark Stanga served as the weekend's grand finale.

The Friendship Community relationship was created to allow community members to correspond with one another about history and other topics of interest. It offers the chance to pique both communities' interest and support. This connection was started off perfectly at the coronation celebration and will certainly lead to many more interactions between the two "friends."

Namesake

Many claim that Henry Bennet, First Earl Arlington, was intended to be honored by the name Arlington, including Arlington County's own official website. According to one rumor, John Custis II—the ancestor of Virginia's powerful Custis family—was helped by Lord Bennet. No contemporary proof is available to support this, though.

Warren Clardy, writing in the Arlington Historical Magazine's October 2001 issue, references several academics who argue that the relationship between John Custis II and Lord Arlington was only conjecture. Clardy suggests that Arlington's namesake be more practical. Given that he was born in the Netherlands, John Custis II was not an English citizen. Since the Navigation Act of 1652 forbade dealing with the colonies, he was theoretically not allowed to do so. He acted as a key middleman at the time

between the Netherlands and the province of Virginia. Custis had strong economic ties to the region and felt it was in his best interest to show Sir William Berkeley, the influential governor of Virginia, that he was a "foreigner" of English ancestry. The best way to do so was to name his estate after the family's ancestral home in Gloucestershire, England. He surmised that Custis initially named his plantation, which he originally obtained in 1656, "Arlington" to prove his ancestral ties to England.

Naturalization

In 1657, the Virginia Assembly passed an act permitting persons of English descent to become naturalized citizens after four years of residence in the colony. In 1658, John Custis II was granted a commission of naturalization. Later in 1670, Custis named his large manor "Arlington" after the plantation.

Arlington house was home to the Custis family until John Custis IV moved to Williamsburg around 1714. After he moved, the Arlington property declined. In fact, all that remains of the estate today is the Custis family tomb and a small footprint of the original house. The property passed to John's son Daniel after his death in 1749. When Daniel died, his property was held in trust until his heir, John Park Custis, became of age. While a minor, his mother's new husband, George Washington, adopted him and oversaw the trust. In 1778, John Parke Custis, much to George Washington's chagrin, purchased a northern Virginia property overlooking the Potomac River from Gerard Alexander for the exorbitant sum of 11,000 pounds. In 1802, the property, as well as Arlington, which was sold in 1832, was inherited by John's son George Washington Parke Custis.

George Washington Park Custis moved to the northern Virginia property and ultimately built the iconic house, which he called Arlington House in honor of the family's original estate, that currently overlooks Washington, D.C. That estate was eventually inherited by his daughter Mary and her husband, Col. Lee. The estate, and the subsequent national cemetery, have become famous, both for their history and associations, as well as the fact that many "Arlingtons" around the country take their name from them. The heights and the historic district located near them are no exception.



Arlington Row cottages



. . . Southwark

SOUTHWARK HAS MANY historical associations. Chaucer's pilgrims began their trek to Canterbury from the old Tabard Inn. But Southwark Cathedral is often overlooked, with so many visitors to London just staying north of the river. The cathedral's St George, guarding the names on the war memorial, is a most impressive sight.

Thanks to reader, Ray Haffenden, for taking the picture (left) and telling us about this fine London landmark.

The Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie stands at the oldest crossing-point of the River Thames at what was for many centuries the only entrance to the City of London situated across the river. A verbal tradition passed on to the Elizabethan historian John Stow suggests that the first Christian establishment was a community of nuns in the seventh century, but the first written reference is the mention of a 'minster' in the Domesday Book of 1086.

In 1106 the church was 're-founded' by two Norman knights as a priory, whose members lived according to the rule of St Augustine of Hippo. The church was dedicated to St Mary and later known as St Mary Overie ('over the river'). The Augustinian Canons created a hospital alongside the church; this was the direct predecessor of today's St Thomas's Hospital opposite the Houses of Parliament



. . . Pickering



THE AGED STONE WALLS of historic St Peter and St Paul's Church in Pickering are decorated with vibrant and colourful painted frescoes that depict Christian imagery. Commissioned in approximately 1470 AD, they recreate important stories from the Bible, and venerate saints, religious leaders, and other individuals who played critical roles in the rise and sustenance of the Church.

Among this impressive collection, perhaps the most famous and acclaimed image is a painting of St George, which shows him in action performing one of his most celebrated (albeit fictional) deeds.

Pickering's wall paintings are a fascinating example of what many churches looked like in the middle ages.

When they were first re-discovered in 1852, Pickering's scheme attracted the attention not just of local antiquarians but also national experts from London. Drawings and descriptions were made of the paintings, a few of which survive and help us understand what was seen, before the Revd John Ponsoyby ordered them to be whitewashed over again, much to the disappointment of parishioners and antiquarians alike. Their restoration in the 1880s took ten years and painstaking work by the Revd George Herbert Lightfoot and the artist Edward Holmes Jewitt, of Shrigley & Hunt. You can see his pre-Raphaelite approach to lost details particularly clearly in the lower sections of Edmund and Catherine.



Coming soon: South and West Wales Branch

Following the announcement in the pages of this magazine concerning the foundation of a new Northern Ireland branch, we are pleased to tell you about plans for further RSSG expansion across these islands – in the form of a branch for Wales (an organisation which did, in fact, exist in the 1930s).

To herald the launch of our Cambrian chapter, we will be joining forces with members of the Order of St David and St Non on 1 March (St David’s Day), for the annual pilgrimage walk around the city of St Davids, Pembrokeshire.

All members of The RSSG living in Wales are cordially invited to join in with this delightfully informal gathering. Pilgrims gather on the clifftop shrine of St Non’s well, usually from 10.30 am on 1 March. A proclamation for St David’s Day follows later in the town centre, with the bells of the cathedral chiming gloriously! After the ceremony, it is anticipated that we will gather with members of the Order of St David at a local hostelry to toast the Patron Saints of England and Wales – and His Majesty the King.

Further details will be available nearer the time, via our website and Administration Centre.



130-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF RSSG BANQUET 12 July, 2024 at Stationers’ Hall, London



D-DAY, 6 JUNE 2024 80-year anniversary of D-Day See page 43 for further details



The Royal Society of St George

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

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

SATURDAY, 20 APRIL 2024

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

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

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

A luncheon will take place at a venue to be confirmed at 1 pm. Price per person TBA

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

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



Please contact Liz to order your RSSG red rose wreath by Thursday, 4 April, Poppy Factory Price this year is £TBC

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

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

Dragon discovered in Southern United States

reveals Robert N Johnston!

WELL . . . MAYBE NOT QUITE literally! But why else would Saint George be in South Carolina?

More specifically, I am referring to the township of Saint George, South Carolina. As a Life Member of RSSG, and nearby resident of Beaufort, South Carolina (pronounced in the appropriate English manner, with lips pursed as if blowing a kiss “BEW-fort”), curiosity got the better of me. I had to find out how this quaint, nearby township of just less than 2,000 permanent residents came to be named “Saint George”.

In the latter part of the sixteenth century, English settlers came to the Carolina region of the yet-to-be-formed United States. The embryonic state of South Carolina was then part of the territory known as “Carolana” (a latin derivation of the name Charles, more specifically meaning ‘land of Charles’). In 1629, Charles I granted Carolana to his friend and Attorney General, Sir Robert Heath. Exactly 100 years later, the “Royal Period” began when the Crown took over the colonies in 1729. This was also the year in which the Crown divided the Carolana region into two Royal provinces, North Carolina and South Carolina. During the Royal Period (1729-1775), the English expanded into all areas of South Carolina. It was then that English settlers and their descendants were the predominant residents of what is present-day Dorchester County, in which the township of Saint George is located.

US Post Office

While there are conflicting theories, I learned that the likely origin of the naming of this small town was during these colonial times, the village (and its predominantly English residents) was located within the territorial entity of the Parish of St George’s. Shortly after the American Revolution, St George’s



Parish was granted a US Post Office on 1 April 1804. In 1897, Dorchester County was created from Colleton County, and St George (no possessive ‘s’) was named the County Seat. Through the years, the town grew and eventually became a popular train stop for tourists on their way to Florida.

So my curiosity was satisfied. The answer to my question was pretty simple (and maybe obvious to those of you more astute): English settlers brought with them the Church of England which established a territorial parish with the name Saint George, and thereby the town was named. This is probably not dissimilar to the English-influenced naming of Saint George, Pennsylvania; Saint George, Utah and Saint George, Minnesota.

True Grits

But in my brief research of this small town, I did learn of one thing unique to Saint George, South Carolina – its not-so-world-famous “World Grits Festival”. For those of you not familiar with “grits”, it is the Southern United States equivalent of polenta – but generally whiter, softer, grainier, and almost always smothered in butter. In the mid-1980s, the town leaders of Saint George wanted to create a yearly festival for the city. After reviewing possible ideas, local “Piggly Wiggly” grocery store owners, John Hunter and George Axson, discovered from contacts at the Quaker Oats Company that the upper part of Dorchester County (where Saint George is located) consumes more grits per capita than “any other place in the world”.

Consequently, in 1986, the first annual “World Grits Festival” was held. During the festival, which takes place each year in mid-April (with a nod to Saint George’s Day), as

many as 10,000 people flock to the tiny town for food, music, and games. Of particular fun, the festival features a contest in which people roll in a vat of grits, vying to have the largest weight of grits stick to them. But for those of you who might not wish to wear a bespoke suit of soggy corn, there is also a corn shucking contest, square dancing, a grits eating contest, a “falling in the grits” contest, softball tournament, bands, arts and crafts, and plenty of meals with – you guessed it – grits. But what festival celebrating grits would be complete without the crowning of Miss Grits. This reminds me that I must not fail to acknowledge the Southern acronym “GRITS”: Girls Raised In The South.

So next time you celebrate Saint George’s day, you might include a side dish of grits and raise a toast to His Majesty King Charles III and Saint George . . . South Carolina, and to the ethereal beauty and noble reign of her queen, Miss Grits.

Robert N. Johnston writes from Beaufort, South Carolina.



Cheesy grits



Betjeman fans vow to save threatened London station

Andy Smith

On 28 August every year, members of the Betjeman Society – the group dedicated to preserving the memory of Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman (1906-1984) – have been gathering to mark the birthday of their hero and to celebrate the life and works of this great writer, broadcaster and conservationist. This year was no exception, but unusually the birthday party was ‘a moving feast’ that started in one London landmark and progressed on to another. Both venues were railway stations. One of these, St Pancras, is where members of the Society regularly gather around Martin Jennings’s iconic bronze statue of Sir John Betjeman to read a selection of his poems. The other, Liverpool Street, was chosen for part of the 2023 birthday celebration because this station, described by Betjeman as “London’s most picturesque terminus”, is currently under threat of ‘redevelopment’ by Network Rail.

FIFTY YEARS AGO BETJEMAN set up the Liverpool Street Station Campaign (LISSCA) to preserve this magnificent Victorian railway station on the edge of the ‘Square Mile’. (He had previously led a successful campaign in the 1960s to preserve the even grander St Pancras station and its adjacent hotel, both of which were not just saved by Betjeman and his fellow conservationists from destruction but have been gloriously restored in more recent years and now stand as fine examples of nineteenth century railway architecture ‘reborn’ for the modern age.) So, when British Rail put forward plans in 1974 to demolish Liverpool Street Station, the poet and campaigner returned to the fray, forming LISSCA and lobbying politicians and the press against BR’s heritage-wrecking scheme. He won this battle by mobilising widespread political and public support for preserving the station, later telling a journalist that he had been determined to save Liverpool Street from being replaced by the “slabs and cubes of high finance”.

Modernisation

Now, half a century later, there is a brand new ‘modernisation’ scheme for the area, and it is one that would utterly ruin the beautiful Grade II Listed station and the adjacent Grade II* Listed Great Eastern Hotel. A business consortium that includes station owner Network Rail and a large firm of property developers, Sellar (who created London’s ‘Shard’), has submitted plans to demolish some of the station buildings and the ornate Victorian concourse roof, and to construct in their place two enormous high-rise (fifteen and ten-storey) office blocks around and overshadowing the station, together with shopping malls and another hotel, as well as converting part of the Great Eastern Hotel itself into yet more offices. The scheme would totally transform the area and obliterate its Victorian character and would also wreck the London skyline including views to and from St Paul’s Cathedral.

So, to resist this latest challenge, LISSCA has been re-established, with the Betjeman Society joining forces with



Liverpool Street station concourse

heritage conservation groups including the Victorian Society, the Twentieth Century Society, the Georgian Group and SAVE Britain’s Heritage in a major campaign to save the nationally important heritage assets at Liverpool Street. The Betjeman Society agreed that its birthday celebration for Sir John on 28 August would be the golden opportunity for LISSCA to launch its fundraising appeal for the campaign to save Liverpool Street Station. Interestingly, the redevelopment scheme is opposed not just by LISSCA but also by the Government’s statutory advisor on heritage, Historic England.

Betjeman Society Chairman Steve Jackson explains: “This year’s birthday celebration for Sir John was an ideal opportunity for the Betjeman Society to focus attention on the monstrous plans for the redevelopment of a station that Betjeman loved and cherished. And we had the benefit of a guided walk around the station, led by our railway guru Don Kennedy, to help us understand precisely why Liverpool Street stood so high

in Sir John’s affections and why he believed the station was so important.”

He adds: “The danger to Liverpool Street Station is even more obvious when you stand on its concourse and understand the significance of the station to the City of London. The proposed development would set a terrible precedent if successful and it is based on unfounded assumptions and claims. It would obliterate views through the glass roof and have the effect of diminishing the station completely, as well as disfiguring the wider City skyline. Disappointingly, there was no attempt by Network Rail to consult or engage with conservation groups when they were drawing up this new and hugely destructive scheme.

“As Sir John Betjeman was the President of the original Liverpool Street Station Campaign (LISSCA) five decades ago, and was a leading figure for many years in campaigns to preserve other Victorian railway stations, including St Pancras, the Betjeman Society is proud to be associated with LISSCA and we will be encouraging our members to play a full and active part in our efforts to save Liverpool Street Station.” LISSCA has an online petition at Change.org entitled ‘Save Liverpool Street Station from Destructive Redevelopment’. The fundraising appeal can be found on www.justgiving.com and is entitled ‘Save Liverpool Street Station’.

Andy Smith is a Council member of The Royal Society of St George and vice-president of the Society’s North Downs Branch. A writer and antiquarian, he is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and life fellow of the Chartered Institute of Journalists.



Members of the Betjeman Society outside Liverpool Street station



Members of the Betjeman Society gather round the poet’s statue in St Pancras station

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following was sent to Daily Mail Letters Editor by Life Member of The RSSiG, D.L.W. Ashton.

Woke goes to Eton

If a top public school headmaster* asserts that “woke” just implies kindness, he is either gullible or disingenuous.

This synonym for “political correctness” is short-hand for the “race, gender, class” ideology, originally spawned by American left-wing revolutionaries six decades ago, which subsequently morphed into “ethnic diversity, sexual inclusions and social equity” – with adverse impacts on national identity, family values and private enterprise.

The present woke officialdom in the UK resembles the lip-service nomenclature in the old USSR, and must similarly be overthrown.

David Ashton, Sheringham, Norfolk

*Are you allowed to say ‘Headmaster’ any longer?! – Ed.



The history of England – in a church

Anyone who is looking for a gentle history lesson on a quiet Sunday afternoon, need look no further than one of England’s churches.

Practically every one bears the imprint of a thousand years of history. At Lydd church in Kent, for example, one can explore numerous memorials... You will find yourself face-to-face with mediaeval England’s Sir Walter de Menyl (local Lord of the Manor of Jacques Court, Lydd) – and then, time-travel to the year, 1940, when the Battle of Britain raged in the skies of Southern England. A war-painting shows the extent of damage to the peaceful church, a reminder of when ordinary people found themselves in the frontline.



But then as you prepare to leave, large animal-heads loom into view: the props, no doubt, used by today’s children for their nativity play!

Peter Gibbs, Kent



Silent majority

I am – I hope! – one of millions who believes that our country stands for something and that its past Empire is (almost entirely) something to be proud of. The well-modulated voice on the wireless announcing: ‘This is London . . .’ was a moment of reassurance and authority in the old days.

Trade, ideas, industry, the Anglican Church – all spread across the world from these shores, not to mention parliamentary democracy and the English language. Sadly, I work in the woke-dominated public sector, so feel that I can’t put my name to this letter. Yet I want to share my thoughts with you on why we should stick up for this country.

(Name and address supplied.)



BOOK REVIEWS

Our resident bookworm – ‘Anglofiler’ – recommends some new titles for patriotic readers . . .

During the past six decades our homeland has undergone escalating challenges to previous attitudes, including increased disrespect for famous figures and unpopular attacks on our literary heritage. In *About England* (Reaktion Books, 2023) the landscape scholar David Matless analyses the impact of change on dwellers in our suburbs as well as country villages, market towns and inner cities.

Many readers will share concerns about this poisonous offensive against wholesome values and subversion of national institutions, although our Society cannot officially take sides in party politics. Two books by Peter Whittle, *Monarchy Matters* (2011) and *Being British: What’s Wrong With it?* (2012), however provide a welcome antidote, still available from the New Culture Forum, which exhibits exemplary civic courage in its hard-hitting refutation of “wokery”.



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 X

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



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.

Armchair gardening in February

Elaine Gordon

I AM GIVING AWAY ‘state secrets’ here, but I often look at the on-line seed catalogues not just for ideas on what seeds to buy but also on advice on when to plant them and on what to do when. What drew my eye immediately in one website was a section on ‘Armchair Gardening’ in February. That sounded just right for what can be one of the most miserable months of the year! I read a bit more and saw that it was essentially about planning: planning the rotation in the vegetable plot to ensure good crop rotation and so prevent pests and diseases building up in the soil; planning, and then ordering, bulbs for summer colour and plants for containers; and then sorting and planning what seeds to sow and when. It seems like a very effective way to ‘garden’ in comfort – and a necessary one too, which can save time and prevent mistakes later in the year.

As part of this ‘useful’ research I found my way on to the Royal Horticultural Society Website (RHS), which contains lots of useful articles and my eye was drawn to one on edible gardens. Well, it was actually about edible flowers but I quite like the idea of ‘edible gardens’! I was amazed at how many of the flowers we love to find in our gardens can be eaten. Of course, you need to only use plants that haven’t been sprayed by chemicals – or dogs – and check carefully with a reliable source (such as the RHS website) that you will be able to put whatever it is in your mouth without ill effect. I would hate to think this article was going to lead to a spate of poisoning so, I will repeat again – check carefully – before picking anything to bring to the table. Having said that, there are a number of plants that I feel safe to recommend for culinary use. Lavender is an obvious one: the flowers can be used to flavour sugar for cake making and whole sprigs can be used when cooking lamb or chicken. Rose petals can be candied to decorate cakes, as

can violets or primrose (*primula vulgaris*) flowers. Then there are pot marigold flowers (not the bedding African (*tagetes*) or French (*tagetes patula*) marigolds but *calendula officinalis*). I use these sometimes instead of saffron to give a yellow colour to rice or potatoes; I also sprinkle the petals over salads for a touch of yellow colour. I do the same with nasturtium flowers. Nasturtium leaves can also be eaten; they have a peppery taste that will add a bit of zing to any salad. Finally, I often pickle small-sized nasturtium pods as a home-grown alternative to capers. If you want to find out more, then I recommend reading the *Edible Flowers* article on the RHS website.

Unfortunately, not all gardening in February can take place indoors. If it has been a mild winter so far then the weeds will still be growing and if you can bring yourself to get out there in the rain (it always seems to be raining in February) then you may not find the task of getting rid of them so overwhelming once the weather has warmed up a bit. If you haven’t done so already, then now is the time to dead-head overwintering flowers and tidy up remaining clumps of dead foliage in the flower beds. If you have been ordering bare-rooted fruit bushes or raspberry canes and the ground is too wet to plant them out (remember it is February) then stand the roots in a tub of potting compost to stop them drying out until conditions improve – but they need to go in before the start of the growing season, which can normally be counted on to start at some point during March. February is a good time to prune autumn-fruiting raspberries: it’s very easy – everything must go, just like the Sales! Any pruning of fruit trees should also be completed before the leaf buds start to burst. In the greenhouse, you can start to sow early vegetables and chit potatoes but you need to keep an eye on the temperatures and provide some protection if frosts are in the forecast.

Hopefully, in the vegetable plot or allotment there may still be things such as leeks and brassicas to harvest. One of my favourites in the veg plot is kale. I usually grow the cavolo nero variety. This is meant to be less hardy than the other kales but it has always survived most winters in my garden. It’s very tasty too. If you want to try it, then the recipe below is a good place to start.

Halloumi, kale and lentils (serves 3 – 4)

Olive oil for softening vegetables
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 carrot, diced
3 cloves garlic, chopped
200 g green/puy lentils
1 bay leaf
100 ml red wine (or stock)
300 ml water/stock
Splash balsamic vinegar
1-2tbs mustard
Bundle of kale
250 g halloumi, sliced and cut into small cubes
Handful parsley, finely chopped
Zest and juice of 1 lemon

Method:

Add splash of olive oil to a lidded pan. Cook the onion, carrot and garlic until softened.

Fold the lentils and bay leaf through. Season well. Allow to sizzle for a moment then pour in the wine if using. Let it bubble up a bit, then add the stock or water. Lower the heat, cover and cook for forty minutes until tender.

Taste, add a splash of balsamic vinegar for a touch of sweetness, and a little mustard to give it a kick. Adjust the seasoning.

Pull the kale leaf from the heavy stem, stack the leaves, roll into a bundle then cut into thin slices. Chop these slices until the kale resembles chopped parsley – but be gentle with it; you don’t want a pile of mush.

Fold the kale through the lentils. Remove from the heat and set aside. The residual heat in the pan will wilt the kale.

Fry the halloumi in a little olive oil until golden.

Scatter over the lentils and finish with parsley and the lemon juice and zest sprinkled over.

If you want a non-veggie version of this, you could leave out the halloumi and substitute a fillet of firm fish such as cod or sea bream, or use chicken breast, or a thin steak – the possibilities are endless. You could also add a few chilli flakes with the vinegar and mustard if you want to add a bit of heat. It’s a very versatile dish that lends itself to experimentation.

Enjoy!



Calendula officinalis

Let's re-connect people with nature, Minister tells countryside charity

Protecting the countryside can go hand in hand with 'unleashing rural opportunities' and 're-connecting' people. That was the message from Environment Minister Lord Benyon to the annual meeting of the Berkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) in July this year.

Building affordable homes that people need, speeding up broadband connectivity, improving local transport services, diversifying rural businesses and giving new life to redundant buildings can all play their part in strengthening

countryside communities, the minister told CPRE Berkshire members at their AGM held in the Long Gallery at Englefield House.

Lord Benyon's speech included a plea to promote responsible enjoyment of the countryside. "As a nation we need to 're-connect' people with their local countryside – and especially our children. Nature heals, it offers innate joy, a sense of wellbeing. Perhaps we need to start measuring happiness in the same way we measure GDP."

The former MP for Newbury thanked CPRE Berkshire for its

work in protecting the green belt and rural landscapes, and urged CPRE members to "continue celebrating our countryside and green spaces." He also highlighted the importance of farming and countryside management to the wider economy. In particular, he said, the security of the nation's food supplies is vital. "In this country we currently produce sixty-two per cent of what we eat, but we can produce seventy-five per cent or more. We have to think twenty, thirty or fifty years ahead and look at ways to improve national resilience."

He added that the Government is concerned to strengthen the rural economy and "encourage the next generation of people from farming families to stay in the family business and allow them to embrace the new world of agriculture." Meeting local housing needs will also be crucial to rural communities, and this requires cooperation between parishes and local builders with a commitment to building in the local vernacular so that new homes look right in their rural settings.

On environmental issues, as with most political hot topics, "most people are in the middle ground. They want dialogue rather than confrontation."

Access to the countryside is an example of this, with a small group demanding an automatic 'right to roam' anywhere and everywhere and with a few landowners trying to block public access to their land, but "the great majority of us are in the middle," understanding farmers' concerns and recognising the need to open up the countryside more. But there is a balance to be struck between the two.

This message was echoed by CPRE Berkshire Chairman Greg Wilkinson who said that CPRE was keen to cooperate with as wide a range of environmental and community groups as possible, and that CPRE Berkshire's focus in its new Strategic Plan is on creating alliances and partnerships across the county. In particular, CPRE is looking forward to its centenary in 2026 and is working on a special project looking at how Berkshire's countryside has changed in the past 100 years and how it might look in another 100 years' time.

Among those attending the CPRE Berkshire AGM at Englefield House were the Branch President, James Puxley CVO, Lord Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, and the Vice-President, Dr Christina Hill Williams DL.



Pictured at the CPRE Berkshire Branch AGM at Englefield House on 7 July 2023 are (left to right): Berkshire Branch Chairman, Greg Wilkinson; Branch Secretary, Gloria Keene, MBE; guest speaker, The Rt Hon Lord Benyon; Branch Vice-President, Dr Christina Hill Williams, DL; and President James Puxley, CVO (Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire)

Major exhibition on Zulu War – with 2024 events planned to create goodwill between the UK and Zulu nation

Back in July at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, a major exhibition was held on the subject of the Zulu War – in particular one of its most famous engagements, the 1879 Battle of Rorke's Drift in which a single company of the 24th Foot held off a massive Zulu attack.

Visitors to the exhibition enjoyed examples of military modelling and the presentation of many interesting artefacts from this 'clash of empires' (the British and the Zulu). Also on display were original theatrical posters from the unforgettable feature-film, *Zulu*, which starred Michael Caine and Stanley Baker.

Next year marks 145 years since the war in Southern Africa and many historical and goodwill events are planned, not least a concert in the Welsh town of Brecon which will feature participants from the Zulu kingdom and nation.

The Victorian Military Society's members were very much out in force at the July exhibition; the organisation continuing to research and celebrate this and other battles of the nineteenth century. We recommend their journal, *Soldiers of The Queen* as a major source of information for students of history. (See the VMS website: www.victorianmilitary.org)



A re-creation in model form of the Battle of Rorke's Drift (Picture, S. Millson.)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY of St George was founded in 1894 with the noble object of promoting 'Englishness' and the English way of life. The City of Westminster Branch was formed in 1988 and has been associated with the Royal Hospital Chelsea ever since. This relationship is

acknowledged by the memorial plaque on one of the benches in front of the Pensioners Club.

The Branch makes an annual donation to the Royal Hospital Chelsea as a corporate member. This year the branch responded to the Hospital's 'Cost of Loneliness Appeal' by applying for matched funding from the Society's Charitable Trust. This



Members of The Royal Society of St George present their kind gift application was successful and has resulted in a donation of £1000 this year.



Culture at Camelsdale

Camelsdale Primary School Year Six pupils were very kindly invited by Haslemere HHH Concerts to three chamber music concerts at St Christopher's Church in Haslemere. The children got to hear live violin, flute, cello and piano music across a range of old and modern classical music ranging from Beethoven to Bartok! The schoolchildren were captivated by the music.

Headteacher, Sarah Palmer, said "It is experiences like these which develop a sense of culture and an appreciation of 'the arts.' It gives purpose for when the children have to perform themselves in front of an audience. And it may have even inspired future musicians! It was lovely to be invited to such a high quality local event."

Indeed, Camelsdale Primary School has been immersing the children in a sense of identity . . . with Year Four children learning about World War Two in the roles of the Home Guard and The Air Raid Wardens in their residential trip to Henley Fort near Guildford . . . even being evacuated on the train . . . as well as Year Six reciting *To Autumn* by John Keats in the Harvest Festival. Year R children have been settling into school life really well and have enjoyed learning about all of the local houses and making maps! Year One visited Arundel Castle and have been learning all about some traditional tales, whilst Year Two have been learning all about The Great Fire of London as well as creating a Harvest traditional dance. Year Three have all been wrapped up in the Stone Age and learning all about the rocks and fossils beneath our feet , with Year Five looking to the sky for their Space Adventure and learning all about the moon and stars and the Space Race! They loved a visit to the Winchester Science Museum!

Eightieth Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 2024



Next year will be the eightieth Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 1944. The largest naval, air and land operation in history.

The Royal Society of St George would like to commemorate this as a nationwide event. We had thought about holding an event in London but as so many towns and counties have plans to commemorate this locally we wanted to get branches involved locally too.

The President of the Federation of Fish Friers discovered an interesting fact. 'FISH' and 'CHIPS' had played a significant role in ensuring the safety of our troops whilst on foreign soil. When

a soldier was aware of others in the vicinity but unaware of whether they were friend or foe he called out 'FISH'. If the response was 'CHIPS' he could be pretty certain that this unseen person was a 'friend'. If no response was received then it would be highly likely that there was a 'foe' nearby and extreme caution was essential.

The National Federation of Fish Friers is proud to be involved in the commemorations to celebrate the eightieth Anniversary of D-Day on 6 June 2024, and are encouraging all fish and chip outlets to get involved to show their appreciation for what those brave souls did to protect our freedom and our thanks

for the continued protection provided by our armed forces. Therefore for 2024 National Fish and Chip Day has been moved to 6 June 2024.

We would like all branches to organise a Fish and Chip lunch or supper for their members on or as near as possible to 6 June. You could choose a local restaurant, pub or a venue where you perhaps can have the lunch delivered to you.

The official organisers have chosen five charities to be supported at this time. They are The Royal Naval Association, ABF, The Soldiers Charity, The RAF Benevolent Fund, The Merchant Navy Association and The Normandy Memorial Trust.

We would like you to raise money for one or all of these charities. You could organize a quiz, a raffle or just add a few pounds to the meal price of your fish and chips. We welcome any ideas you may have.

The Charitable Trust will match fund any funds raised. We would like you to invite friends and family if your venue is big enough and take plenty of photographs for our Journal.

More information can be found at the following link: <https://bit.ly/46eQgI7>

Traducing England

A sharp-eyed David Ashton spotted the following: A Cambridge University Press book puff re Virginia Woolf states that "Englishness" is "an empty myth . . . an

imaginary past . . . an occasion for prejudice and political reaction . . . a potential embarrassment . . . a dirty word . . . outworn concept . . . tied to lost ideals of continuity and community."



Britain overseas . . . an occasional photo-series from far beyond our shores

G.M.S. Lauder-Frost

What could be more English than a stay at the Lord Raglan Hotel, with a glass of Toths ale on arrival for refreshment? Welcome to old Sydney! And also in the northern New South Wales Highlands, you can find the now disused railway halt at Ben Lomond (higher above sea level than the place of the same name in Scotland).



Sydney's Grand Organ



Sydney Town Hall

One hundred and thirty-three years ago, on 9 August 1890, the first recital on the Grand Organ in the Sydney Town Hall was held. At the time, the organ was the largest pipe organ in the world. It was built by English firm William Hill and Son in London before being dismantled and shipped to Sydney. The recital was performed by W. T. Best, the City Organist from Liverpool, England. Mr Best had tested the organ in London before it was dismantled and shipped to Australia, and declared it "... a marvel of excellence in both tone and mechanism".

Having approximately 8,700 pipes, it was the largest organ in the world at the time, and is still the largest ever built with tubular-



Grand Organ with 8,700 pipes

pneumatic action. Its five manuals (Choir, Great, Swell, Solo and Echo) and pedals have between them 126 speaking stops and fourteen couplers. 4000 invited guests were present at the first recital.

Due to deterioration in the organ's tone and function, the need for extensive restoration work became apparent during the 1950s and '60s, especially after the organ completely broke down in October 1971, causing performances to be cancelled. Sydney organ-builder Roger Pogson gradually restored the instrument between 1972 and 1982. The Organ was reopened again on 11 December 1982 by Robert Ampt (appointed Sydney City Organist in 1978) with the ABC Sinfonia.

A new town in England?

G.M.S. Lauder-Frost

Today I was browsing one of the New South Wales pages on Facebook (there are many such pages) and I saw this picture of the new buildings at Ermington, c1958, then a new developing suburb of West Sydney. (The buildings have survived!)

The middle three cars are all English and possibly the one at the end, too. Two of models are Austins and the Associated Stores vehicle (I believe) is a little Bedford van. The telephone boxes are painted the same red as ours. I think the health food shop was ahead of its time!



Obituary

Sam Swerling, 1939-2023



Although not a member of The Royal Society of St George, the North Downs Branch was saddened to hear of the death of a gentleman who visited as guest speaker in the group's early days.

Samuel Maurice Swerling was a Repton man, dedicated in equal measure to sport and academic pursuit. He played tennis at Junior Wimbledon and umpired at cricket matches across the Hertfordshire League (his native county).

Sam stood as a Conservative parliamentary candidate in the two General Elections of 1974, but did not quite make it over the line. Instead, he devoted his

time to campaigning and the preparation of many policy papers, on subjects such as housing.

An opponent of the centralising EU, Sam fought against the Maastricht Treaty, yet harboured a great admiration for France and European culture. A law lecturer and solicitor, too, he spoke to The RSSIG on the theme of 'Nation, Tradition and Liberty' ~ the title of his book, published by TAW.

Sam was surrounded by his family during his last days, and all of us at North Downs will remember with great fondness this superb speaker.

Stuart Millson



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

Final Copy date for the April 2024 edition of

St George for England

28 February 2024

**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, Silvertown, 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

ARTS REVIEW

A new musical voice at Summer JAM Festival

Stuart Millson

Still preserving a sense of rural remoteness, Romney Marsh in Kent is one of the country's most unusual localities. Once a watery world of creeks and salt marsh, then drained and given over to crops and sheep-grazing, the green low-levels extend as far as Dungeness and Denge Marsh, a unique shingle promontory jutting into the English Channel – and designated as our nation's only official desert. The scene is partly dominated by the atomic power station, which is linked to its sister-facility in the North-West of England, by way of a single-track railway line (spared by Beeching) that threads its way through the hamlets of the Marsh. The tower of Lydd Church provides a contrast to the austere atomic monolith on the Ness; and rising above the landscape just to the east is the equally impressive Church of St Nicholas, New Romney – the venue for a London Mozart Players concert of English (and American) music for strings, held as part of the JAM on the Marsh Festival.

JAM stands for John Armitage Memorial, commemorating a far-seeing patron of the arts who saw the necessity of blending music of the past and present, with new commissions to build the repertoire; and a mixture of local, national and international performers to make music in the landscape that he adored. Sarah Armitage now continues his great mission, with conductor, Nicholas Cleobury acting as 'Curator' – and on the occasion of 15 July, taking up the baton to bring a capacity audience the works of Elgar (*Serenade for Strings*), Samuel Barber (*Adagio*), Vaughan Williams (*Tallis Fantasia*) and Sir Michael Tippett. And to underline the idea of championing imaginative new music, Nicholas Cleobury included in his programme a piece by James Aburn – a composer still in his twenties.

Supernatural . . .

Entitled, *Silent Shadows*, James's inspiration came from the legend of supernatural marshland light (the 'will-o'-the-wisp' phenomenon) said to have confused travellers on lonely lanes; leading them, not to a welcoming farm steading, but into the sinister boggy darkness . . . Played with enormous commitment by the London Mozart Players, the work proved to be tonal and accessible, but with growing touches of tension and an evocation of the surrounding light and landscape: a worthy successor to the intensive string-writing of Britten and Tippett. And it was Tippett's masterpiece, the *Fantasia Concertante on a Theme of Corelli* which followed: a great, single span, elaborating on the baroque composer's melodies of 300 years gone by, yet drawing them firmly into the twentieth-century, and suffusing them, too, with echoes of Tudor England.

(This piece first appeared in The Quarterly Review.)



Nicholas Cleobury rehearsing the London Mozart Players at New Romney Church

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: honsecretsstg@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

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, Treasurer
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

Jane Dorrington, Chairman
Email: jane@chiefexec.co.uk

Wiltshire

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



OVERSEAS BRANCHES

Abu Dhabi

Mrs. Pauline Moffet, Chair
Email: rssgauh@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

Mrs Princess Karen Cantrell, Hon. 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

Linda Kelly, Secretary
Email: lindakelly@mweb.co.za

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

Lane Redwine, Chairman
Email: lane.redwine@gmail.com

Toowoomba

Mr. Bob Anderson, 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

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: office@okstc.org

The Order of St George

Stuart A. Notholt, Grand Prior
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. Richard Booker, President
Email: rfullerbook@gmail.com

The St George's Society Of Baltimore Limited

Mr. Harry T Aycok, 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 **NEW GROUP**

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



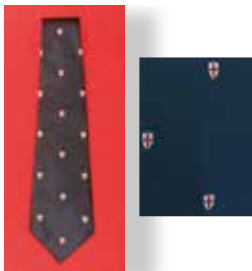
Ref: RSSG05B
Metal Gilt Enamel Pin Badge Screw Back Fastener 23mm x 25mm
£8.00
MEMBERS ONLY



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: 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: 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.