In this edition

The Patron Saint of England

Rudyard Kipling

William Harvey

Hot Cross Buns
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” •

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UK Life members - GB £400
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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.

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

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Registered Office and address for correspondence: The Studio, Copyhold Farm, Lady Grove, Goring Heath, Reading RG8 7RT
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.

THANK YOU for the many contributions to this Spring’s Journal, oh how nice it is to say Spring!

Personally any articles on Winnie the Pooh have my approval. I was also delighted to see the Wallace and Gromit trail featured. My husband and I enjoyed a summer afternoon catching up with as many sculptures as we could. We didn’t get as far as the ‘George’ though, so it was fun to see him in these pages. And how lovely to see that the tradition of English story telling from A.A Milne to Nick Park continues to capture imaginations today.

Congratulations to all who work behind the scenes keeping the Society and the Journal lively and fresh despite the recent upheavals of moving and adapting to new work practices.

My grateful thanks to Jim Duggan, our publisher, who as always has made the job of editor easy and pleasant, and who has the patience of a saint. And also to our fantastic photographers, Fred Pearson and Georgina Burges, for everything they do for us.

Best wishes
Laura
W E HAVE MADE IT, we are now embarked on our year of celebrations. It has taken 125 years of planning, vision and hard work to get to this point and I and my Council are determined to ensure that the year ahead reflects all that effort and all our history.

England has changed a great deal since those late Victorian days when Howard Ruff felt that we weren’t English enough. To a great extent, he was right. The country was part of an Empire, arguably the biggest empire the world had known. What did we need with one little country?

But that would have applied to the great and the good. The rest of the population, the Englishman and his family, lived in and gave the rest of his life to, the country that my father’s twin brother gave his life for. A country of playrights and poets, of statesmen and authors, of heroes and iconic villains. The country that I have grown up in and love.

Its also a country of incredible history and tradition. We may have been invaded relentlessly by Romans, Danes and the French – to say nothing of closer neighbours - in our first millennia, but since 1066, despite a number of efforts, we have not been overcome. Which means, of course, that we have a long history of famous battles won, which we celebrate with great enthusiasm, but of security. We are again a small country and gave the rest of his life to, the country that my father’s twin brother gave his life for. A country of playrights and poets, of statesmen and authors, of heroes and iconic villains. The country that I have grown up in and love.

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and ends with chaos. We don’t agree with anyone or anything, argument has become a national pastime.

As an aside, Northern Ireland has had no parliament for well over 700 days now, and most people apparently say they have not noticed a difference. Food for thought?

As members of the Royal Society of St George, England’s Premier Patriotic Society, we have a job to do, and this year above all is the year to do it. Our job is to be proud of our country, of its history and traditions, of its people – whatever colour their skin – of our work ethos, our sense of fair play, our sense of humour. And not to be quietly proud, behind closed doors, with our friends and like-minded people, but out there, in our country, with everyone that we meet. What, after all, is so wrong with flying the English flag, of celebrating St George’s Day, of loving our country?

I hope our programme of events for this year reflects our wish to stand up and be counted and that you will be able to join in as many as possible. We are going to have a lot of fun, but we are also going to remember our founder, our armed forces and our history. Throughout the year we will be raising funds for our Armed Service charities.

125th Anniversary Reception
We started in style, with a fantastic reception at HMS President, pictures from which you will find further into the Journal. These things don’t happen without a great deal of effort, and I am indebted to Bob Smith, our events co-ordinator on Council, who masterminded the evening.

In Memoriam
I am, however, sorry to say that the year has started sadly with the loss of Albert Hankers, a member of Council, Secretary of the Charitable Trust and joint President of Haslemere branch, who also ran our 50/50 club. I, among many, will miss Albert so much – my strongest critic but also my greatest friend, he was that to many people and his parting has left a gap in all our lives. Our condolences are with his lovely wife Shirley who, undaunted, will continue with her role on the Council and with the Charitable Trust.

I attended the funeral of Fred McComas, Chairman of Sussex branch, the other day. I hadn’t met him, but he was clearly an absolute dynamo in everything he was involved in, and I know he will be very much missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

The New Year always seems to start as a struggle. The weather is usually foul, the days short and dark and cold, and it is the time when people who have managed to hold on throughout the early winter start to slip away. I have lost a few friends and colleagues this year – I am convinced they hold on for Christmas and the New Year and say goodbye when all the fun is over. Well, wouldn’t you?

Walking out for Society
Now! I have this year’s challenge already sorted out in my mind. I walked eighty miles to Victory in 2017, 100 miles for 100 years since the end of WWI last year, and this year cannot pass without a 125 mile walk to commemorate our 125th anniversary.

But, I don’t plan to do it on my own. I want to spread the fun out and what I would like you, as individuals or branches, to do is to commit to walking a few miles, for a charity, singly or in a group, and I will come and join you. It can be one mile or twenty, the important thing is to do it, and to raise some money while we are walking. I look forward to hearing from you!

Enjoy the spring, enjoy the year, see you soon.

Every best wish
Joanna

The President and Chairman of the City of London Branch are delighted to advise that this Banquet is to be honoured by the presence of Their Royal Highnesses’ The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester

Those wishing to attend or to obtain more information are asked to contact our Honorary Events Secretary Alan Cook Esq. by email at rssgclb@btinternet.com
The Beauty of England

Whitby upper harbour
Application for UK Membership to the
The Royal Society of St. George

Please complete this form and the privacy statement and send to:

The General Secretary, RSSG, P.O. Box 397, Loughton, Essex IG10 9GN, United Kingdom
Telephone: 020 3225 5011                      email: info@rssg.org.uk

Note: This form is not to be used for Junior applicants under the age of 16.

I wish to apply for Membership of the Royal Society of St. George.
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Please give your reasons for wishing to join the Society on a separate page and submit with this application form.

Where /how did you find out about The Royal Society of St. George?
Member [] Branch [] Internet [] Journal [] Other ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

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Please arrange with your bank to pay by Standing Order
Alternatively you can pay by Bank Transfer to: Account No. 00003854 Sort Code: 40-52-40
You may also pay by cheque, making it payable to: The Royal Society of St. George

*Note: Published fees are for UK only. Please contact the Society Office for other rates and appropriate payment methods.

Please read and sign page 2
This page is part of the Membership Application Form and concerns your personal privacy

Declaration
The Royal Society of St. George (RSSG) will hold certain personal information (known as ‘Personal Data’) about you. Personal data is information from which you, as an individual, can be identified.
Without this information the RSSG is not able to include you in its membership.

The information we will retain about you
Identity and contact details: That information provided by you on page 1 of this form
And, if paying by direct debit or standing order: Details of bank account.
In addition we retain details of your membership type, years of membership and subscription payments.

How will this Information be used?
Authorised persons within the administration of the RSSG, process this information in order to communicate, promote and manage its activities, collect annual subscriptions and for general administration. If you choose to belong to a branch of the RSSG, authorised members of the branch administration will also process your information in order to carry on similar actions at branch level.

The RSSG will ensure:
- Your information will be processed fairly and legally.
- If for some specific purpose further personal data is required, it will not be collected without notification and terms of use.
- Sensitive personal data (as defined in the General Data Protection Regulation) will not be collected or processed by the RSSG without a full explanation of its purpose and your explicit written consent.

Who do we share your data with?
With the following exceptions, the RSSG will not share your data with any third party:
- There is specific written consent by you.
- From time to time it is necessary for the member’s database to be accessed for maintenance and upgrades by the service provider. This access is protected by a legally binding non-disclosure agreement.
- If you are in an article in the St. George for England Journal or website, (but only name, branch and by consent, photo)

International
Currently the only activity that crosses international boundaries is data given by overseas members and the distribution of the Journal. If an event arises requiring your data be sent by the RSSG beyond the EU, then it will only by your permission or legal scrutiny.

How long will we keep your data
Your data will remain on the database for as long as you are a member. When you leave, your data will be truncated to name, branch, years of membership (or date of leaving) and the category of the reason for you leaving.

What rights do you have.
On proof of your identity:
- You have the right to see the personal data that is held about you and have a copy provided to you or someone else on your behalf, in an electronic format and at no cost.
- If you believe your personal data we hold is inaccurate, you can ask to have it corrected.
- Where you have given consent for the RSSG to process your personal data, you can withdraw that consent at any time.
- You can request your personal data be deleted

Consents
To inform you of forthcoming RSSG events we need your permission to send you details of those events:
I/we consent to receiving by Email or SMS text, promotional/advertising material of RSSG events [ ] (indicate your consent by ticking this box)

If the Society wishes to publish a named photograph of you, we will ask you for your permission.
If you attend a function and do not wish to appear in a RSSG photograph then please inform our photographer

By signing this form I/we declare that I/we, understand and agree with the principles and terms of The Royal Society of St. George and agree to further its Objects as set out in the Royal Charter (as published in the Journal and at www.rssg.org.uk) and have read, understood and accept the privacy notice on this page:

Signature: __________________________ Date: ________________

(Joint member) Signature: __________________________ Date: ________________

Revision: 1st January 2019
Emily Trappen's visit to Indonesia

Earlier this year, the Royal Society gave me a gracious grant of £300 to help fund my trip to Indonesia with Operation Wallace; a charitable organisation that gives secondary and university students a chance to take part in real scientific fieldwork in places that have been largely unexplored, such as places in Indonesia. I came back from that trip in September and what I experienced in those two weeks was absolutely unforgettable.

A quick biology/geography lesson for you: the Wallace line is a theoretical line devised by Alfred Wallace, who discovered that there’s huge variation between the species found between Borneo and Sulawesi, along with other islands within the archipelago. What happened it seemed was the species were separated a very long time ago, unable to meet each other across the ocean. So they evolved independently from each other, eventually they became completely different species and variants of each other. We were on Buton, a mostly undisturbed island on the west side of the Wallace line with a beautiful coral reef and unexplored jungle.

Jungle week

First was the jungle week. We had a camp centralised within this national park, which looked like it was out of a movie – we slept in hammocks, bathed in a beautiful plunge pool or in the bucket showers, and dried our clothes over the smoke of a large bonfire. We were also bitten by a lot of mosquitoes, sampled by quite a few leeches, spied on by a couple of the island’s monkeys, and passed by various frogs, snakes and insects. It was very exciting.

The first thing I did in my group was the habitat survey, a day long activity where we did various measurements of trees and foliage within a transect (a 50x50 plot). We were told this data will be eventually passed on to NASA, who needed it to calibrate a laser that’s going to save the planet! Or at least, that’s the fun way of saying it. The data we collected, in short, is incredibly useful to people like NASA for their efforts in collecting even more useful data. We also did a megafauna (big animal) survey studying the tracks and sounds of various animals, a bat survey, an amphibian survey, butterfly survey and a bird survey, where we didn’t see many birds but saw one of Indonesia’s cutest mammals, the cuscus!

Local guides

The most memorable part of that week however was interacting with the local guides, who the boys in our group had become quick friends with, and soon so did everyone else. Each evening we would play card games, play music and dance, and on a couple nights we’d play fun games like a variation of musical chairs and others. They were all very friendly and fun people, and it was great to be able to interact with them and learn more about them and their lives. The income from the operation directly helped them and their village, allowing them to live comfortable lives and have great pride in the jungle that they used to use to hunt and provide for themselves. This operation has allowed them to find more sustainable options.

Marine week

After that it was marine week, at a villa the operation had hired out for us. They had running showers and laundry, which after a week of mud and damp was a welcome sight. We did two dives every day, however for me instead of diving I just did the snorkelling. It was very exhausting, but despite this the two dives a day made good use of our time on the bay.

Coral reefs

We had really insightful lectures about how coral reefs benefit the coast, the population and the rest of the ecosystems within the ocean – we also learned how little we actually know about our oceans. Only one per cent of the world’s oceans have actually been explored, by scientists, and as you can probably guess, a lot more of it is already exploited. We were also taught about the monetary value of our coral reefs – firstly, the monetary value of all our ecosystems equates to about fifteen trillion dollars. The coral reef ecosystem is the most valuable, coming to an estimated 325 billion pounds. This, on top of the beautiful sights we saw underwater, taught us just how valuable and amazing these ecosystems are.

Sea Snakes

One of the special sights we’d often see were the sea snakes; though they’re extremely poisonous, they were mostly docile and not bothered by us, and every thirty seconds or so they would glide up to the surface and float like a buoy in the water while they breathed. It was magical!

The whole trip was a blast and such a massive learning experience – to be able witness nature for yourself instead of through pictures really changes your perspective, and I thank the Royal St George’s Society for helping me get there. I hope in the future our coral reefs will still be there for future generations to see, because it was truly unforgettable.

Buton Island
Myths and legends surrounding hot cross buns

Jim Duggan

DELIIOUS HOT CROSS BUNS—those doughy, raisin-rich treats—are traditionally eaten during Lent, especially in the week leading up to Easter. They are marked with a dough or icing cross on top, they have been an Easter staple of some communities for centuries. (Versions of the hot cross bun even appeared in ancient Greece.) Given the bun’s long history, legends and superstitions have had lots of time to develop and grow around them. Here are some favorites:

A 12th-century monk was the first person to mark the bun with a cross
According to the story, an Anglican monk baked the buns and marked them with a cross in honour of Good Friday. They soon gained popularity around England as a symbol of the Easter weekend. However, the first definite record of hot cross buns comes from a sixteenth and seventeenth century text stating: “Good Friday comes this month, the old woman runs, with one penny, two a penny hot cross buns.”

Nowadays the cross might be made of chocolate icing or cream. However, traditionally, it is made of a simple dough or just a knife imprint.

They stay fresh for a whole year
If you hang a hot cross bun from your kitchen rafters baked on Good Friday, legend has it that it will remain fresh and mould-free throughout the entire year. This harkens back to the body of Christ, which, according to the Bible, did not show any signs of decay after his crucifixion and prior to his resurrection. The bun should be replaced each year on Good Friday. Later in the year, the buns were sometimes broken up, mixed with water and treated as a medicine according to some reports.

They expel bad spirits
Due to the blessed cross on top, hot cross buns hung in the kitchen are supposed to protect from evil spirits. They are also said to prevent kitchen fires from breaking out, and ensure that all breads baked that year will turn out perfectly delicious. According to legend, taking hot cross buns on a voyage at sea endows the boat with some protection from shipwreck.

They cement friendships
Those who share a hot cross bun are supposed to enjoy a strong friendship and bond for the next year. A line from an old rhyme captures this lore: “Half for you and half for me, between us two, good luck shall be.”

They are too sacred to eat any old day
In 1592, Queen Elizabeth I decreed that hot cross buns could no longer be sold on any day except for Good Friday, Christmas or at funerals. The English were deeply superstitious, believed the buns carried medicinal or magical properties, and were fearful of those powers being abused. To get around this, most hot cross buns were baked by people in their own kitchens. If they were caught, however, they had to give up all of the illegal buns on their premises to the poor. Eventually, the law became too difficult to enforce and was eventually rescinded.

The widow’s bun
The legend is that an old widow’s only son left to go to sea, and wrote to her explaining that he would be returning home at Easter and to have a nice hot cross bun waiting for him. Sadly, he never returned, but his mother continued to keep a fresh hot cross bun every Good Friday for the rest of her life. After her death, a huge collection of hot cross buns was discovered in a net hanging from the ceiling of her cottage.

In 1848, the public house that was built upon the site of her cottage was named in honour of the tradition she had created. The tradition continued until the pub closed in 2015, with a sailor from the Royal Navy placing a new bun in the net hanging above the bar each year.

The 2016 ceremony was instead carried out at the Queens Head in Limehouse.
BATH

Correspondent: Pam Preece

On Saturday, 8 December, the Bath and District Branch held their Christmas Lunch at the charming Guyers House Hotel and Restaurant. As we had invited no guest speaker for this occasion it was decided that those who wished would give a short presentation on something or someone of interest to them personally or others generally. I was first up and waffled on, well over my allotted time, about Fanny Burney whom I have written about in a previous Journal. Although I enjoyed my time in the spotlight, I learned a valuable lesson. Never try to reel off the word, “catholicism” when nervous.

Next up was our Treasurer, Nick Lennard, who spoke of his mother, an intelligent and well-educated lady, raised in South Africa but who had to move to Rhodesia to fulfil her potential in the career she wished to pursue. I didn’t make notes thinking I would be able to catch up with him later to confirm or correct what I believed I had heard. Unfortunately, for me, he and his wife Dawn have been moving home (always traumatic) and then went off on a long cruise to recuperate so any catching up was not to be.

It was then the turn of Diana Bladwell, a loyal and long-standing Branch member. Diana, I was able to catch up with but she thought I would never make head or tail of her hand-written notes so kindly asked her son, Mark, to email me the details, which he did. These are as follows:

“A Day to Remember – From 2014 to 2018, since the start of the Centenary Programme, the Department for Communities and Local Government have placed a stone in the hometown of every soldier awarded the Victoria Cross, 100 years from the date they received the award. ‘Just over a year ago on 1 December 2017, I, with my two sons, daughter-in-law and first cousin, Andrew Leach, represented the family of Captain Alastair McReady-Diarmid of the Middlesex Regiment who was awarded the VC in 1917. It was a bitterly cold morning so we were fortunate to have the use of St. Paul’s Church Hall. We were surprised to see so many representatives from Enfield Council and to meet Eileen Bostle, who had researched the family through the Enfield Local History Library. At a few minutes before 11 o’clock we walked to Grove Road open space where the Stone had been laid. We were amazed at the number of people who had assembled. There were cadets from Alastair’s old school, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Barnet, a Lt. Colonel and soldiers of the Middlesex Regiment, the Royal British Legion and the police. It was moving to see Johnson Beharry, who is a present day holder of the VC, on parade. The Blessing of the Stone was conducted by the Rev. Fr. McAuley, vicar of St. Paul’s. Words of welcome were given by Councillor Doug Taylor, then Ann Cable, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, spoke followed by the Victoria Cross citation by Lt. Colonel D W Utting from the Headquarters of London District. The unveiling of the Stone was carried out by the Deputy Mayor of Enfield and Andrew Leach. Buglers of the Regiment sounded the Last Post and we kept two minutes silence before the Reveille. Wreaths were laid by the Leader of Enfield Council, Mr Doug Taylor, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Ann Cable, and myself.

“It was a wonderful occasion and I would like to thank Colin Barratt for all his work and research, together with the wording on the Stone, James Downing for organising the event and all at Enfield Council who made it such a special occasion. Above all to those who made us feel so welcome."

Next to speak was Wendy Walden, a very welcome guest of our Chairman, Robert Webb. She spoke of, through her London PR Agency, being part of a business group that went to the United States. One of the group was Dennis Thatcher. It seems Wendy must have made a good impression because she was invited to 10 Downing Street where she met Margaret Thatcher and, as a consequence, worked closely with the Prime Minister for six years. In conclusion, Wendy said that personally she had found Mrs Thatcher to be a kind and compassionate human being. As for Dennis, yes he liked a tipple, but always put in an extremely hard day’s work before repairing to the bar.

Lastly, came Robert who spoke of St. George, the patron saint of many countries besides our own. In some parts of the world, apparently, his name is called upon to aid in procreation when a couple are having difficulty conceiving a child. A versatile chap, our George.

Browsing through Country Walks from Bath by Andrew Swift, I came across an interesting nugget. This was about Camerton railway station. The line was primarily constructed, for quite a bit of its length on the bed of the canal originally used as the means of transportation before the invention of steam trains, to carry coal from Dunkerton Colliery. Stations were built so the line could carry passenger trains as well. However, with the closure of the colliery it was not considered viable to keep the line open solely for passenger use and so Camerton, among others, was closed to simply fade away. In the 1950s, Ealing Studio when casting around for a location for the outdoor scenes for The Titfield Thunderbolt found Camerton to be ideal. The film is about, for those who never saw it and I have to admit I am such a one, a group of villagers, aghast at the threatened closure of their branch line, deciding to take on the running of it themselves. Naturally, it is not all plain sailing. There are many problems and a lot of bureaucracy to overcome before the villagers triumph in the final reel.
CITY OF BRISTOL

Correspondent: Council member Cecile Gillard

We had a supper for members and guests on Friday, 1 February at a city centre restaurant (‘River Station’), twelve attended.

City of Bristol St George’s Day event - Tuesday 24 April 2019 celebrating St George with community events and a street parade in Clifton Village.

Future Bristol Branch Events 2019:

St George’s Day Service – Sunday, 28 April, 11 am Christ Church, Broad Street, Bristol followed by lunch nearby

Bristol Branch AGM 5 June

Fish and chip supper at Bobby’s award

winning fish and chip shop, 17 Christmas Steps, Bristol, BS1 5BT – Friday, 5 July 2019 at 7pm

Trafalgar Day dinner at Riverside Youth Project, Clement Street, Easton, Bristol, BS2 9ES – Saturday 19 October

Trafalgar Day Service 11am Christ Church, Broad Street, Bristol followed by lunch nearby – Sunday, 20 October

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Patron: Mr. Edward Gillespie, OBE, Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire

President: Councillor Pam Tracey, MBE

Chairman: Mrs. Pat Ayres, MBE

Dame Janet Trotter stepped down as Patron of the Branch at the end of October 2018, at the same time as she retired from the role of HM Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire. The Branch is very grateful for Dame Janet’s support over the past eight years. We are delighted that the new Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire, Mr. Edward Gillespie, OBE, has agreed to become Branch Patron.

In January the Branch held a New Year Lunch at Hatherley Manor, near Gloucester, attended by fifty members and friends. It was a very enjoyable start to 2019 as Hatherley Manor looked after us well and provided an excellent menu.

On 30 March we are holding “Tea at Three” at Birdlip Village Hall. Members and friends have been invited to enjoy home-made cakes (baked by some of the committee and one committee member’s wife – I hope she has been told she has been ‘volunteered!’) and a cup of tea or coffee. We have invited a speaker from Severn Freewheelers, a voluntary out of hours service which delivers blood, essential medical items, etc., between facilities in Hereford, Worcester, Gloucestershire and North Wiltshire. It is hoped there will also be time to show a short video of the Royal British Legion’s Great Pilgrimage Ninety in Ypres in August 2018, during which more than two thousand RBL members carried their Standards and wreaths to the Menin Gate to commemorate the beginning of the last 100 days of World War One.

Then, of course, we hope there will be another large congregation in Gloucester Cathedral for our forty-first St. George’s Day Service, which this year coincides with Easter Tuesday. Our preacher will be Reverend Gary Grady, Branch Chaplain, and the Nairac Youth Awards, in memory of Captain Robert Nairac, G.C., will be presented by our new Branch Patron.

Unfortunately our Honorary Parade Marshal, Don Humphreys, will not be with us this year as he is not well – after many years of helping with the organisation of the Service he will be very much missed and we send him our very best wishes.

For further information about the Branch and its activities contact Margaret Fuller, Branch Secretary, on 01291 625069 or rsstglos@woodbro.plus.com or see the Branch’s page on the National website.

Armistice Day in Ypres, Flanders 2018

John Lee, member, Gloucester branch

The day dawned overcast and damp with a forecast of rain, not a good omen for the many thousands of people who attended the 100th Anniversary commemorations in this historic town; which was totally destroyed in the First World War and later rebuilt more or less as it was in 1914.

A full programme of events had been planned by the various authorities and for me the first was attending the Armistice Day service at St George’s Memorial Church and after the service we formed up for the Poppy Parade through the town to the Menin Gate Memorial. It was barely a proper
march, immediately behind us was a large contingent of Sikhs who insisted on beating their drums very loudly and not at 120 paces to the minute. However, I think the crowds who must have been up to 15,000 strong, if not more, seemed to enjoy it. On arrival at the Menin Gate, I joined the wreath-layers of which there were a large number. The service followed the usual pattern with the Last Post sounded by the Last Post Association Buglers, a minute’s silence and the Epitaphs spoken, a short service and then the wreath laying. This year there was no representative of the Royal Family present as there had been in previous years, although the King and Queen of Belgium attended a special event in the evening.

With such a large number of wreaths to be laid it was arranged that all layers would fall into line and we handed our wreaths to attendants who then laid them. This resulted in a slick programme but gave little or no time to pay one’s respects. At the completion, the Reveille was sounded, National Anthems played and the various contingents formed up for the march off, led by several pipe and other bands which ended the event well.

I feel I was privileged to have taken part in this special event, the general organisation of which was excellent and we have already booked up for next year!

NORTH DOWNS
Chairman, Stuart Millson
President: Group Capt. Patrick Tootal OBE
Having enjoyed a successful 2018 Yuletide dinner and fundraising evening (in support of our house-charity, the Leybourne RSPCA Animal Rescue Centre), the North Downs Branch is looking forward to a packed programme for 2019 – celebrating not just our English heritage and 125 years of The Royal Society of St. George, but our local Kentish history and traditions.

At the time of writing (late January) the Committee was busy arranging a number of events, including our St. George’s Day dinner, fundraising and wreath-laying; an outing, walk and day of exploration at the Napoleonic-era Slough Fort, situated in the mysterious marshland and weird estuary landscape of North Kent; and – new for this season – a film appreciation night.

Our Deputy Chairman, Wing Commander Mike Sutton has been active in making new approaches to and relationships with local and services charities, and in June we will see branch members participate in the annual East Malling fun day and fair, at which our team raises money for the Heart of Kent Hospice.

Countryside conservation continues to preoccupy us: Cllr. David Thornewell, the LibDem Chairman of East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council, making strong, legal arguments against the proliferation of new housing in our district, which threatens to erode acres of local orchards and countryside. Meanwhile, just over the border in Surrey, Andy Smith, North Downs Vice President works hard in his role as CPRE Surrey’s County Director, challenging the unprecedented amount of development – destined to undermine the vital greenbelt of Surrey.

We believe that a commitment to the defence of local identity and community will enable the Society to play more of a relevant and active role, and could help to boost membership. And this year, in addition to flying the flag of St. George, we will be unfurling the ‘Invicta’ banner of Kent – the famous undefeated white horse; symbol of our county’s proud history and position on England’s front line!
November 2018 we had the privilege of supporting Chairman Joanna Cadman’s epic walk – 100 miles for 100 years in its final stages, ending at the Newhaven War Memorial just before 11 am on Sunday, 11 November. That day wreaths were laid at three War Memorials, Peacehaven/ Telscombe, Newhaven and Seaford. The following Tuesday we were in support of the annual commemoration of the Irish, Canadian and West Indian Troops who were stationed in our area during the First World War.

Through the good offices of our member Jim Lord, two trees have been planted on behalf of our branch to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice 1918. One is in Seaford and the other at the Newhaven Cemetery. It is hoped for many years to come these, with their plaques, will remind everyone of the terrible sacrifices made during the First World War.

Also in November, President Laurie with Chairman Bob and Vice Chairman Ann, attended the HQ of 1414 Squadron ATC at Crowborough to present a copy of the book Dinghy Drop which featured the wartime experiences of the late Don Mabey MBE (founder President of our Branch) as part of the prize for the best Cadet in the Sussex Wing. Each year a statuette of St George of the Dragon is awarded to the best cadet in the Sussex Wing. Her mother was present and is an adult volunteer. Her mother was present and is an adult volunteer. President Laurie Holland presented the book to go with the trophy to the top cadet in Sussex. Her mother was present and is an adult volunteer with the Squadron.

January the branch was represented at Bill’s funeral in Morden, North East Surrey and Mark’s on 8 February in Brighton.

To start 2019 off, we had a superb New Year lunch at the Seaford Golf Club at Blatchington. Soon after that we made our first charitable gift of the year to the Dame Vera Lynn Children’s Charity to buy educational and development toys which will help very young children with cerebral palsy and other motor impairments at free weekly early intervention sessions. Our branch gift was matched by a cheque from the Charitable Trust RSSG so together we financed the purchase of a long list of equipment valued at £900.

At our January committee meeting we prepared for our branch AGM which took place at the Willingdon Golf Club on Monday, 25 February. We announced our branch contribution to our Royal Society’s 125th Anniversary this year. The task was given to our newly appointed Events Secretary, Liz Holland who immediately set to and has made the important first steps of selecting a venue and booking a date.

Forty-two members and friends attended the AGM at which much business was conducted followed by an important part of the event – the buffet and socialising.

South Coast Banquet to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Society Of St George.

This grand event will take place at 7 for 7.30 pm on Saturday, 27 July 2019 at the Masonic Centre, Peacehaven, 16 Seaview Road, BN10 8PX. A Band and entertainment will be provided and the banquet will consist of a three-course meal at reasonable cost. Details of menu choices and final arrangements will be broadcast in due course. In the meantime please make a note of the date. All members of our Royal Society will be welcome. Peacehaven Town lies astride the A259 between Brighton and Newhaven so those wishing for overnight accommodation should find plenty of local choices. There is ample car parking available.
The Sussex branch is recognising 125 years of the Royal Society of St George in 2019 by organising events in the small village of Henfield, West Sussex. As part of Horsham District’s Year of Culture, the branch is running an English musical day on St George’s Day.

At 4 pm we have a Punch and Judy show to entertain the children and parents alike in the gardens of the Henfield village hall.

In the evening we have country dancing with Unreel Ceilidh Band. In addition we have a performance by Mythago Morris dancers, who in poetry, song and dance will tell a story of Sussex’s very own dragon who lived in Knuckerhole, near Lymminster, Arundel; and how it was slain.

**Story below:**

The local primary school has organised their year three children to compete to design the front cover of April edition of our village magazine “BN5”. Other play group children will also be taking part in painting and art work relating to St George’s Day.

**Knucker Hole Dragon Story:**

I expect the readers of this magazine know all about St George and the dragon, therefore I will tell you a tale of a Sussex dragon which will feature in the dance by Mythago Morris dancers.

It is an interesting story which has, as it is often the case with fables, several versions. The word Knucker can be traced back to the Saxon word “Nicro” which means “A Water Monster”. It is said that a flying dragon lived in Knucker Hole near Lymminster, Arundel West Sussex. This watering hole was bottomless, with a constant level of very cold clear water.

The dragon was a very destructive beast, it could fly, it terrorised the countryside for miles around. It consumed local livestock and destroyed crops waiting to be harvested. With one snap of its deadly, hissing sea serpent’s mouth it gobbled up cows, sheep and horses and even people, especially any fair maidens passing by.

One story says that the monster aggravated the King of Sussex himself to such an extent that he offered the hand of his daughter to anyone who could kill the beast. A wandering knight accomplished this in bloody combat and settled down in Lymminster with the King’s daughter, where one story says represents the sword of the knight in the above story lying on the ribs of the Dragon. The actual stone has faded considerably. Please see the artist impression (left) together with a photograph of a stained glass window depicting the dragon (above).

The stone is actually medieval with no markings to suggest the real identity of the owner, though there is a cross which overlays a herring-bone pattern, which folklore says represents the sword of the local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast.

Another version of the story is that the Mayor of Lyminster announced a reward for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast. A local Sussex young farmer’s boy took up the challenge to slay the beast for anyone getting rid of this fearsome beast.
WATERLOO
Bob Smith, Chairman

Our last function of 2018, at the Union Jack Club for our Christmas luncheon, was very well attended, and enjoyed by all. The catering was excellent and the pianist did us proud, Jonathan Burrows playing both before and during the meal, whilst the impromptu Waterloo Choir, under Kathy’s baton, gave, without any rehearsal, a reasonable rendering of well known Christmas carols at the end of the meal, really getting us into the spirit of the season. Great value and wonderful company.

Our newest members, Ken and Maggie Bradley, were made welcome and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, and they have increased our membership to eighty-six. Met on a walking (and wine drinking) holiday in Northern Italy the conversation turned to what the Royal Society of St. George actually did, and upon hearing, immediately expressed an interest in joining us.

If every member is alert to the fact that a meeting with a non-member is an opportunity to further our membership then we could well be reporting that we have 100 members by the end of 2019.

I was very sad to have to announce that two stalwarts of the Society, John and Lesley Oakley, were unable to be present, as John was suddenly taken to the intensive care unit in hospital, and is still there.

John is a member of the Society’s Council and Lesley is the Waterloo branch main events organiser (and also our branch Vice Chairman).

Our thoughts and Prayers are with them at this very difficult time.

Mike Green joined us all the way from Minehead. Mike has been our Membership Secretary for many years, and he will shortly be relinquishing that responsibility. I would like to thank him, on behalf of the Committee and Members, for the meticulous way he has conducted the task. Mike has also been responsible for introducing many new members, and his efforts have been very much appreciated.

We were also pleased to see our former Treasurer, David Dominey, who seamlessly passed over the accounts to our new(ish) Treasurer Jane Dorrington.

Your Committee has been busy organising the many events throughout last year, all of which have been well supported. I would like to express my thanks to Lesley, who has taken on the lion’s share. We have an exciting programme for 2019, which I hope that you will be able to support.

OVERSEAS BRANCH NEWS

CALIFORNIA
Princess Karen

It was the decision of the Board of Directors of RSSG California to sponsor the Celebration of the United Nations and the Seventieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Saturday, 15 December 2018. We worked with UNA of the Inland Empire for this celebration (invitation below).

We chose to do this instead of having a Holiday party and make the close of our year a very meaningful one.

Five of our members recieved Humanitarian Awards from the United Nations Association of the United States of America. Those five were recognized for upholding and celebrating the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in their local communities.

Palm Springs Mayor Robert J. Moon presented a City proclamation to The Royal Society of St George and the UNA Inland Empire, (where RSSG California Chairman Princess Karen Cantrell is the Vice President) for working together on this huge event.

127 people were in attendance RSSG members who recieved awards
1. Peter Ludwig Johannes Eckert
2 Robert Jan Morrison
3. Robyn Shreiber
4. Sandro Monetti
5. Khalil Abou Obeid - new member
6. Leith Scott Thomas Eaton
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Steve McVittie, Past President

Plans for the year so far!
Friday, 8 March. NO HOST - Pub Night.
This meet-up group is new and this will be one of our first events. Until we know each other better we invite you to come out, grab a munchy and a brew, and enjoy the evening. We are planning a pub night every second Friday of the month and in various locations to accommodate our membership. If you are willing to be a host / hostess to welcome members it would be a great way to make new friends, please let me know.

23 April. 125th anniversary banquet. Roast Beef Dinner with all the trimmings.
British Sausage manufacturing demonstration. Bangers and Mash luncheon. And sausage take home package. (Oyama Sausage Sponsor)
British Meat Pies, Mowbray manufacturing demonstration. Steak and Potato luncheon. And a meat pie take home package. (Simons Meat Pies sponsor)
British Black Pudding and Breakfast Sausage manufacturing demonstration. Full English Breakfast. Take home package. (Oyama Sausage sponsor)

Editors: I applaud British Columbia for their ideas, below, to increase profile and membership. Definitely some food for thought here!

RSGG Main Meet Up Page
https://www.meetup.com/Royal-Society-of-St-George-meet-up/
Posting and dedicated to English Cultural, Historical, Heritage and Customs, through events and occasions as they occur during the year. To include local research and postings of British History in B.C.
The opportunity for sister organization to post invitations to their events and special occasions.
To announce and promote presentations planned with travel agents, government agencies on what’s happening in the British Isles.

St. George’s Soccer Fan Club Meetup Group;
https://www.meetup.com/St-Georges-Soccer-Fan-Club-Meetup-Group/
To invite Whitecaps Soccer Club to our St. George Weekend, autographs, season tickets and merchandise.
To invite High Schools and other British related groups to post up-coming soccer and other English sports events.

St. George’s British Wine and Dine Meet up Club Group;
Announce planned outings to British Restaurants and Fish and Chippery
Promote and announce British and English cooking sessions by qualified chefs.
Announce Tasting Adventures and tours of British products and manufacturers by various importers.
Full English breakfast presentation, sausage manufacturing process demonstration in the works with the purchase of package (Oyama Sausage sponsor)
British Style meat pie, manufacturing tour and demonstration with a British Steak and Potato pie luncheon. (Simon’s Pies sponsor)

Pre-St. Patrick Pub Night 8 March.
(Carlos and O’Bryan Irish pub sponsor)

HELP YOUR SOCIETY – BY MAKING A DONATION IN YOUR WILL

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

The options for a donation, in your Will, are:
• A Legacy of a specific sum;
• A Bequest of specific property;
• A Bequest of the residue of your Estate or a Share of it with other charities or individuals.

What to do to help us in your Will:
If you wish to include a donation in your WILL please consult your Solicitor.

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

A simple form of Legacy might include the following words:

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

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

**EXTRACT FROM A WARTIME speech, still relevant nearly eighty years later**

“When the Englishman says ‘England’ he does not think of armies and domination, he thinks of a lane, of a field, of a line of cliffs fronting the sea... England will never fight heartily or with conviction unless she feels the threat to English soil, English continuity, English things: ‘My right, my liberties, my island, my church, my back yard, my window box’.”

Dorothy Sayers: Unpopular Opinions (Gollancz 1951) page eighty

*Kindly contributed by David L W Ashton*
Did you know that 125 years ago, in 1894

New Zealand was the first country to give women the vote – 125 years ago this year.

Karl Benz received the US Patent for the gasoline driven automobile.

Coca Cola is sold in bottles for the first time.

Simon Marks and Tom Spencer opened their penny bazaar in Manchester.

George Bernard Shaw’s Arms and the Man was premiered in London.

Nicholas II became the new Tsar of Russia.

A decision was made to hold the modern Olympics every four years.

Parish Councils were formed, legally separating Church and State.

But who – in your view – was the most iconic and valuable member of the English race in the last 125 years – the man or woman that comes to your mind when you think back over those turbulent years?

Winston Churchill?
Princess Diana?
Robert Baden Powell?
Margaret Thatcher?
John Lennon?
Robert Falcon Scott?
Emmeline Pankhurst?
Sir Barnes Wallis?
Alan Turing?
Marie Stopes?
Stephen Hawking?
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II?

We could go on – there are certainly plenty to choose from! But this is now over to you – over the next two journals we will publish the names of those you nominate, but please give us your reasons why you think that this person should win the prize for being the most iconic of all the incredible people who have lived in this country over the last 125 years, and who, to you, represent England at its best.
The Royal Society of St. George
The Premier Patriotic Society of England
Incorporated by Royal Charter: Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Battle of Britain Luncheon
Friday, 13 September 2019 - Time: 12.30 pm for 1 pm

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

Price – £67

Please come and join us at our annual lunch to commemorate those who gave their lives for us

Price includes: Champagne reception, followed by an excellent three course meal, fine wines served throughout, coffee and mints.

Guest Speaker – TBA

Please come and join us at our Annual Luncheon.

Dress: Men – lounge suits – Ladies – smart attire

This is a very popular event, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please return to Elizabeth Lloyd at: -
The Royal Society of St. George, Administration Centre, P.O. BOX 397, Loughton, Essex, IG10 9GN, England Telephone: 020 3225 5011

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

Facebook page – www.facebook.com/RoyalSocietyofStGeorge - Twitter account - @RSSStGeorge

I would like to have ................. place(s) @ £67 each at the Battle of Britain Luncheon, at the Royal Air Force Club, on Friday, 13 September 2019.

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

Name: .........................................................................................................................................................................................
(Capitals please)

Address:...................................................................................................................................................................................................

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

E-Mail address: ...........................................................................................................................................................................

Guests’ Names: ...........................................................................................................................................................................

Special Dietary Requirements..................................................................................................................................................

On behalf of the Royal Society of St. George we thank you for joining us at this event.
The Royal Society of St. George
Incorporated by Royal Charter  Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
President: William R. Firth  Chairman: Joanna M. Cadman.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND CADETS PARADE
THE CENOTAPH, WHITEHALL, LONDON
SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2019
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, 27 April 2019.

We, the members of the Royal Society of St. George and guests, will meet at 10.15 am at King
Charles Street, (nearest underground station Westminster) prior to the Service of Remembrance and
Wreath Laying scheduled for 11 am.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MUSTER POINT TO KING CHARLES STREET

Around 500 Members of three Cadet Forces, accompanied by music from their band, will be on Parade
and the Salute will take place immediately afterwards.

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

A luncheon will take place at the Cellarium in Westminster Abbey at 1 pm.
Further details from the Administration Centre.
Please apply to the office for tickets, menu choices and price per person

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 wreath by Friday, 12 April

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.
I THINK EVERYONE KNOWS of Pooh Bear, a character created by A. A. Milne, first seen in his book, *The House at Pooh Corner*. Pooh Corner is in the village of Hartfield, East Sussex part of the Ashdown Forest. Pooh was based on his son’s toy bear and Christopher himself became a leading character in the stories. The illustrations to the book were by E. H. Shepard. It is thought that the name ‘Winnie the Pooh’ came from the name of a real bear brought from Winnipeg by a Canadian soldier, Lieutenant Colebourn, for the London Zoo. As well as Christopher, the other members in the story were his toys.

Last year when driving home in the Spring from a delightful visit to the historic Hever Castle I passed Pooh Corner and was taken by a lovely ring of daffodils around a tree at the corner. Nearby is a bridge, built in 1907, where it is said the game of ‘Pooh Sticks’ originated. It is was originally called Posingford Bridge but since its rebuild in 1999 it is now called Poohsticks Bridge. It gets large numbers of visitors from all parts of the world, but because tourists have caused some damage to nearby trees, visitors are asked to bring their own Pooh Sticks with them! In the book, Pooh plays the game with Christopher Robin, Tigger and Eeyore. I was surprised to learn that there is an annual Poohsticks championship held at Day’s Lock on the River Thames which started in 1984.

Bob Peedle, MBE, Fellow of the Royal Society of St George
A changing society

David Bennett

IN 1835 A SMALL BAND of Cistercian monks left Ireland to set up Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in the rolling countryside of Charnwood Forest. The monks made their living mainly by agriculture, in particular dairy farming with a herd of two hundred cows. But in recent years the price of milk declined and the Brothers were finding it difficult to maintain their way of life and the abbey buildings. Something had to be done to find another source of income.

Similar religious orders in Belgium and Holland were successfully brewing highly acclaimed beers to support their activities. In 2013 the dairy herd at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey was sold off and work began to train the brotherhood in the art of brewing beer. One of the Brothers went to Zundert in Holland to gain brewing experience and a small brew kit was installed at the Abbey to experiment on recipes to create a Trappist beer. In the meantime space for the brewery was created by relocating the refectory, kitchen and laundry to house state of the art, fully computerized brewing equipment to produce their first ‘Tynt Meadow English Trappist Ale’ in 2018.
Gromit unleashed for a second time

June and Roger Anstey, Bradford Branch

SIGHTSEEING IN ENGLISH towns and villages always includes, for us, looking out for signs of our patron saint, in any form. But at the end of August last year it was not St George whom we found but simply “George”. George was relaxing on a park bench in Bristol, on The Downs, near Brunel’s Suspension Bridge, pictured here with my god-daughter’s children Alex and Ava, enjoying a cup of tea, and looking rather pleased with himself. He was wearing a suit of armour with St George’s Cross patterned knee pads. The large notice beside him announced his being “perhaps fresh from a jousting match or just back from slaying a fire-breathing dragon,” adding that “A knight in shining armour is awaiting your visit to the Downs.”

The invitation was directed at the one and a half million avid visitors, adults and children, who flocked to the city during the school summer holiday in 2018 to follow the new Wallace and Gromit Trail in search of sixty-seven larger-than-life fibreglass sculptures.

George was designed, and created by artist Helen Javes.

The Academy Award winning characters ‘Wallace and Gromit’ were the inspiration of Nick Park, and created in his Bristol harbourside studio, some years ago. Wallace and his loveable dog Gromit, instantly found fame and popularity with the public, Wallace’s voice-over in the ensuing films being supplied by actor Peter Sallis.

Five years previously, ‘Gromit Unleashed’ sculptures had appeared the length and breadth of the City and County of Bristol, positioned in iconic locations for nine weeks, providing children, including Alex and Ava, with an unusual, exciting and innocent outdoor activity throughout the long school vacation, at the same time raising a stupendous £3.8 million for the Bristol Children’s Hospital.
I

N 1967 JAQUETTA HAWKES wrote that ‘Every age has the Stonehenge it desires – or deserves’. I bear this in mind when I have visitors (especially visitors from foreign shores) to stay at my home in Oxfordshire. I always like to take them back a few years, some 2500-3000 BC actually.

When I tell them that one of their afternoons will see them meeting Whispering Knights, King’s men and the King’s stone they are usually filled with anticipation of what is to come. England has such history, so many incredible monuments. We have castles and old houses of course but here in Oxfordshire we have another such a gem in the English crown. Have you guessed where we are heading yet dear reader? That’s correct – we are off to the village of Great Rollright to see the Rollright Stones situated (for reasons still unknown) in Oxfordshire.

These Megalithic stones are a group of monuments built from large natural boulders all found within 500m of the site. There is a main King’s Stone Circle, the King’s Stone itself and the Whispering Knights monuments. Why is this situated in Rollright is an obvious question? We must turn to legend (because people love legends) which says that a King and his army were marching across the Cotswolds when they met a witch. She addressed the king as follows:

Seven long strides thou shalt take, and
If Long Compton
Thou canst see
King of England thou shalt be

The king (who was already a king) strode forward to take the witch up on her challenge but on that fateful seventh step the ground rose up, obscuring the village of Long Compton below, some way off; thus, the witch turned them all to stone. Witches did that sort of thing. They could be really spiteful for no reason. The King’s men were standing in a circle (figure 1) with his five knights whispering about treachery some way off (figure 2). The King himself (figure 3) is a large single stone likely to have been erected to mark a bronze age cemetery used around 1800-1500 BC.

I do like to take visitors to meet them all and ‘listen in’ to see if we can hear anything. If there are children I say “Quiet – can you hear the echoes of the past? What are they saying to you? Are they whispering come and join us?” Some of my visitor friends shiver whilst others lean in ever closer, yet not too far for fear that they may be grabbed by bony hands and pulled down into the earth to meet spectres from the dark decades of the past.

Actually, the Whispering Knights configuration is apparently the remains of a ‘Portal Dolmen’ burial chamber, possibly built around 3800-3000 BC, long before the actual stone circle. The main Rollright ring consists of some seventy-odd stones of which a third were re-erected in 1882. It is the Easternmost stone circle in Britain.

Of interest to botanists – the lichen on some of these stones is considered to be 400-800 years old.

Such stones have been revered throughout history. To the Mediaeval English peasant, they were dreadful, supernatural symbols, the work of ogres and goblins – allied of course to the Devil. Such stones were said to move and dance of their own accord in the dead of night. It is said that the King’s Stone in particular had sexual powers. At midnight, childless wives rubbed their bare breasts onto it hoping to become pregnant. Before you start up your car engine to make a trip I can tell you that this is not done today – to my knowledge!

It is a peaceful place, this little area of England. It does have a lovely feel about it whatever the season. One often finds a candle burning in the centre of the circle (as one might burn candles in a church I guess) with little incense sticks smelling sweetly in the summer or winter air. People from all walks of life and religious persuasions (including non-religious persuasions!) come to visit and touch the stones – a link to our ancient English past. William Stukeley said in 1743 that the stones were “…corroded like worm-eaten wood, by the harsh jaws of time”. True enough, but there’s enough still standing to play with the imagination.

I would encourage ‘St. George’ readers to visit the Rollright Stones and just absorb the environment freely without too much thought. Someone was here before us. Someone erected them for a reason. Someone knew why. They are long since gone as we will be ourselves one day but their legacy continues to mystify visitors from across the globe to see a very special part of our England. It’s just one of the many special places to experience in our fabulous country. Please visit – but do beware of witches who may be dancing in the stone circle before your disbelieving eyes.

The usual advice prevails when visiting such a sacred site. Take only photographs (and memories) and leave only footprints. Please do have a look at the website here: http://www.rollrightstones.co.uk/ and bear in mind that different ‘experts’ have differing views on time lines etc. I took some of my information from one of the leaflets available at the site.

Nil desperandum

Carl Portman

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My England

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3
The Society Celebrates 125 years!
WE STARTED OUR YEAR of celebrations in great style, with a reception on 22 February at HMS President, hosted by Cdr James Nisbet, RN.

With an attendance of almost 100 people and with excellent catering by Passion8, the evening was an extremely enjoyable success, promising well for the year to come.

Please do come and support us at our events set out below, we have every expectation of having a very good time, at the same time as raising our profile as a Society and funds for our Armed Forces charities.

The next event is, of course, the Cadet Parade at the Cenotaph on 27 April, followed by lunch at the Cellarium. If you have been before, you know what a wonderful day it is, the highlight of the Society’s calendar year and this year promises to be even better, as we hope to have even more than the usual 500 cadets on parade.

It is an honour to be able to pay tribute to our country’s Glorious Dead, the men and women who died so that we can live in peace in this lovely country and I do hope you will be able to join us.

Joanna

125th Anniversary, 2019 Plans to date:

- **23 April**: St George’s Day Banquet at the Guildhall: City Branch
- **27 April**: Cadets Parade at the Cenotaph and service at Westminster Abbey
- **27 April**: St George’s Day banquet at the Monastery, Manchester branch
- **18 May**: Service of thanksgiving at St Andrew’s Church, Wraysbury, our Founder’s resting place
- **13 July**: Malmesbury Abbey: service of celebration at the burial place of Æthelstan, first King of England
- **13 September**: Battle of Britain lunch – RAF Club Piccadilly

- **28 September**: Anniversary dinner at HQS Wellington
- **12 October**: Trafalgar lunch, HMS Nelson, Waterloo branch
- **27 October**: Standards Service, St George at Hanover Square
- **November**: Placing of a plaque at the Society’s Copper Beech tree at the National Memorial Arboretum followed by a dinner dance
- **December**: Concert at St George at Hanover Square, with a cantata written in celebration of their 150th anniversary especially for the Society, by St George School Weybridge
The Legends

MOST PEOPLE QUITE reasonably suppose that dragons are imaginary creatures constructed by the fertile imaginations of Authors. It is tempting to just accept this premise and treat dragons as purely mythical. But we can be better than this and seek for truth. Even actors such as Nana Visitor take the view that while presenting imaginary characters in made-up stories the actor can seek the ‘truth’ of the character. What is the truth of the dragon? There is a difference between the dragon and the great serpent, or between dragons of different kinds and various great serpents.

Great Serpents

When talking of great serpents or the great wyrmes we are thinking of sinuous creatures of huge size, big enough to cause danger to strong trained armies. In his estimable book Mythical Monsters published in 1989 by Bracken books Charles Gould tells of a huge serpent:

“We are told that while Reguous led his army along the bank of the river Bagrada in Africa, an enormous serpent disputed his passage over. We are assured by Pliny that it was one hundred and twenty feet long, and that it had destroyed many of the army. At last, however, battering engines were brought out against it [the ballistae], and then, assailing it at a distance, it was destroyed. Its spoils [the skull and skin] were carried to Rome, and the general was decreed an ovation for its success.”

He writes that its skin and jaws were preserved in a temple at Rome down to the time of the Numantine war.

Some years ago I went to a theatre in London and saw David Warner acting in a super play called A Feast of Snails. I did wonder if this title was in some way related to the ‘Diet of Worms’. Unfortunately I never had the opportunity to ask David Warner about this.

Lambton Worm

We can tie these accounts of great serpents more locally to the story of the Lambton Worm, a story from the fourteenth century in County Durham near the river Wear. John Lambton, heir of the Lambton Estate, eventually did battle with a giant worm that had been terrorising the local villages. Initially he caught a small eel like creature when fishing in the river Wear. He threw this creature down a local well, and while he was away from Britain during the Barbary Crusade the creature massively increased in size.

It is certainly accepted that serpents if undisturbed and well fed can become very large. The serpent wrapped itself around either The Worm hill in Fatfield or Penshaw hill. On his return Lambton found his estate devastated. He had armour made covered with spikes and went to battle and destroy the serpent. This story was made into a song in 1867 by C M Leumane. There is a local Inn called The Lambton Worm.

Dragons everywhere

Dragons according to the records took many different forms. They were different from the great wyrms or serpents in that dragons had wings and were it seems somewhat avian. There are accounts of some dragons with four wings rather than just two. Images
show dragons moving on four legs, having a long tail and a sinuous neck.

Gould writes about a particular dragon: “Another story is an account given by A. Kircher of a fight between a dragon and a knight named Gozione in the Island of Rhodes in the year 1349 AD. This monster is described as of the bulk of a horse or ox, with a long neck and serpent’s head – tipped with mule’s ears – the mouth widely gaping and furnished with sharp teeth, eyes sparkling as though they flashed with fire, four feet provided with claws like a bear, and a tail like a crocodile, the whole body being coated with hard scales. It had two wings, blue above, but blood coloured and yellow below: it was swifter than a horse, progressing partly by flight and partly by running.”.

Kircher continues later in describing the battle between knight Gozione and the dragon:

“The dragon raising itself on its hind legs endeavoured to grasp the knight with its fore ones, giving the latter an opportunity of striking him in the softer parts of the neck. At last both fell together, the knight being exhausted by the fatigue of the conflict, or by mephitic exhalations [of the dragon].”

There is the question of mephitic breath, which may refer to the firey breath or pestiferous breath of dragons. We should notice that the Welsh dragon is described as red or bronze in colour, whereas the English dragon is described as white.

The Chinese dragons

This is an extensive topic, relying on most ancient Chinese texts, which Gould has had translated. For a full examination of these matters I must refer you to Charles Gould’s scholarly book, Mythical Monsters. Unfortunately, in BC 212 Emperor Tsin She Huang Di ordered the destruction of all ancient books apart from books on medicine, divination and husbandry. We suppose that ancient bamboo books, such as the Yih King, did nevertheless survive, as not long after then there were efforts to recover ancient Chinese literature. References to dragons in the Yih King are not numerous. The Chinese dragons are portrayed as much more sinuous in body than the Asian or European dragons. But it is quite difficult to tie down the information to reveal the real dragons in history. In China there continues to be extensive use of the dragon symbol. The Chinese written language character for dragon has the sound “long” with a rising tone, it is a root character, like the character for ox. In Beijing there is a nine dragon wall, with a tenth dragon [me] posing next to it.

The Faygate dragon of St Leonard’s forest near Horsham

It should be noted that there is a small place called “Dragon’s Green” just to the south west of St Leonard’s forest. This may have been where the dragon lived. It is said that the dragon existed until the early fifteenth century. A story of this dragon was published in the London papers in 1614, reporting that a fearsome serpent or dragon lived in the forest near Faygate. According to reports, the Faygate dragon could spit its poison about four rods distance, about sixty-four feet. It had a long tail, was about nine feet long, had four legs and clawed feet, a thick middle with thinner tail and neck. [Some of this information came from Anomalies by Garth Haslam.] There is a pub called ‘The Dragon’, which was originally called ‘The Colgate Inn’.

There are other dragons named in folk tales. Among these is “a famous dragon called ‘Knucker’. This dragon lived in a pool near the village of Lyminster called the Knucker Hole. The word ‘knucker’ can be traced back to the Saxon word “nicor”, which means “a water monster”, and can be found mentioned in the poem Beowulf.

The dragon of Wantley at Wrancliffe in Yorkshire

Gould writes, “Among the latest surviving beliefs of this nature may be cited the dragon of Wantley, who was slain by More of More Hall. He procured a suit of armour studded with spikes, and proceeding to the well where the dragon had his lair kicked him in the mouth where alone he was vulnerable”.

If this ‘dragon’ had his lair in a well, it is possible that it may have been a great Wyrm, like the Lambton Worm, rather than a dragon.

Dragon Slayers

There were dragons all over Europe and Asia, and they terrorised neighbourhoods to such an extent that strong heroes would be found to try to kill them. Gould writes about this, listing many heroes or saints for their deeds in destroying these scourges.

“So deeply associated was the dragon with popular legends that we find stories of encounters with them passing down into the literature of the Middle Ages; and like the heroes of old, the Christian saints won their principle renown by dragon achievements, thus among the dragon-slayers we find that: St Phillip the Apostle destroyed a huge dragon at Hieropolis in Phrygia St Martha killed a terrible dragon called Tarasque at Aix [la Chapelle] St Florent killed a similar dragon which haunted the Loire St Cado, St Maudet, and St Paul did similar feats in Brittany St Keyne of Cornwall slew a dragon St Samson, Archbishop of Dol Donatus [fourth century] killed a dragon St Clement of Metz killed a dragon St Romain of Rouen [not St Remain of the EU!] destroyed a huge dragon called La Gargouille, which ravaged the Seine.”.

We should notice that some of these mighty dragons had names, and were quite infamous!

Dragon symbols

It has been customary for story tellers and story writers to use real people and real things and real events as bases for their to some extent fictional stories. Master writer Alexandre Dumas used real people and real events in his stories about the French musketeers. Swordsman D’Artagnan Comte de Castlemore was a real person, who did indeed become commander of the King’s
Musketeers. So also were other characters in those stories. When Cecil B de Mille created his film of the Exodus, he used a real event as his base.

Consider the documentary film Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus about the real history of the exodus. And a recent film Noah is about a real world wide event in history, the Great Flood. But these story tellers incorporate dramatic elements in their stories. We should not, then, be surprised to discover that symbolic uses are made of real creatures such as dragons. The title given to great leaders of the Britons, such as Arthur, was Pendragon, son of the dragon. [This is better than the American title ‘Son of a gun’!]. And the Saxon banner used by King Harold of England was a dragon.

Gould writes of these symbols, “The Teutonic tribes who invaded and settled in England bore the effigies of dragons on their shields and banners, and these were also depicted on the ensigns of various German tribes”. Fire breathing devices may also be referred to as ‘dragons’, and the users of such guns were called Dragoons for that reason.

In recent times with modern film technology it has been possible to create marvellous stories about dragons. These include Dragon Heart [with Sean Connery as the voice of the dragon] and Young Merlin [with John Hurt as the voice of the dragon].

The Dragon Lady of Pern
It was story writer Anne McCaffrey of Dragonhold, Ireland, who wrote a series of books about a world called Pern where lived humans from Earth, small fire-dragons and giant fire-breathing intelligent dragons that humans could ride.

A few years ago a copy of Dragon Flight caught my eye in a bookshop. After a chapter or so it had also ensnared my imagination. I was very impressed by these stories with ‘heart’. Thereafter Dragon Rider books were added to my shelves as soon as they appeared.

Anne McCaffrey’s books seem to last well and satisfy much. The thought occurred that Dragonflight would make an excellent live action film in the Star Wars mould. I felt it could even be a better commercial product than Star Wars. So, I wrote to Brian Forbes in 1981, who had spoken in favour of British film technology being used on British films. Unfortunately he wasn’t able to offer any help.

By this time I had a vision. So, I set to work extracting the conversations and part designing the story boards. In time I would have produced a complete script.

Then I wrote to Anne in Spring 1983 and her son, Todd, replied to the effect that she would herself soon complete a script for Dragonflight. I knew she’d do a better job than me, I’m a singer and songwriter.

Instead I wrote a song about Lessa and Ramoth. I called it Dragon Song. By April 1983 it, my song, was complete and it had its premier a couple of months later. Anne seemed to quite like what she heard on the tape I sent her towards the end of the year. Audiences also liked it, and thus encouraged I wrote Dragon’s Wing about Brekke and F’Nor. I completed that in Jan 1984, and premiered it at Bunjes Folk Cellar on 25 May 1984. Later that year I re-read The White Dragon and was inspired to produce the third in the trilogy, Dragon’s Child. Despite completing it in Autumn 1984 I didn’t premier it until 10 March 1985. On that evening at the Crypt folk Club in Trafalgar Square, for the first time, I sang all three songs.

The Dragonar guitar
My old Terada guitar had served long and well, but is wearing out. so, last year I decided to have a new one made. Adrian Legg, The Technopicker guitarist, gladly advised me on how to start, and what to look for. He pointed me in the direction of a South London luthier called David Bourne. I knew by then that I wanted a special guitar to echo the Dragon’s call.

I went to talk to David, and immediately found the style of instrument with the right image. That is how the Bourne Dragonar was born. He used fifty-year-old seasoned mahogany for the back, sides and table. It has a dragon-shaped sound hole on the top, as well as the usual round one in front, and it is inlaid with brass. The head is shaped like a claw. The story of the making of this guitar was published in One, Two Testing in June 1985.
I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE Carl Portman for his new column. I also regard myself as a proud Englishman and so welcome any brave soul who is willing to ‘stick their neck out’ in support of our wonderful country. Over the years my love of England, and my willingness to articulate this love has meant that I have received a degree of abuse. On a few occasions, I have been accused of being a racist, simply for declaring the fact that I am proud to be English. For some people it seems that the words England and English make them physically recoil, presumably to strike at the offender who has uttered such racist language. What is so depressing is that often such vitriol is delivered by people who are themselves English, or certainly give that impression!

Where does all this self-loathing and bitterness towards one’s own country and people come from? That is a big question and deserves to be answered, but it is not the purpose of this article. For me the point is that England and its ethnic association to Englishness seems to have a bad name. It is because of this that I decided I wanted to do something to combat this totally unjustified perspective.

I’ve been asked, on several occasions, why I love England. I confess that I do find it a difficult question to answer. The simple fact is that I do. A country, a nation is a collection of people with a common heritage, but what defines any country or nation is its geography and history. Without a location (a sense of ‘place’) and without a past (a sense of ‘coming from’) no country or nation can exist.

It has gradually become clear to me that England’s geography and history are what drive my affection, for they have had a great influence on my adult life. I’ve spent many days driving-off to discover some aspect of England’s history in a place that I have never been to before. So, if I am to do something to help improve the standing of my country, then England’s history and geography would have to be at the centre of any initiative.

Thus was “Histories of England” created. This new venture is a tour company that seeks to tell coherent and complete stories during each tour. Practically everyone, of whatever age, loves stories; for they are the very bedrock of modern and ancient cultures. Films, books, plays, songs and even pictures are telling stories; we all love them and little of our culture would exist if people didn’t pass on their experiences in an oral form. The difference between “Histories of England” and other tour companies, is that it is the story which is central. I have been to many different historical sites and I love piecing together the threads of what happened in these places. Yet all too often on historical sites you only get snippets of the real story. As we walk around a castle or a ruin or even a country mansion, we can find out what happened in a that place or to a person that lived there, but very often the context is missing. We never get to hear the full story because it happened in another place or to someone else.

Well ‘Histories of England’ is dedicated to telling the whole story. We will transport you around our ‘green and pleasant land’ and in doing so we will visit places that knit together the different threads of our story. When you come on a ‘Histories of England’ tour you will leave with a much greater sense of perspective, you will understand the context of the different places and events. You will have heard a great and a complete story!

If there are any branches of the society that would be interested in being involved in a ‘Histories of England’ then please get in touch.

Visit https://historiesofengland.co.uk/ or email – info@historiesofengland.co.uk

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

We are also on twitter, so please do follow us on @RSSStGeorge and help widen the reach of our updates by retweeting them to your followers.

Finally, we now have a group set up on Linkedin where members and non-members can join and connect to potentially do business with each other, or share helpful business hints and tips. If you have a profile on Linkedin, please do request to join our group. You will find it by searching for ‘Royal Society of St George Official Group’ in the search bar within Linkedin.
Albert James Hankers
10 August 1939 – 10 January 2019

Albert Hankers was born in Hammersmith Hospital in August 1939, when his mother returned home from hospital, it was the day WWII was declared. She always swore it was he who caused it!

His education was not spectacular, in fact after attending Lillie Road Primary School, and failing the eleven-plus, he attended Henry Compton School. After leaving school at the age of fifteen he became an apprentice automobile electrician at Atkins Motor Company in West Kensington. During this five-year apprenticeship, he undertook studies at Wandsworth Technical College. That basically was his education.

Scouting
When Albert was eight, he joined the Cubs. It was on that first evening he was nicknamed ‘Podge’ – some family and friends still refer to him by that name to this day. Scouting, from that day on, became the ethos of his life. The values of scouting, at that time, had a profound effect on him. He lived his life following those principles.

He rose from cub to Scout Leader, ie Skip. He was still in contact with many of his scouts. As Scout Leader he had the foremost troop in Fulham. Other scout troops, should they have been ‘drawn against the troop who wore big hats and shorts’, stated “we had better watch it”. The forty-fifth Fulham Scout Troop were, during the 1960s–70s the only troop to win all district scouting events within a year.

National Service
This scouting ethos also progressed into his working life. Due to his apprenticeship, Albert’s National Service was deferred. Hence, whilst still scouting, he joined the forty-fourth TA Parachute Regiment at The Duke of Yorks. in Chelsea. He gained twenty-eight jumps and up until his death wished he had done more. During this time, he had his call-up papers for the Cuban Crisis. He never forgave the Americans and Russians for ‘making-up’ because all that he had trained for was not put into use.

When it came time, upon the completion of his apprenticeship for him to undertake his National Service, he passed his medical and received his travel warrant to join up. Two days prior to his undertaking his National Service – conscription was abolished by the then Government. Albert was not a happy bunny but continued with the TA along with his scouting activities.

Motor Trade
Following his apprenticeship he was employed by University Motors Ltd in London as an automobile electrician. Albert worked for this company until 1972. Progressing from Automobile Electrician, to workshop supervisor and diverting into undertaking the role of service receptionist. In fact, whilst working with University Motors he was the first diagnostic engineer in the country. In 1972 he decided to change his career.

“Tackle Up”
He had, throughout his life, a love of Course Angling. So, he decided to leave the auto industry and open a fishing tackle shop. This in Cobham, Surrey. Interesting times with travelling various areas of the country obtaining bait. Sadly, due to the economic climate at this period, those old enough to remember three- and four-day weeks of power cuts – not good when trying to keep maggots as maggots, ‘Tackle Up’ did not survive. So back to the automobile industry.

From 1976 to 1978 he resumed employment with University Motors who were only too pleased to have him back – this in a role as trouble shooter, travelling to their various branches to improve them to an approved safety standard. Whilst undertaking this role he built-up respect from all those employees he dealt with, no mean feat with the task being undertaken.

Albert, with his family, moved from London to Godalming in 1975 and in 1978 he decided not to continue in his role with University Motors, so he resigned. At this time the Surrey Advertiser was issued daily and he answered an advertisement as a service receptionist within a company named Concours Motor Company. So, his long association not only with this company but with Haslemere began.

As said, with Concours he was initially appointed in June 1978 as service receptionist, this over the period of years was to progress to service director. During his time with Concours, as their representative, he joined the then fledgling re-initiated Chamber of Trade and District and Commerce. While representing Concours Motor Company he became involved with various activities of the Chamber and during 1994-1996 was the Chamber’s President. Again, interesting times as at this time, he was involved with the entry of Tesco into the town.

Albert, always a thinking of ways of improving young people’s ambitions, during his time as Service Manager at Concours Motor Company employed the first ever female service receptionist for Peugeot. This was continued by his employing the first ever female automotive apprentice within a Peugeot organisation.

Between the years of 1983-1995 Albert was one of the top ‘Peugeot 25’ Service Managers, for the United Kingdom, a position he always felt belonged to his employees within Concours because if it hadn’t been for their dedication and loyalty, he would not have been elected for such prestigious award.

Football
Through his son, Philip, who was a player with Godalming Town Football Club, an association/sponsorship began in the early 1980’s, between Concours and Godalming Town Football Club. So, The Concours Trophy was founded.

Albert, always an outward person, joined what is known as “The Pigs!” In fact, officially known as “The Confrère de la Queue du Cochon” (Tail of the Pig). This Confrère was formed, via the association of twinning between Haslemere and Bernay, in France. From this association, life-long friendships were formed between French families and Albert’s family, with much fun, particularly as he did not speak French and the family did not speak English. Many people within the Town of Haslemere will well remember, over the years, the antics of the ‘Pigs’.

On a personal note, from the mid 1970s Albert had been a Mason. Masonic life, as with the Scouts, touched his belief in human kindness and giving. He had belonged to three lodges, his mother lodge in London, his second at Hindhead and his last in Ringwood, close to his home.

Prior to his involvement with Godalming Town Football Club, in 1975 Albert, again because of his son Philip, became a founder of the Farncombe Boys Football Club (now known as Farncombe Youth Football Club). Coaching young boys, during the 1970s and 80s the skills of football, was also part of his weekly life.

The Royal Society of St George
At the outset of 2000 Albert became involved with the formation of the Haslemere branch of The Royal Society of St George. During his time, with the branch, he was Chairman and Secretary and in 2016 made Joint Honorary President of the branch. Albert also became deeply...
Kevin William Jobson

KEVIN WAS BORN IN Gateshead on 10 March 1937, his family soon moving to nearby Whickham.

After school he was drafted into the Army for his National Service from 1955 to 1957 and nursed ambitions of becoming a paratrooper. The Army, however, had a different view, and he was transferred to the Royal Military Police in Berlin after eight weeks basic training.

It was on a blind date in Berlin that Geordie Jobson met his future wife Ursula for the first time. She was bowled over by his fluent German and after a whirlwind romance, they married on 27 April 1957, in Berlin.

They subsequently produced two daughters, Helen and Linda and two grandchildren Rebecca and Jonathan.

Royal Military Police

After National Service, Kevin found it difficult to settle down to civilian life, so he rejoined the RMP and went back to Germany. He steadily rose through the ranks from Lance Corporal to Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant and Warrant Officer, specialising in working with the Special Investigation Branch.

During a posting to Cyprus, Kevin found his technique of getting confessions by talking to be very effective. “The army feeds you, the army pays you, why steal?”

Northern Ireland

Among the many cards and messages the family have received, Lt. Col. Maurice Nicholls refers to Kevin’s work in Northern Ireland, collating intelligence and criminal information, saying what a decent and kindly man he was, referring to his steady and masterful control, all done with a smile and never a word of complaint.

1970s Northern Ireland was not an easy place to be. Kevin served in 178 Provost Company based in Lisburn alongside the now Vice President of the RMPA Northern Ireland branch, Graeme Woodcock. He refers to Kevin as a calm, quiet, intelligent, and utterly reliable man of the highest integrity. “A dear friend, comrade and gentleman”.

In 1981, Kevin declined a commission and left the Army after twenty-four years’ service. He took off his red beret and exchanged it for letter box red as he moved into the Investigation Department of the Post Office on Tyneside. He investigated crimes against the Post Office from an office in Newcastle and was there for sixteen years, from 1981 to 1997, investigating frauds and criminal activity by both customers and employees. In a professional capacity he was well-qualified, as a Fellow of the Institute of Professional Investigators, and a Member of the Forensic Science Society.

Rotary Club

When retirement beckoned, Kevin left the Post Office in 1997 but kept up his links with the RMP veterans and developed friendships within the Rotary Club of Chester-le-Street, where he was President twice in 2003 and 2017.

Web Design

With Helen, he developed an internet web design business and for a while was Rotary District 1030 webmaster. He also founded the Northumbria branch of the Royal Society of St George. He was founder chairman, and new members were always pleased to receive a genuine welcome from Kevin at the many functions and social events.

He leaves behind a legacy which plainly shows his support for good causes the Old and Bold website for RMP veterans, the websites of the Royal Society of St George Northumbria branch and Chester-le-Street Rotary.

Kevin was a volunteer with SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity for many years, helping servicemen, veterans, and their families.

Kevin died on 28 December 2018 at the age of eighty-one.

We in the Northumbria Branch feel privileged to have enjoyed the friendship and technical expertise of such a fine man.
ON A RECENT VISIT to Llandudno, I was staying at a lovely hotel called The Elm Tree.

Although I had been here on several occasions, I could find very little about the town’s history except that the Vikings had been here, hence the town is famous for the Great Orme and Little Orme (Viking names for dragons, I had been told), but in the front lounge a book came to my attention: *Llandudno – A History and Celebration of the Town*.

It is named after a sixth-century saint called Tudno, who lived on the Great Orme. It became a holy place – Llan meaning land, hence the name Llandudno.

Moving forward some 1200 years to the early nineteenth century, the Great Orme was mined for copper and the ‘Bay’ was not inhabited, the land round this area was owned by the Rt Hon Moskyn Lloyd Moskyn (the largest landowner here).

Rail Link
There was potential to develop the shore line along the lines of Scarborough and Brighton, and to develop and create a freight and passenger port in a sheltered harbour (at this time no building had taken place round the bay), as suitable for a steam packet service to Ireland, which would eliminate the arduous land journeys. It was geographically the shortest route by sea, but would require a rail link direct from London and that had an over-riding cost.

Now this is where it gets really interesting – the first company to put forward this proposal was the Saint George’s Harbour and Railway Co. They put forward plans to build a direct railway link from London, the construction of a breakwater from the Little Orme across the bay to the Great Orme headlands. The bay would be called Saint George’s Harbour and a newly built town, replacing a small village at Great Orme, would be named St George’s.

The work proposed had to be passed by an Act of Parliament and was presented in 1836. The Bill was defeated in 1837. Parliament commissioned various surveys, the outcome of which was the adoption of a scheme with a railway from Chester to Llandudno Bay, which was the cheapest and was reported by George Stephenson.

The Admiralty favoured Holyhead, and the House of Commons Select Committee approved this choice in 1842.

Victorian Spa
Whilst all this had been going on, Llandudno had started to be developed into a Victorian Spa, holiday town and commercial centre. St George’s Hotel was built at this time, as was Saint George’s church.

Saint George’s church has now been converted into offices of a private company, although the churchyard in their grounds is still consecrated.

In 1853 the Saint George’s Harbour Bill re-appeared, still trying to get authorisation to develop the harbour, railways, breakwater and loading bays. One of the directors was the Rt Hon Mostyn Lloyd Mostyn.

A time scale was put down: if the railway was not completed within five years, plus the harbour work in seven years, the whole scheme would be cancelled.

Disaster struck – whilst the loading pier was being constructed in 1858 it was destroyed in a storm. The railway was completed in 1854, but the Saint George’s harbour work was abandoned.

I wanted to see what was behind this, and why the Admiralty was against this, what seemed a logical and viable project. In order to do so, I had to delve into the archives at Kew Gardens.

There were several reasons for the Llandudno plan being put forward, and one was an asylum port for shipping, including the Royal Navy, should bad weather occur from the western approaches.

Although not conclusive, the minutes of the meetings make fascinating reading! It would be a different place today had the work been completed.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century paddle steamers used to bring visitors here, with the last trip being sometime in the early 1960s.

There are three villages named Saint George in Wales, although none in England, although areas or districts of towns, such as Telford and Redditch, are named after our Saint.
THE MIGHTY OAK

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

Jim Duggan

The oak is Great Britain’s best-known tree and perhaps one of the nation’s favourites. There are more oak trees in Great Britain than any other tree. It enabled England to “rule the waves”. HMS Victory was constructed from over 6,000 oak trees and the song Hearts of Oak is the official march of the Royal Navy. This was the reason so many oak trees were planted. One naval officer, Colonel Thomas Jones is reputed to have planted almost a hundred thousand of them.

A 12,000-year history
Oaks have been common in Britain since the end of the last Ice Age, some 12,000 years ago. An oak tree can live for over 1,000 years and can grow over thirty metres tall. The oak has also been a focus of several religions: Druids enacted pagan rites in oak groves; Yule Logs are made from oak branches; and many people carry acorns believing them to be lucky charms.

Properties and uses of oak
Oak timber has some remarkable properties. It is a dense wood with a physical density of 0.75 g/cm³ which gives it high strength and hardness. Many oaks are rich in tannins making them highly resistant to insect attack and fungi. This makes oak the timber of choice for construction, particularly for architectural load bearing beams and flooring. Oak is used for many other purposes too, particularly in winemaking and distilling. Oak barrels add flavour and texture to wines and whisky, with different kinds of oak associated with different flavours. Oak bark and acorns are said to have medicinal properties, and oak galls were traditionally used to make long lasting inks.

Females prefer pollen from distant trees
Oaks prefer long distance pollination. Although oak trees have both female and male flowers on the same tree, the female oak flowers are fussy about where the male pollen they fertilise with comes from. The pollen is carried by the wind, so pollen grains from local trees are far more abundant than pollen from distant trees, but the female flowers much prefer pollen from distant trees and reject pollen from local trees.

Famous Oaks of England
Worldwide there are around 600 species of oak, genus Quercus, all native to the northern hemisphere. Just two species are native to England. Three other non-native oaks are commonly found in Britain.

Some Famous english oak trees are:
The Bowthorpe Oak, located in Bourne, Lincolnshire, is thought to be 1,000 years old. It was featured in the Guinness Book of World Records and was filmed for a TV documentary for its astonishing longevity. The hollow interior had been fitted with seats and has apparently been used as a dining room for twenty people in the past.

The Minchenden (or Chandos) Oak, in Southgate, London. Once said to have the largest canopy spread of any tree in England, it is perhaps 800 years old.

The Major Oak is an 800 to 1000-year-old tree located in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire. According to folklore, it was used by Robin Hood for shelter. It weighs an estimated twenty-three tons, has a girth of thirty-three feet (ten metres), and a canopy of ninety-two feet (twenty-eight metres).

The Crouch Oak is believed to have originated in the eleventh Century and is located in Addlestone, Surrey. It is an important symbol of the town with many local businesses adopting its name. It used to mark the boundary of Windsor Great Park. Legend says that Queen Elizabeth I stopped by it and had a picnic.
LIKE SO MANY CITIES, Nottingham has seen many changes over the years. Grand banks with their Portland stone frontages are now coffee bars, restaurants or pubs. Company office blocks overlooking the Old Market Square, the very heart of the city, have been taken over as student accommodation for Nottingham Trent University.

One building yards from the Square still retains its Victorian charm and grace, Bromley House Library. Bromley House was originally a town house built in 1752 for George Smith, grandson of the founder of Smiths Bank, the first provincial bank in the country.

In 1822 the Nottingham Subscription Library, one of very few subscription libraries in the country, moved into the building. Whilst today the house frontage has changed with commercial businesses taking over the ground floor, many of the original features remain in a series of reading rooms with plaster ceiling cornices and overmantels still in situ in the largest reading room. A fine spiral staircase floats up to the gallery, having no centre pillar to support it.

The library contains more than 40,000 books. Many members have donated their own collections including Alan Sillitoe, the Nottingham author of ‘Saturday Night and Sunday Morning’.

Every nook and cranny is filled with books which periodically are dusted and inspected by members. Those books which need special care when handling are secured by white tape. Those which may be falling apart are in individual boxes and when funds permit are sent away for professional repair.

Uniquely the library has a walled garden, one of only two left in the city centre. The majority have been turned over to car parks or other commercial usage. The members refer to it as a ‘haven’ in the city centre. In a quiet corner of the main reading room by a window is a pair of binoculars for people who wish to study birds in the garden.

An interesting feature in the Standfast room is a meridian line, a brass and glass line in the floor running north to south to a window shutter with a small hole in it. The sun would shine through the hole and when a beam of light hit the centre of the line it was noon Nottingham time. In this era there was no standard time until the growth of the railways. In 1880 standard time was adopted all over Britain.

In 1839 Louis Daguerre, a Frenchman, invented a means of producing an image using a camera obscura. Alfred Barber was so impressed that two years later he set up a photographic studio in the attic of Bromley House. This is believed to be one of the first studios in the country and continued to be used until 1955.

The main strength of Bromley House Library is the members and staff working together to preserve this historic piece of England.
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 1000 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.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com. The form is also available on the opposite page.

Entries do not have to be purchased by individuals. Maybe your Branch could sponsor some numbers?
Rudyard Kipling and The Royal Society of St George

Bob Peedle MBE, Fellow of RSSG.

FOLLOWING MY ARTICLE about Rudyard Kipling during the First World War in the last edition of our Journal I had an email from Frank Locke, a member, from Baltimore, Maryland, USA. He told me he has a copy of the programme of a St George’s Day Festival Dinner of RSSG on 23 April 1920 at the Connaught Rooms in London that he bought from eBay. He copied it and emailed it to me. When printing it off I realised that I had seen it before, but many years ago.

The fact that Rudyard Kipling was invited by founder and Secretary, Howard Ruff, to chair the event gave rise to my thought that perhaps the RSSG did not have Chairmen in those days. Research by Liz Lloyd at our Admin Centre revealed that on another occasion Stanley Baldwin, MP, was in the chair for an event.

The second to last page of this sixpenny programme was about the RSSG. It showed we had three Royal Patrons, King George V, Queen Mary and the Queen Mother, Queen Alexandra. The President was The Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, and the Society’s publication was The English Race.

The last page is an application form for membership. It outlines the cost of the various levels of membership, for example a member’s subs was ten shillings and six pence annually. (52 ½ p). The most expensive was Life Membership which included tickets to Festival Dinners, ten Guineas (£10.50).

Rudyard Kipling’s address to the event was called ‘England and the English’. In this, which covers five pages of print, he outlines the origins of our English race and quoted Daniel Defoe as defining the English as:

“A true-born Englishman’s a contradiction, In speech, in irony, in fact a fiction, A metaphor intended to express A man akin to all the Universe.”

Kipling then goes on to explore this by saying “The Phoenicians taught him the rudiments of shop-keeping; the Romans taught him love of sport . . . under the Heptarchy he studied Social Reform . . . he next took a three-hundred year’s course of colloquial and law French under eminent Norman teachers; he did not learn the language then or since.”

Kipling’s speech is well worth reading as he explains why we are a tolerant race having absorbed people from others lands and races and in reference to Defoe, “Their immensely mixed origin too, makes the English in a very real sense akin to all the universe.” Much of what he says is as true today as it was ninety-nine years ago.

Liz Lloyd of our Administration Centre did some more research to show what our Royal Society was like early in the twentieth Century. She produced copies of the opening pages of a couple of the journals, The English Race. They made no mention of a Chairman of the Society but one edition listed the twenty members of Council, which included one Lord, four knights of the realm and no ladies! Another edition listed the officers, again with no Chairman, the Treasurer a Duke and the Chaplain was a Bishop. Another was of 1909, with King Edward VII as Royal Patron but again the Prince of Wales, later George V, was President.

The official date of the start of our Royal Society may not be known, but it makes sense to assume that it was St George’s Day 1894. This will make our 125th anniversary year’s 23rd April even more important than usual for our Royal Society.

Editors note: our thanks to Bob for this very interesting article about our beginnings, but even more grateful thanks to Liz, our General Secretary, who I know put many hours into finding this information for Bob.

Vicky and Mike. The artist Vicky Atkinson and her seated statue of Rudyard Kipling in Burwash High Street, East Sussex which Mike Kipling unveiled on 15 February 2019 (picture: Burwash Parish Council)
but in his summing up of the true-born Englishman, Defoe says:

"A true-born Englishman's contradiction, in speech, is irony, in fact a fiction, a maxim transplanted to excuse a man akin to all the Universe.

Is that how it seems to me that Defoe slips into a blunder where he merited to come, because a man 'akin to all the Universe' cannot be wholly lost. He must have some points of contact with humanity, and the Englishman has had several.

The Philosophers taught him the rudiments of shopkeepery; the Roman taught him how to fight with his hands in a match with an enemy. Under the Heptarchy he learned Social England, which in those unenlightened days consisted of raising loans on capital in order to buy off the heathen from the North, taking direct action against English interests. He next took a three-hundred-year course of civil law and how French under Norman teachers; he did not learn the language or theory, but it left him with a profound respect based on experience, for his neighbours across the Channel, and a conviction, which time has deepened, that they were the only other people in the world that mattered.

For five hundred years his affairs, domestic and foreign, were controlled by French, Italian, Spanish, with occasional Danish, Dutch, and English authorities, who tried to teach him that "this realm of England" was but part of a vast international organisation destined to expand, protect and instruct all mankind. He escaped from these environs only to find himself subjected to the full rigours of the Puritan conscience, which at that time was largely directed by gentlemen from Geneva, Leyden, Amsterdam and the Low Countries. While these emigrants were, under pressure of anion, finally and fatally subjugated by the Scot. A few years later he was overwhelmed by the swelling tide of party politics in their abhorrent purity, since which he has seldom been allowed to look back and never forward.

I submit that such a nightmare of national experience would have driven in uninvited race to the edge of lunacy, but the Englishman isPhilip well-rounded, well-balanced, a temper though welded of many different materials, and he has found power of his Roman, Hellenic, Norman, Papal, Caledonian, Stuart, Hellenic, Hanoverian, Upper, Middle, Lower, Democracy, each in turn through a thousand years experienced his life and tried to make him of their own liking. He met them each with a warm silent toleration, which each in turn mistook for native

stupidity. He gave them each in turn a fair trial and, when he had tried them, he quietly discarded them as equally fair trials. As an additional safeguard he devised for himself a social system in which the people of all degrees, so arranged that neither the worker nor the rich man could stesso Stout from one end to the other. It is in this, the democratic situation in which the worker, and the rich man, are so arranged that neither the worker nor the rich man could successfully do what they thought to do, without fear of the consequence. In short, on each one of the years, they would creep out of the haters in force and light their little walking fires and criticise the Liberal Governments and their Roman Pontiffs and the Eastern camp followers, who looked down on them from the top of the great high uncontrollable Roman wall centuries hundreds years ago.

To-day, Imperial Rome is dead. The wall is down and the Picts and the Scots are on this side of it, thank to our Royal Society of St. George, there will remain one night in the year when the English can creep out of their hiding-places and whisper to each other exactly what we think about ourselves. No, it is not quite safe to criticise our masters—our masters who tax us and educate us, and try us, and minister so abundantly to what they instruct us we ought to be. Since these masters of ours have not yet quite the old untrammelled assurance of power and knowledge that made Rome tolerant in the days when the Picts and the Scots lived on the other side of the wall, we will sink our sensibilities to our own popular and widely recognised defects.

Some of our severest critics, who, of course, are of our own household, have said that there never was such a thing as the English Race—that it is but the interloper incident of some great system of migration, changed and transmuted, freshened with more recent Continental supply—deliveries. But be it from me to traverse such statements. I give them no less authority than that of the late Mr. Daniel Defoe. Evermore of the City of London, author of "Robinson Crusoe" and of a pamphlet called "The True-born Englishman." He deals very faithfully with the English, so faithfully that is defensible to the susceptibilities of some races, I will not give his version of the Englishman's pedigree.

Continued overleaf
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Set up your gift list today!
The discovery of the circulation of blood within the human body

Jim Duggan

In 1973, the William Harvey Hospital was constructed in Ashford. It is my local hospital. There is a statue of William Harvey near the entrance which sparked my curiosity . . .

A notable Englishman

William Harvey was born 1 April 1578 in Folkestone, Kent. His father was an influential local figure, serving as mayor of Folkestone in 1600.

Educated at King’s College Canterbury, he later moved to Cambridge where he studied at Gonville and Caius College. Gaining a degree in medicine, he then travelled to Europe and began studying at the University of Padua in Italy. He studied under Hieronymus Fabricius, a leading authority on anatomy who had created the first public theatre for anatomical dissections.

Returning from Italy, he obtained a degree of medicine from the University of Cambridge, before establishing himself in London as a member of the Royal College of Physicians. In 1604 he married Elizabeth Browne, the daughter of the physician of St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London where he served for many years. Harvey became a prominent physician appointed to King James I in 1618.

Fabricius, Harvey’s teacher in Padua had discovered that veins have one-way valves but was puzzled as to their function. Harvey’s knowledge gained through anatomical dissections, and his time with Fabricius, allowed him to develop a theory of blood circulating through the body – with the heart as the main muscle.

“The heart of animals is the foundation of their life, the sovereign of everything within them, the sun of their microcosm, that upon which all growth depends, from which all power proceeds.”

William Harvey, De Motu Cordis et Sanguinis (1628)

Although we take this idea of blood circulation for granted, at the time it was a revolutionary idea and as Harvey expected – it met with significant resistance from members of his profession.

His theories and observations were eventually published in Frankfurt in 1628 – in what proved to be his greatest work Exercitatio Anatomica de Motu Cordis et Sanguinis in Animalibus (An Anatomical Study of the Motion of the Heart and of the Blood in Animals). This work connected the movements of the heart to the circulation of blood in the body. In particular, he showed how the pulsation of blood in the arteries is related to the contraction of the left and right ventricle in the heart.

“I profess both to learn and to teach anatomy, not from books but from dissections; not from positions of philosophers but from the fabric of nature.”

William Harvey, De Motu Cordis et Sanguinis (1628)

Harvey attempted to prove the circulation of blood by placing a ligature on the arms to show how it changed the colour of the arm.

Where possible he tried to prove the circulation through experiment and observation and not metaphysical reason. His work was a significant example of the new approach of scientific methodology.

A later work of significance was On Animal Generation, published in 1651. This was never fully finished, but it describes the theory that all life comes from sperm and an egg and dismissed the idea of spontaneous generation which existed at the time.

As physician to the king, Harvey was also called to pass judgement on trials for witchcraft. At the time, there was a great moral panic about the practise of witchcraft and several women were arrested on charges of witchcraft with some condemned to death. In 1634, Harvey was a key witness in acquitting several women accused of witchcraft in Lancashire. He used scientific reason to investigate the cases, and this was influential in reducing the moral panic and fervour over witchcraft.

After the death of James I, Harvey also became the physician to King Charles I.

During the Civil War, Harvey served in the King’s army treating the wounded from The Battle of Edge Hill. With the King, he moved to Oxford, where he was able to devote more time to his medical pursuits. In 1645, he was appointed warden of Merton College. However, after the surrender of Royalist forces in 1645, Harvey retired from public life, returning to London and spending his time in reading literature. Harvey was known as a meticulous and good humoured person. He became deeply absorbed in his work and could suffer from insomnia due to the deep thought he became involved in. He was an Anglican, though he expressed few views about religion.

He died in Roehampton, 3 June 1657 from a probable cerebral haemorrhage.

Editor: Many thanks to Jim for this fascinating article. It would be very interesting to start a series on notable English people, particularly in this year of our 125th anniversary, and I would welcome contributions.
Who was St George? What is myth and what is fact? Did he really slay the Dragon? Why is he such a popular Saint, celebrated in so many Countries, Races, Religions and Organisations?
The celebration of St George's Day is currently fairly low key in England and much more celebrated elsewhere. However, the Society and its members are clearly succeeding in their constant efforts to revive St George's Day as the day on which to celebrate being English.

There are many legends in many cultures about St. George, but they all have a common theme; he must have been an outstanding character in his lifetime, for his reputation to have survived for almost 1,700 years.

Most authorities on the subject seem to agree that he was born in Cappadocia in what is now Turkey, in about the year 280 AD. It is probable that from his physical description, he was of Darian origin, because of his tall stature and fair hair. He enlisted into the Cavalry of the Roman Army at the age of seventeen, during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian and very quickly established a reputation amongst his peers, for his virtuous behaviour and physical strength; his military bearing, valour and handsome good looks.

He quickly achieved the rank of Millenary or Tribunus Militum, an officer's rank roughly equivalent to a full Colonel, in charge of a regiment of 1,000 men and became a particular favourite of his Emperor. Diocletian was a skilled military tactician and strict disciplinarian, who set himself the task of rejuvenating the morale of the citizens of Rome by reviving the prevailing traditions and paganism of Rome. It may be recalled that this was a time of high inflation and civil unrest and one outcome of this was the increasing influence of Christianity.

Diocletian's second in Command was Galerius, the conqueror of Persia and an avid supporter of the Pagan religion. As a result of a rumour that the Christians were plotting the death of Galerius, an edict was issued that all Christian Churches were to be destroyed and all scriptures to be burnt. Anyone admitting to being a Christian, would lose his rights as a citizen, if not his life.

As a consequence, Diocletian took strict action against any alternative forms of religion in general and the Christian faith in particular. He achieved the reputation of being perhaps the cruellest persecutor of Christians at that time.

Many Christians feared to be loyal to their God; but, having become a convert to Christianity, St. George acted to limit the excesses of Diocletian's actions against the Christians. He went to the city of Nicomedia where, upon entering, he tore down the edict that he made an eloquent and courageous speech. He stirred the populace with his powerful and convincing rhetoric against the Imperial Decree to persecute Christians. Diocletian refused to acknowledge or accede to St. George's reasoned, reproachful condemnation of his actions. The Emperor consigned St George to prison with instructions that he be tortured until he denied his faith in Christ.

St George, having defended his faith was beheaded at Nicomedia near Lydda in Palestine on the 23 April in the year 303 AD.

Stories of St. George’s courage soon spread and his reputation grew very quickly. He soon became known in Russia and the Ukraine as the ‘Trophy Bearer’ and his remains are said to have been buried in the church that bears his name in Lydda. However, his head was carried to Rome, where it was preserved in the Church that is also dedicated to him.

St George was beheaded by the Roman Catholic Church and is recognised in the liturgy of the Russian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Churches as well as the Roman Catholic Church. He has been revered in the Ukraine since Christianity was established in 988 AD by Volodymyr the Great the Prince of the Kyivan empire. The Romanesque Monastic order in Prague established St. George’s Church in the Castle in the year 920 AD and in the year 1119 AD the Cathedral of St George was founded in Novgorod. His reputation for virtue and chivalrous conduct became the spiritual inspiration of the Crusaders and by this time the pennant or flag with a red cross on a white or silver background became prominent as a means of recognition by English Knights. It was also worn on breast plates.

In the thirteenth century, there was a Guild of St. George to which the Honourable Company of Pikemen were related before evolving into the Honourable Artillery Company. Many regiments of the Army still celebrate St. George’s Day with great ceremony.

In the year 1348 King Edward III established the Knights of the Garter, which is the oldest order of Chivalry in Europe. The Order of the Garter was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Edward the Confessor and St George. The Insignia of the order consists of a collar and badge appendant known as the George, the Star, the Garter and the Sash with the Investment Badge called the lesser George. This is a gold and richly enamelled representation of St George on horseback slaying the dragon.

A similar representation of St George can be seen in our Armorial Bearings and in the collar and appendant that officers of The Royal Society wear.

In 1352 the College of St George was established in Windsor, with six Chorister boys and since then, St George’s School has played an important role in the daily worship and on State Occasions in the Queen’s Free Chapel of St George in Windsor Castle. By providing free education and sustenance for the boys, a priceless musical inheritance in choral worship has been established and their numbers increased until the Plague struck in 1479 when the numbers were reduced from thirteen to six again but recovered to thirteen by Michaelmas in 1482.

During World War II, King George V established the George Cross for outstanding acts of Civilian Valour and one of the earliest recipients was the Island of Malta, for its outstanding courage in the face of the constant bombardment by the Italian and German Air Forces.

The medieval legend of St George and the dragon says that a dragon made its nest by a fresh water spring near the town of Silene in Libya. When people came to collect water, they inadvertently disturbed the dragon and so offered sheep as a distraction. After time, there were simply no sheep left for the dragon and so the people of Silene decided to choose a maiden from the town by drawing lots. When the results were read, it was revealed that the princess was to be the dragon’s next victim. Despite the Monarch’s protest his daughter, Cleolinda, was offered to the dragon.

However, at the moment of offering, a knight from the Crusades came riding by on his white stallion. St George dismounted and drew his sword, protecting himself with the sign of the cross. He fought the dragon on foot and managed to slay the beast and saved the princess. The people of Silene were clearly very grateful and abandoned their pagan beliefs to convert to Christianity.
Dear Editor,

As you know, English “identity” is a topical issue. Therefore we must be especially grateful for the prescient foundation of this unique Royal Society.

Many changes have occurred since the admirable Howard Ruff could praise an English “race” and “empire”—including two World Wars and the Cold War, accompanied by huge demographic and technological developments, but our premier commitment to the character and defence of England must remain, not least for those very reasons, firmer than ever.

Added to the Society’s commendable charitable and social record, there is the chartered requirement to combat all activities detrimental to the strength of England. Previously a threat was posed chiefly by republican communism, whereas today it includes varieties of subversion, such as the vilification of so-called “dead, white male” heroes, often with campaigns based on trivia, falsehood and anachronism.

The Commonwealth has been transformed during 125 years. Almost all remaining members acquired independence, though in some cases sadly replacing colonial guidance with unstable policies of their own. Rhodesia has become Zimbabwe; Rwanda, Mozambique and Pakistan have English language questions; Kashmir is a flashpoint; Australians and Aotearoans could yet abandon the Monarchy.

Commonwealth Institute Director Professor Murphy argues that the institution provides an unhelpful foreign-policy “mirage” and is due for early burial. Certainly political implosion has accompanied population explosion. When our Society began the imperial family included some fifty-three million “whites” and 335 million “people of colour”; Indians alone now exceed 1.3 billion.

For this United Kingdom, the “strength” of the external Commonwealth now rests on Crown allegiance, the English cultural heritage and personal relatives overseas, plus any net benefits to these islands from trade and diplomacy. As we respect the cultural sovereignty of other members, we must quite legitimately preserve our own.

The English People are “an ethnic group native to England who speak the English language” (Wikipedia). Our original ancestors were Angles not Angolans, Saxons not Somalis, Jutes not Japanese, Celts not Cambodians. Yet over centuries we have assimilated or adopted some “foreigners”; from Huguenots to Irish; our celebrated achievers include Benjamin Disraeli (Italy); Walter Tull (Barbados); Sir John Betjeman (Holland); Sir Ben Kingsley (India).

Obviously we cannot simply regard everyone born, let alone resident, between Offa’s Dyke and the Cheviots as “English”—unless they so identify themselves and voluntarily share in the same cultural heritage as Chaucer and Churchill, Shakespeare and Shackleton, Newton and Nelson, Hubert Parry and Emmeline Pankhurst. As the Society has no colour bar, patriots of lawful immigrant background who completely support our Aims and Objectives are more than welcome.

Above all, however, we must become the civilized “beacon”, responsible “college” and natural “home” for thousands of native English young men and women in these turbulent times. This surely is the momentous task ahead.

D. L. W. Ashton, Norfolk

Send your letters by post to: Laura Minns, Editor, St. George for England, Rumbeams Cottage, Ewhurst Green, Nr Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7RR or by email to joanna@joannacadman.com
The Royal Society of St George
50/50 Club

Join our 50/50 Club, help the Society raise much needed funds and win yourself some money!

- The 50/50 Club takes the form of a monthly Lottery.
- To enter you can pledge to sponsor individual numbers between 1 to 400, for £5.00 each, per calendar month. (MINIMUM DURATION ONE YEAR).
- There is no limit to how many numbers one person can sponsor but numbers will be allocated on a strictly First-Come-First-Served basis.
- On the First Monday of each calendar month three numbers will be drawn from those numbers sponsored within the preceding month.
- 50% of monies collected from those sponsored numbers will be given as prize money, with the other 50% going to help The Society to achieve its Four stated Objectives and contribute to the Charitable Trust.

The prize money will be split into three prizes as follows 60% 30% 10%.

THE MORE PEOPLE WHO JOIN, THE BIGGER THE PRIZES – SEND IN YOUR FORM TODAY!

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Please complete and forward it with your cheque or completed bankers order form to:

The Royal Society of St. George, P.O. BOX 397, Loughton, IG10 9GN, England

Please Print

Name: .......................................................................................................... Branch: ................................................................................

Address: ......................................................................................................................................................................................................

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To enter you can pledge to sponsor individual numbers between 1 to 400 for £5 each per calendar month.

MINIMUM DURATION 12 MONTHS.

I/we wish to sponsor the following number/numbers in the Royal Society of St. George 50/50 club, commencing date:
......................................................................................................................at £5 per month for 12 months.

NOTE: If the number requested is unavailable the nearest available will be allocated.

I/we enclose a cheque made payable to The Royal Society of St George 50/50 Club for number/s for 12 months = £………. or please fill in Bankers Order form for number/s for the next 12 months.

BANKERS ORDER FORM – please print your bank details.

To the Manager: ......................................................... Bank PLC / Building Society ............................................

Full address of branch: ................................................................................................................................................................. PostCode: ............................................................

Please pay to The National Westminster Bank now and on each month until cancelled the sum of:

In words ............................................... pounds sterling. Commencing Month: ............... 2019.

To credit: The Royal Society of St George 50/50 Club. Account No. 66797586 / Sort Code 52-41-42.

Please print your account details.

Your Account Name: ............................................................................................... PostCode: ............................................................

Account No: ................................................................................................. Sort Code: ............................................................

Signature: ................................................................. Date: .................................................................

If any further information is required, please contact The Administration Centre, PO Box 397, Loughton, IG10 9GN. Tel:020 3225 5011

Thank you for your support

Q I note that my details will be added to the RSSG database and will be used by the Society in connection with my membership and for no other purpose. They will not be shared with a third party.
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.
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20% DISCOUNT OFF TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA AND ITALIAN DISHES AT AVISTA, the Italian Restaurant at the MILLENNIUM HOTEL LONDON MAYFAIR.

Telephone 020 7596 3399 for the Italian food or 020 7596 3329 for the Traditional Afternoon Tea, which starts from £14.95 per person and is served daily from 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm. Your membership card will need to be presented to take advantage of the above.

15% DISCOUNT ON ACCOMMODATION AT MILLENNIUM HOTELS.

To take advantage of these discounts on accommodation and leisure break packages please state that you are a member of the Royal Society of St George when telephoning Monica Sanchez at Millennium Hotels direct on 0207 596 3138 or emailing Monica at monica.sanchez@millenniumhotels.co.uk.

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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.

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Tax qualified with many years experience I offer the same high standard you would expect from the best Accountancy firms but typically at much lower prices from £50 per tax return plus a free review and 10% discount for members of The Royal Society of St George.

email phoenixreturns@mail.com or telephone me on (01793) 824848.

15% DISCOUNT OFF THE ENGLISH TOASTMASTERS ASSOCIATION TRAINING COURSE

The English Toastmasters Association are offering 15% discount off their fees to become a Toastmaster. The normal cost of training, annual membership and joining fees add up to £2,450 from the 1st April 2014, which includes £100 joining fee and £250 annual membership fee.

The courses are being offered at 15% off £2082.50, A SAVING OF £367.50. Training includes 3 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.

10% DISCOUNT WHEN VISITING THE NATIONAL FRUIT COLLECTION

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A number of festivals and events are held celebrating British fruit, encouraging people to discover a wider variety of delicious heritage fruit to eat and grow at home. These include a Blossom Weekend, Cherry Festival, Cider Festival and Apple Festival. They also offer courses on planning a fruit garden, growing and pruning throughout the year. Guided walks are also available. For further details telephone (01795) 536250 or visit www.brogdalecollections.co.uk

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
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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

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Email: secretary@vcandgc.org

The Countess Mountbatten’s own Legion of Frontiersmen
David Lilburn Watson
Email: dlwatson@bcram.co.uk

The Order of St. George
Stuart A. Notholt, Grand Scrivener
Email: scrivener@orderofstgeorge.co.uk
Phone Number: 01892 871 662

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Staff and children of Camelsdale Primary School
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School email: office@camelsdale.w-sussex.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Sarah Palmer

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GU27 2ES
School Tel No: 01428 643734
School Email: office@stiveshaslemere.com
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* Executive Director, External Relations
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RSSG, P.O. BOX 397 LOUGHTON IG10 9GN. Please make your cheques payable to “The Royal Society of St. George”.

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All prices include postage and packaging. It is preferred that cheques from overseas members be in Sterling, drawn on a London Bank if possible. Please note that £ prices are GBP (Great British Pounds). $ and Euro prices vary owing to postage and bank conversion charges which will be incorporated into the selling price. INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMERS PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ORDER TO INFO@RSSG.ORG.UK

NAME ................................................................................................................................................................................

ADDRESS ...............................................................................................................................................................................

COUNTY .............................................. POSTCODE ................................................................. COUNTRY .................................................................

EMAIL ........................................................... TEL: ............................................................ DATE .................................................................

Total amount of Cheque £.........................................................Great British Pounds (GBP)

Please allow 12-14 weeks delivery for all medals and statues and 4-8 weeks for all other items. Where items are in stock, you will receive them within 2-4 weeks of us receiving your order. If you require your order sooner, please ring us and we will do our best to sort this out for you.

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

Debit and Credit cards are now accepted for payment.
Please call us on 020 3225 5011 to place your order and pay over the phone.
Journal Advertising:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Page Colour</td>
<td>£400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Page Colour</td>
<td>£250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Page Colour</td>
<td>£150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Page Colour</td>
<td>£100</td>
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Extra insertions discounts:
1-3 insertions an extra discount of 5%
4-6 insertions an extra discount of 10%
7-12 insertions an extra discount of 15%

Mechanical Data

<table>
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<th>Type</th>
<th>Trim Size       / Full bleed</th>
<th>Type Area / Non bleed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
<td>297 x 210mm/303 x 216mm</td>
<td>265 x 190mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Page</td>
<td>130 x 190mm</td>
<td>130 x 92mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Page</td>
<td>130 x 92mm</td>
<td>62.5 x 92mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Page</td>
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<td></td>
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Bleed allowance 3mm
Vital matter 6mm from edge of page on all sides

Classifieds

All classified advertising must be pre-paid
The cost is 50p per word with a minimum charge of £10 (20 words)

All prices are exclusive of VAT

Production Data

– Files can be sent on disk. – To ensure correct output of your files please send by post a laser or cromalin proof. – Software – InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop.

Publication Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Copy Date Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 October</td>
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Contact – Elizabeth Lloyd

Tel: 020 3225 5011
E-mail: info@royalsocietyofstgeorge.com • Website: www.rssg.org.uk

The Royal Society of St George
P.O. BOX 397, Loughton, IG10 9GN, England

Royal Society of St George Mission Statement and Vision

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.