

# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH



SEPTEMBER 2019

**Patron:** Mr. Edward Gillespie, O.B.E., Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire

**President:** Councillor Pam Tracey, M.B.E.

**Vice Presidents:** The Rt. Hon. Lord Cope of Berkeley, P.C.; Mr. Mike Smith

**Chairman:** Mrs. Pat Ayres, M.B.E.

### *A message from your Chair:*

Dear members and friends,

At this time of the year when evenings become longer and the curtains have to be drawn I am very mindful of all those who live alone and isolation is a daily problem. Organisations such as ours are struggling to retain members; no-one really wants to attend evening events, especially if they have to drive. The committee therefore are trying to have events during the day and as you will see by Margaret's various updates it is hoped that something will catch your eye and you will be able to come along.

I have just had confirmation that my Poppy Appeal order will be on its way later this month. I am the poppy area organiser for nine villages around my village. Fortunately I have a team of dedicated volunteers who gladly help each year but as we all know old age waits for no man! As you will see in this newsletter there is a 'Poppy' afternoon in my village of Kemble to which you are all welcome and I hope to see quite a few of you there.

Those of you who came along to the National Memorial Arboretum trip (many making return visits) could see how the area of Remembrance has grown and continues to grow. In fact at the recent committee meeting it was suggested that we have another visit in a couple of years' time.

I am writing this on the eve of the Gloucester Day Parade and tomorrow I shall be accompanying our new standard bearer Carole Hoban. The weather forecast is for it to be dry!

It is coming up to Harvest Festival time. I remember my children carrying produce from the garden in various covered boxes/baskets up to the vicar at the altar and handing over - very reluctantly sometimes - their gifts. Harvest suppers/lunches are being held. Again showing my age, for my village harvest suppers we used to make as much as possible from scratch i.e. picking the blackberries from the hedgerows and apples off the ground to make pies and crumbles; but now-a-days puddings are a mix of traditional and mostly fancy bought from the chill-cabinet at the supermarket. However if it gets people together in their communities that has to be something to be thankful for!!!

### *Church notices seen:*

- Weight watchers will meet at 7pm. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- The Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.
- The Church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

With warmest wishes from your Chair,

*Pat*

### *From Margaret, your Secretary:*

It is with much sadness that I have to tell you of the recent passing of Peter Watkins. Peter and his wife Mary have been members of this Branch for many years and regular and keen supporters of all our events, so most of you will know them. The last event they attended was this year's New Year Lunch in January. Peter's funeral service will be held at St. Barnabas Church, Gloucester, at 12.30pm on Friday, 27 September. His daughter Jacqui

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**Gloucestershire Branch info at:** [www.rssg.org.uk/branches/uk/southern/gloucestershire](http://www.rssg.org.uk/branches/uk/southern/gloucestershire)



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asks that no-one wears black as the Service will reflect that Peter liked light, bright colours.

To Peter's family we extend the sympathy of all those who were privileged to know him – always smart, always a gentleman.

### NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM VISIT – 28 August

We were so lucky with the weather for our visit – rain was forecast but we saw hardly any until the heavens opened on the return home. It was a wonderful experience for those of us who hadn't been before. The Arboretum has a unique atmosphere of peace and remembrance. Some of us observed the daily Act of Remembrance in the Chapel. The Chapel is full of light and carefully designed. It has beautiful carvings, including The Cavendish Cross; my photograph cannot do it justice.



It was carved by Ken Willoughby of the Essex Woodcarvers as a tribute to the life and work of Baroness (Sue) Ryder of Warsaw CMG and Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC, OM, DSO and Two Bars, DFC. It is based on a processional cross in St. Mary's Church in Cavendish, Suffolk.

The Arboretum site is vast and impossible to cover in detail on foot in a few hours. A number of us took the guided Land Train tour and heard the stories behind many of the memorials – some are extremely impressive and all are emotive. Terry Hughes kindly entrusted his camera to the Land Train manager, who took this photograph of our group:



The Land Train took us past the tree planted in 2014 by The Royal Society of St. George, next to the RNLI memorial. I have since learned that the planting was promoted by Gloucestershire Branch member, Ron Bubb, who is sadly no longer with us.

As part of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, there will be a National visit to the Arboretum on 2 November to place a plaque at the tree. I have just received the enclosed flyer with details of this event from Head Office. If you wish to join the RSSG party on 2 November **please book with Head Office direct** (all details on the flyer) *not* me!

### REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019

On the subject of Remembrance, the Committee would once again be very grateful to members who volunteer to lay wreaths on behalf of the Branch. If you are willing to do so, please let me know where – you can use the enclosed form. Please order your wreath from your local Royal British Legion Branch

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as soon as possible; if you wish to be reimbursed for the wreath please send me the receipt.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the last letter I promised you a tasty event. On **Wednesday, 23 October 2019**, we will visit Church Farm, Leonard Stanley, home to Godsells Artisan Cheeses. There will be a guided tour of the cheese-making process, starting at 2pm and taking up to 2 hours. The tour finishes with tea/coffee and biscuits, plus a cheese tasting board and an opportunity to buy.

This is a limited number tour, so places will be given on a first come, first served basis. One already taken - for me - as I'm a self-confessed cheese addict!

Cost for the visit will be £7.50 per person. Please use the enclosed booking form and reply by Tuesday, 15 October, when I need to confirm final numbers to Church Farm.

On **Thursday, 14 November 2019**, we are invited to join Kemble Royal British Legion Women's Section for a presentation by Lady Emma Crofton on 'Remembrance Poppies' and afternoon tea. The meeting will start at 2.30pm in Kemble Village Hall.

Lady Crofton launched an appeal in the UK for knitted poppies to send to St. George's Church, Ypres, to be included in their artwork to commemorate the end of World War 1. Some of our members kindly responded to that appeal and her talk covers that poppy installation. By all accounts it is an excellent presentation.

Cost is £5 per head and all proceeds will go to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Please reply on the enclosed booking form by 6 November to assist with catering.

### **2020 Events in planning:**

- **Sunday, 12 January** – New Year Lunch at Bowden Hall, Upton St. Leonards
  - **Tuesday, 17 March** - A private guided afternoon tour of Chavenage House, near Tetbury, finishing with tea. Chavenage is an Elizabethan building retaining many of its original features (dating from before 1576). As a result, there is unfortunately no wheelchair access, and there are steps and uneven floors throughout the house. Part of the tour is upstairs (but those not wishing to tackle the stairs can opt out of that bit of the tour) and part includes seeing the gardens. Chavenage House became 'Trenwith' in the BBC Poldark series. It also featured in Lark Rise to Candleford and several films.
  - **Thursday, 23 April** – St. George's Day Service at Tewkesbury Abbey, 7 for 7.30pm.
  - **June** – Branch AGM on a date to be confirmed
  - **Summer Lunch** – venue and date to be agreed
- ... and more!!

### HARVEST HOME

A reminder that Eric Freeman will once again hold his Harvest Home at Byfords Farm, Newent Lane, Huntley, from about 6pm on Saturday, 5 October. If you wish to enjoy a lovely evening of traditional entertainment and cider tasting there is no charge, but a raffle prize or an apple pie or something similar to help feed the multitudes would be appreciated.

*Whilst the Gloucestershire Branch website no longer operates, Branch information will be posted on the National Society website – see the foot of this newsletter for details and for all Branch contact information.*

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