

The **THANKSGIVING SERVICE** at St Mary's Church, Teynham was conducted by Rev. Steve Lillicrap and 30 members and guests were in attendance. The lessons were read by The Mayor, Councillor Koffie-Williams and Susan Thomas and the wreath was laid in St George's Chapel by John Wakelen and Malcolm Pamplin. The new flag supplied by the Branch was blessed during the service.

May I remind members and any guests they care to bring along will be very welcome at the following **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**. **Remember early booking is advisable**

Race Night – Saturday 16th June

Battle of Britain Event – Saturday 14th September

Trafalgar Dinner – Saturday 19th October

Christmas Party – Saturday 7th December

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting Chairman – Philip Spice: Tel. 07709 306292

Vice Chairman – Richard Beeching: Tel. 01795 553048

Treasurer – Susan Thomas: Tel. 01795 422810

Newsletter Editor - Beryl Williams 01795 843266

Other Members –

Christine David: Tel. 01795 471876

Audrey Evans: Tel. 01795 429489

Sue Gent - 01795 430768

John Wakelen - 01795 553218

Your committee try to plan a varied programme for the year and your suggestions for future events are always welcome as are your comments on the current programme, be they good or bad. We can't make changes it if we don't know.

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE

(125th Anniversary Year 1894 - 2019)

SWALE BRANCH

FOUNDED 4TH NOVEMBER 1983



Newsletter

MAY 2019

There were 29 Members and Guests in the Masonic Hall for our **CHRISTMAS DINNER** on 10th December, fewer than previous years but none the less a very enjoyable evening. Our Chairman, Christine David, was unable to attend due to ill health and a card was passed around for members to sign to wish her a speedy recovery. The entertainer, Les Stankovich, played a lively mix of songs with many joining in and the extra space not taken up by tables meant that more dancers could take to the floor. A lively rendition of "The Music Man" jogged the memory of many and muscles seldom used ached for days after.

Susan Thomas kindly decorated our tree at **THE TUNSTALL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** which, once again, was well supported. All profits went to charity.

DALE HOWTING'S CHARITY PRESENTATION took place in December but due to poor communication on the committee's part no-one represented the Branch to accept his donation of £100. Please accept our apology Dale and our grateful thanks yet again for your generosity.

Our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** was attended by 30 members and guests. Paul David represented Christine who was still in poor health due to an adverse reaction to medication. She continues to make progress in recovering but it will take time. Christine and Paul would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and support throughout this difficult time.

It was announced that Philip Spice will be acting Chairman in her absence. The Committee was re-elected en bloc with the addition of Sue Gent and John Wakelen bringing the total to 8 members, though we do still need a Secretary. Until her illness Christine was doing the work (with Paul pushing the buttons!) and Paul has agreed to continue coping with the paperwork that she is unable to do. Sue Thomas has also been providing her organisational skills.

The 2019 programme was planned last autumn so the committee are confident that these will all go ahead as scheduled. Due to Easter falling on 21st April the Church Service was arranged for 28th. The Dinner to be held at Woodstock Social Club as The Masonic Hall was not available for us on 27th. The St George's Day Extravaganza to be held in the High Street on 20th but there were no volunteers to organize the stall in the absence of Beryl Williams who would be away. Philip Spice will however represent the Branch in judging the Best Dressed Window Competition and it is hoped that members will support the event. The matter of food at social events was raised and the reason for ploughman's supper taking the place of fish and chips. Rising prices would mean an increase in admittance price and the alternative menu will keep costs down. It was pointed out that a change is not a bad thing and as the food for Quiz Night was already organised that would go ahead as planned. It was explained that the member's subscription could not be agreed for 2020 as the Society AGM will decide the capitation fee in September. For 2019 Members who pay their subscription directly to The Royal Society will pay £5 to the Branch. Branch only Members will have to also pay the Capitation Fee of £7.50 set by the Royal Society at their AGM last September. Suggestions were asked for this year's Charity Donations. Borden Church,

Quays Shelter, Homeless Bus and play equipment for a group of disabled children were put forward from the floor. "The Net" lists quite a few of the local small charities and a copy was given to Sue Thomas and will be included in any discussions by the Committee.

It is not too late to submit suggestions as the final list will be decided in the autumn

We are pleased to welcome **NEW MEMBERS** Barbara Roberts and Paul David to the branch.

Twelve Tables (22 Members and 50 Guests) squeezed into the Masonic Hall for our **QUIZ NIGHT** on 23rd March digging deep into their memories to find the answers to questions posed by Peter Barton, whose fee of £50 he donated to his chosen charity. Our thanks go to Sue Thomas's daughter and daughter-in-law for preparing The Ploughman's and the addition of pate was much appreciated. It was good to see Christine taking part in what was her first outing since becoming ill and we hope it will be the first of many. A bottle of wine was given to each member of winning Table 9 (101 ½ points) and Smarties for Table 7 (69 ½ points). Our raffle raised £190 and with the profit for the evening will go a long way to give support to more local charities. Apologies to people that were turned away, due to lack of space, the moral to this story being book early to make sure of a seat.

The Mayor of Swale and Acting Chairman Philip Spice judged the 10 premises in the Best Dressed Window Competition at the **SITTINGBOURNE EXTRAVAGANZA**. The winner for 2019 was **The Yellow Stocks Micro Pub**, who was awarded the trophy for the coming year. 2nd place went to Flowers by Beatrice and 3rd was Elliott's Kitchens.

ST GEORGE'S DAY was celebrated with a Full English Breakfast by 30 members and friends at the Appleyard. The Mayor of Swale was presented with a £100 cheque from the Branch for his Charity Fund. The raffle raised £80 once again showing the generosity of those attending.

A change of venue saw 26 members and 7 non-members at the Woodstock Club for our **ST GEORGE'S DAY DINNER** on Saturday 27th April. It was unanimously agreed that the evening was a great success on all counts, delicious hot food good service and of course excellent company. A possible venue for future Dinners was suggested by many of those present. Speeches and Toasts were made and the humorous reply on behalf of the guests by Cllr. Duncan Dewar-Whalley was greatly appreciated. Mick Abbott entertained us through the latter part of the meal and for the rest of the evening and it was a pleasure to hear the varied repertoire at a volume that didn't blast the ear-drums and diners were able to converse comfortably. Once again a lively rendition of Land of Hope and Glory was sung with enthusiastic flag waving by everyone. It was good to see Christine David attending and we trust it won't be long before she is once again taking a more active part in our events. The raffle raised £110.