

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH



JANUARY 2020

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:

The evenings are drawing out and we seem at the moment to escape any settled 'white stuff'! Bulbs are pushing their way out of the soil which can lift our spirits knowing Spring flowering is just around the corner.

Members who came along to Bowden Hall for our New Year's lunch once again enjoyed the food, company and surroundings. The committee is always looking for new suggestions from members of places which could provide a delicious lunch for us to get together.

Recently on visiting our daughter in a small village in South Wales we were reminded of our younger days of growing up as a neighbour knocked on her door collecting for a family who had had a bereavement. Both my husband and I recalled that this use to happen in our neighbourhoods but not now. Another memory was that when someone died in your street you kept your front curtains drawn as a mark of respect until after the funeral. Do other members have memories of things that happened in the past but not now???

As you are aware our annual St George service has moved to Tewkesbury cathedral this year and Margaret will write more on this in this newsletter.

Thinking about that, these Christian crackers come to mind and may raise a smile or two whilst reading!

- The Deacons' meeting on Thursday will be gin with prayer.

- A child on the way home from school decided to call in the church and have a look around. When he arrived home he told his mother he had been in God's house. Oh, said mum, did you see God? No replied the little boy, but I saw his wife sweeping the floor.
- Now don't forget, said the choirmaster, wait until the tenors reach ' the gates of hell' and then you all come in.
- Seen on a notice board:
Every time I pass this Church,
I pay a little visit
So when at last I'm carried in
the Lord won't say, 'who is it'

Sending the warmest of good wishes to you, dear friends and members,
Pat

From Margaret, your Secretary:

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their Branch membership – your 2020 membership card is enclosed. If you haven't yet renewed, we look forward to hearing from you shortly! The renewal form was sent with the last newsletter - Full membership fees are: Individuals £27, Couples £38.50.

With our last newsletter I circulated the Notice of the National AGM in Bristol. Despite being assured by HO that it had already been sent to me, I only knew about the meeting after a date reminder email from Joanna Cadman. It would be interesting to know how many of our Gloucestershire Full members received the Notice directly from HO. Only 15 members attended and the evening Dinner was cancelled due to lack of support. I expect there will be a report of the meeting in the next magazine but

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I wrote my own report for our committee and am happy to share that with any member and if you didn't receive a copy of the National Accounts for 2018, which were presented to the meeting, I would be pleased to let you have a copy of mine.

We enjoyed a happy New Year lunch at Bowden Hall on 12 January and once again Keith & Lin Bawden organised a successful raffle amongst our generous members. Money from raffles is a welcome contribution to funds and Keith & Lin are very good at 'encouraging' people to take part! We must also thank those who donate raffle prizes – no prizes would mean no raffle. As a change from photographs of people enjoying their lunch, here is the bumper selection of donated raffle prizes at Bowden Hall:



ST. GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE

Planning for the Service is proceeding well nicely and the people at Tewkesbury Abbey have been very welcoming and helpful.

The Address will be given by Reverend Canon Paul Williams, Vicar of Tewkesbury Abbey.

Please note that the Service will start 15 minutes later than usual. This is because the Abbey has Choral Evensong at 5.30pm. Of course, you would be welcome at that Service as well.

We fully appreciate that moving to the Abbey may make it difficult for some of our regular supporters to come and it was certainly a difficult decision to make after 41 years.

However, we hope it inconveniences very few and maybe the Abbey will attract others who haven't been to the Service before.

As usual we will be distributing roses to the congregation before the Service and would be very grateful to anyone who can help with that. Similarly I would be *extremely* grateful for volunteer ushers / collection takers, as there will not be as many stewards as there were at the Cathedral. The seating will be similarly arranged as at the Cathedral, i.e. all Nave seats will be reserved and numbered whilst seats in the side aisles will be unreserved and 'first come, first served'. I enclose a form on which you can let me know if you can help in either way.

The Reception after the Service will be held in the Parish Rooms adjacent to the Abbey. The walk to the Rooms is outdoors but probably no further than the walk through the Cloisters from the Cathedral to the Chapter House. However, there are a small number of steps. The Reception will be the same price as last year - £8 per head. Application form for tickets for Service and Reception is enclosed. We understand there is plenty of free parking in Tewkesbury after 6pm; parking information will be sent with your tickets.

2020 NAIRAC AWARDS

We have a few nominations for these awards but more would be appreciated. Last year the committee agreed to increase the maximum age to 21 years, as many are staying in education longer now. If you know of any young person or group of youngsters living in Gloucestershire who have done something or helped others in a way that would reflect Captain Nairac's integrity, courage and service, please let me have details as soon as possible and certainly by the end of February. A meeting to judge the nominations will be held on **3 March**.

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Mentioning the Awards leads me to tell you that sadly Mrs. Anne Cadbury passed away on 1 January. Those of you who knew her, or even had a passing acquaintance, will remember a big personality behind an even bigger smile. Whilst never a member of the Society, she regularly came to our St. George's Day Service and through the Cadbury Fund very generously supported the Nairac Awards (for at least the past 13 years to my knowledge). Those donations have ensured that the Nairac Fund has enough money to enable the Awards to continue for at least another 10 years.

A Memorial Service for Anne will be held in Tewkesbury Abbey on 4 April at 2pm with tea afterwards - all welcome. Donations in lieu of flowers to 'The Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey' or 'The RNLI'; these can be sent to Alexander Burn, 23-24 High Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 5AL.

Her grandson Charlie asked me to share these words with our members:

Anne Cadbury OBE JP DL died peacefully at home on 1st January, 2020, aged 94. She was born in Birmingham to Presbyterian parents from Glasgow and the Clyde, and by all accounts was a precocious, witty and intelligent young girl who blossomed into an attractive young woman.

In 1946, soon after turning 21, she met Martin Cadbury and they married in January 1947, starting their married life in Manchester where their first son Ian was born. After that, they moved to Barton Road in Tewkesbury in 1949 and had their second son, Bruce. Anne helped out with Martin's new printing business in Cheltenham as well as her father's brass foundry business in Birmingham whilst bringing up two young boys and supporting Martin in his charitable work. Anne's first daughter Jane was born in 1956 and her second, Bryony, in 1958 after a move to Kemerton. Around this time, Anne became

increasingly involved in the YWCA, the NSPCC and the Gloucestershire Association of Boys Clubs.

In 1968 Anne tragically lost her eldest son, Ian, in a car crash and in 1969, her husband, events which shook the remaining family to the core.

She enjoyed her time as a Magistrate (1968-95) in Tewkesbury and also took on the Presidency of the National YWCA (1976-1980). She took a deep interest in education, taking on governorships of Tewkesbury School, Ellerslie in Malvern and The Downs School in Colwall, as well as sitting on the Council of Cheltenham College and Kings in Gloucester. As Anne became more embedded in Gloucestershire life, the organisations in which she participated continued to grow, mainly focussed on youth volunteers. She was exceptionally proud of her time as Mayor of Tewkesbury in 1988. She was also Chairman of the Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey for nearly 20 years. She became a Deputy Lieutenant of the County in 1991 and in 1996 received the OBE.

She was involved with many charitable organisations, an interest that had begun in her school days, including acting as either President, Chair or Patron to a number of these, and as a Trustee of two very large charitable trusts. She had an interest in causes for young disabled people and was particularly proud of her roles as Vice President of the National Star Centre in Gloucestershire and as patron of St. Vincent's Centre, with which she had an association for over 50 years. She was also County President of the Order of St John and a founding member of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire.

Throughout all this time she spent many holidays in 'Trejabbim', the family holiday house in Cornwall. It held very special memories for her and she loved to walk along the coastline around Trebetherick where she spent many happy family times. She had been forced to give up playing tennis due to a series of back problems, but this didn't stop her from playing golf on the course at St Enodoc until well into her 60s and Scrabble until the very end.

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Anne has been described as an archetypal matriarch, a public servant with boundless energy, quick wit and a twinkle in her eye. Not only will Tewkesbury and Gloucestershire deeply miss her presence, but so will we - her surviving family.

2020 EVENTS

- **Tuesday, 17 March** - A private guided tour of Chavenage House, near Tetbury. Chavenage became 'Trenwith' in the BBC Poldark series. It also featured in Lark Rise to Candleford and several films.,
Please arrive by 1.30pm as the tour will start promptly at 2pm. Departure around 4.15pm.

The booking form is enclosed – please ensure you return it to me **by 3 March** when I have promised to confirm the final number to Chavenage House. The cost, including the guided tour and a Full Cotswold Tea (sandwiches, scones, cakes, etc...), is £20 per person.

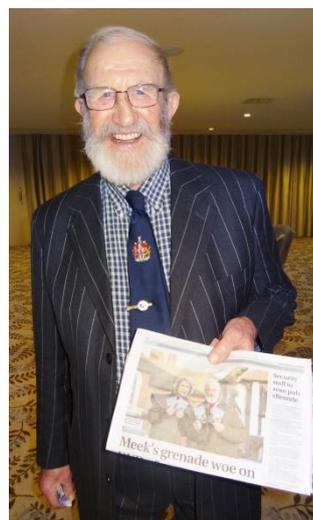
NB: Chavenage is an Elizabethan building retaining many of its original features. As a result, there is no wheelchair access and there are steps and uneven floors throughout the house. Part of the tour is upstairs (those not wishing to tackle the stairs can opt out of that bit) and part includes seeing the gardens.

- **Thursday, 23 April** – St. George's Day Service at Tewkesbury Abbey, **7.15pm for 7.45pm.**
- **Wednesday, 17 June** (provisional date) – Branch AGM at St. Mary De Lode on a date to be confirmed
- **August** - Summer Lunch – date to be confirmed. It is likely this will be at Egypt Mill, as we have had requests to return there after an excellent lunch in lovely surroundings last year.

Details of more 2020 events will be in the next newsletter.

ERIC REMEMBERS

At the New Year Lunch Pat passed around a newspaper article about the latest DVD featuring our renowned former Chairman: "Eric Freeman: Sweet Memories of Newent". It captures Eric's memories of growing up in the town during the 1930s, '40s and '50s; can be bought for £10 in some Newent shops with proceeds to local good causes.



COLESBOURNE PARK SNOWDROPS

Our former Branch Patron, Sir Henry Elwes, and Lady Carolyn are once again welcoming visitors to Colesbourne Park, near Cheltenham, GL53 9NP for Snowdrop weekends – every Saturday and Sunday from 25 January to 1 March. Gates open at 1pm, last entry at 4.30pm. Adults £8.50, Children Free, dogs on leads welcome. For more information telephone Colesbourne Park on 01242 8702645 or 01242 870567, or email info@colesbournegardens.org.uk or visit the website www.colesbournegardens.org.uk

Finally .. I am bracing myself for another five weekends of high drama watching the Six Nations Rugby – Come On England!

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