

Members will have noted the absence of our Chairman, Christine David, at some of our events this year. She continues the fight against the adverse reaction to the drugs she was prescribed for Polymyalgia and I'm sure members will join the committee in wishing her a successful recovery at an early date.

We are pleased to welcome the following **NEW MEMBERS** who have joined the Branch this year: Roger Clark; Veronica & Keith Copley; Paul David; Mavis & Duncan Dewar-Whalley; Gillian Edwards; Heather Elliott and Barbara Roberts. We trust that they will support and enjoy future events organised by the Committee.

One of the highlights of our year is the **CHARITY DONATIONS** that we make to **small local charities in Swale** and this year we have already donated to the following: The Blind Association, Sittingbourne Branch; Bluetown Heritage Centre; Cancer Research; Faversham Umbrella; The Mayor's Charity; Teynham Church and Tunstall Church. The total donated was **£751.14**, (of which £61.14 was the cost of the St George's Flag for Teynham Church, which was given and blessed at the Annual Thanksgiving Service for St George's Day).

**We are always looking for worthy causes that would benefit from a donation from the Branch. Your suggestions would be appreciated at the AGM.**

It was with great regret that **RACE NIGHT** on 15<sup>th</sup> June had to be cancelled due to lack of support and apologies to the 21 members and guests *who* had already booked. It was not financially viable to continue with the event. Everyone that had paid was sent a full refund.

It was a different story for our **SUMMER SUNDAY LUNCH** on 28<sup>th</sup> July when 50 members and guests enjoyed a 3 course Carvery at The Appleyard in Remembrance Avenue. It took a little while for each table to be served but everyone found the food to their taste, and well worth the wait. Even those on special diets were catered for. The raffle raised **£170** for our charities fund having sold both books of tickets. Well done to everyone for their generosity.

Our **BATTLE OF BRITAIN EVENT** held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September proved to be a popular evening with the 30 Members and 7 Guests that attended. Dale Howting was the only member who rose to the occasion by dressing as a Spitfire pilot (complete with handlebar moustache which caused a bit of a problem when supping his pint). Dale kindly brought along two framed posters and flags, which were put on display, along with relevant information on the notice board giving

some information of the period. John Wakelen organised a table-top quiz and the answers were given at the end of the evening. Philip Spice announced birthdays of four members, Ron Smith (Branch President) was celebrating his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday, Dale Howting his 85<sup>th</sup>, as well as Edna Spice and Susan Thomas (being ladies no age was given). Our entertainer for the evening was Claire Snoad who asked us to join in with some war-time songs and a good attempt was made by younger members to sing those hits learnt at their Mother's knee. There were some in the Hall who had memories of the terrible time themselves. A very generous buffet was laid out by Joyce, a far cry from Wartime Rations, and we should be grateful to "the few" that enabled us to celebrate now in such style. There were no signs of there being "a War on" that night. During the second half of the evening Claire delighted us with songs from some of the popular shows making the evening a memorable and enjoyable one. Photos were taken by Mike Smith who sent them to the local paper for publication, giving the branch some welcome publicity. These have been uploaded onto the RSSG website ([www.rssg.org.uk/swale](http://www.rssg.org.uk/swale)) for all to see. The raffle raised **£122** once again showing how generous Swale Branch can be.

Officers of The Royal Naval Association Sittingbourne were among the 19 non-members and 33 members of our Branch that attended our **TRAFALGAR DINNER** at the Masonic Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Grace was said by Gillian Edwards before the enjoyable four course meal. Port was served for the toasts and Councillor Ken Ingleton, Mayor of Swale responded on behalf of the guests and CPO Graham Morris responded to the toast to The Immortal Memory. Glasses to the latter were raised in silence whilst seated, as is naval tradition. Matt Brooks entertained us with a mixture of well-known songs from the 50's and 60's. Sadly there was not the space to get up and dance but that did not stop us from singing along. The selling of raffle tickets from three books during the interval was a little slow and confusing, blame due to there being "a port in every girl". Everyone was very generous, both with their patience and cash. Tickets were drawn later by Mrs Mick Ingleton. A well-deserved round of applause followed the announcement that we had raised **£176**. The evening was drawn to a close by an enthusiastic rendering of Land of Hope and Glory with improvised flag waving (our small flags had not been handed out), followed by the National Anthem.

**WANTED:** Volunteer to become Branch Secretary

**REWARD:** The pleasure of helping the committee organise events for the branch, and raise money for local charities.

We wish to remind members of the following **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

Susan Gent and Susan Thomas will be decorating our tree for the **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** at Tunstall Church from 6th-9th December. Please give your support as all monies raised will be given to Charity.

Don't forget our **CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY** on **7<sup>th</sup> December**. Invitations will be sent out shortly. Make a date in your diary now and why not bring a guest or two along, the more the merrier. **Book early to be sure of a table place.**

Our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held at Phoenix House on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 and we would love to see as many members as possible to support the Branch and Committee for the year ahead.

We try to plan a varied programme each year and any suggestions for future events are always welcome, as are your comments (be they good or bad) on the current programme. We can't make changes if we don't know what you would like. Please contact any committee member or bring your ideas to the AGM.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting Chairman – Philip Spice: Tel. 07709 306292

Vice Chairman – Richard Beeching: Tel. 01795 553048

Treasurer – Susan Thomas: Tel. 01795 422810

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**And finally, may we wish all our members a Merry Christmas**

**And a Happy and Healthy New Year**

# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE

(125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year 1894 - 2019)

## SWALE BRANCH

FOUNDED 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1983



**Newsletter**

**November 2019**