

John Wakelen and Richard Beeching attended **DALE HOWTING'S PRESENTATION** on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 and were presented with a cheque for £100 for the Branch Charity Fund.

**TUNSTALL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** was once again supported by the Branch with Sue Thomas and Sue Gent decorating the tree.

A cataract operation prevented the editor from attending our **CHRISTMAS DINNER** held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, but reports state that the event was enjoyed by 29 members and 8 non-members. The entertainer was Rich Philips. Raffle raised £122.

The 37<sup>th</sup> **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** was held at Phoenix House on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. Acting Chairman Philip Spice greeted the 34 members and guests and sent get well wishes, to Christine David, who was unable to attend due to continuing poor health although she is now showing great improvement and it is hoped that it will not be too long before she is attending our events once again. He also thanked Paul David for coping with the secretarial paperwork in Christine's absence. He made special mention of Ann Smith for advice and guidance and Susan Thomas and family for their hard work and catering.

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM had been sent to all members and as there were no matters arising were signed by the Acting Chairman.

Sue Thomas presented a copy of the Branch Accounts countersigned by the Acting Chairman. She thanked Ron Dimond who had verified them.

Ron Smith was retiring as President and Gerry Lewin was voted in as his replacement. Philip was then voted in as Vice President. Officers and Committee were voted for and their names and any contact details are shown at the end of this Newsletter. Christine David and Audrey Evans decided to stand down this year and nominations were taken from the floor. New member Roger Clark agreed to stand and was voted in.

A list of dates and venues for 2020 was left on each chair and it is hoped that members will support the functions that the committee has arranged.

A request was made for suggestions for future events. Old favourites Race Night and Beetle Drive or any new ideas could be organised.

Members were asked to nominate small local charities that Swale Branch can support in 2020. Curly's Farm and The Quays were suggested and Dale Howting has offered to present a donation of £100 at the Sunday Lunch.

The meeting was closed by Gerry Lewin having thanked Ron Smith for his services to the Branch over many years. He then invited those present to enjoy the buffet that had been prepared by Susan Thomas and family and Sue Gent.

Following the break for refreshments the meeting was called to order to listen to Rachel Hudson and Sharon Gambell talking about the work done by **CHILD'S VISION**, helping children in Kent who have witnessed and/or been affected by Domestic Abuse. John Wakelen presented a cheque for **£100** on behalf of the branch.

At the next committee meeting it was proposed that Heather Elliott be co-opted onto the committee and she was duly voted in.

Due to concerns over the Coronavirus the Committee decided to cancel this year's **QUIZ NIGHT**. All monies have been refunded. Should the situation change we can book an alternative date later in the year, but time alone will tell.

Life has now taken a new turn and self-isolation is the order of the day, initially until Easter, when the situation will be reviewed. **Thanks to the NHS and other key workers who are doing vital work for all of us.**

In view of the likelihood of further lock-down it was decided to cancel the **ST GEORGE'S DAY BREAKFAST**, the **ST GEORGE'S DAY DINNER** and the **ST GEORGE'S ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE**.

At the time of typing up this newsletter the future of all social activity is uncertain but the committee has decided that all bookings be left in place until nearer the time when decisions will be made whether to go ahead.

The **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** that have been planned for the rest of 2020

**Sunday Lunch – 12th July - The Appleyard**

**Battle of Britain 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 12<sup>th</sup> September – Masonic Hall**

**Trafalgar Dinner – 24<sup>th</sup> October - Masonic Hall**

**Christmas Dinner – 5<sup>th</sup> December - Woodstock Club**

**Notice will be sent out near the time to let you know what is happening.**

**President** – Gerry Lewin

**Vice President** – Philip Spice: Tel. 07709306292

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chairman** – John Wakelen: Tel. 01795 553218

**Vice Chairman** – Sue Gent: Tel. 01795 430768

**Treasurer** – Susan Thomas: Tel. 01795 422810

**Newsletter Editor** – Beryl Williams: Tel. 01795 843266

Richard Beeching: Tel. 01795 553048

Roger Clark

Heather Elliott

**AND FINALLY** – May we never again take for granted - Saturday Nights with friends; Birthday celebrations; The roar of a stadium; Mornings at the gym; Crowded dance floors; Coffee with a friend; Going to the theatre or concerts; Happy Hours and even Life itself.

We have to create happiness where we can, make each day count and appreciate the simple pleasures life has to offer.

**UNTIL LIFE RETURNS TO NORMAL STAY SAFE**

# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE

## SWALE BRANCH

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



**Newsletter**

**April, 2020**

