

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE CELEBRATE A
VIRTUAL ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER**

The Royal Society of Saint George (Huntingdon Branch) and Huntingdon Town Council held their first virtual event and are hoping it will be their last.

Not to be defeated by Covid-19, our Chairman, Col. Derek Bristow inviting members and guests to a virtual St. George's Day Dinner to be held in the many homes across Huntingdonshire and around the world to celebrate St. George's Day.

We were delighted to be supported by many guests including Colonel Wendt and his wife Kristina, Commander of the 501st Combat Support Wing USAF and Randy L Potts, Honorary Chairman of the Royal Society of Saint George Carolinian Branch and their members from the USA.

Prayers for the virtual dinner were led by Reverend Jon Randall, the Vicar of All Saints Church, Huntingdon:

"Dear Lord, in these troubled times we thank you that we can enjoy a good meal together. We pray that even though we cannot meet in one place we would reflect positively on the fellowship we share together.

On this St George's Day, we thank you for the work of The Royal Society of Saint George and for Huntingdon Town Council. Would you bless those in leadership to make wise decisions on our behalf.

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and his death; give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection.

*We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour.
Amen"*

Followed by Grace led by Reverend Roy Muttram:

*"Remember George our patron Saint
The inspiration of our nation
God bless us as we gather now
And join in celebration
Bless us as we sit to dine
Bless starter, meat, dessert and wine
Bless the chef and those who serve us
From sin and indigestion Lord Preserve us, Amen"*

A "Loyal Toast" proposed by Col. Derek Bristow OBE DL, "England and Saint George", proposed by Mrs Debbie Townsend, "The Town of Huntingdon", proposed by Cllr. Sarah Gifford and to "The Guests", Vice Chairman, David Hodge.

Rosemary Wheeler proposed the Toast to “Absent Friends”

*“Tell England we shall soon come back
To the woods in bluebell time
To see the dancing daffodils
The chestnut and the lime
To climb the purple heather hill
And find the cold wind blows there still”*

Our President, Mrs Julie Spence HM Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire sent the following message to the Branch that encapsulates the unusual and unprecedented times we currently live in:

“We find ourselves in unusual and unprecedented times. Even the normality provided by the Royal Calendar has been disrupted - no gun salute on Her Majesty’s 94th birthday and no flags over buildings. No Trooping of the Colour, no Royal Garden Parties to salute those working hard for our nation, both nationally and locally, in our communities, and no Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award presentations at Buckingham Palace to recognise the hard work and enterprise of our young people.

Instead we have a dispersed Royal family grappling with new ways of working - Royal hospital openings by video conference call, and the sending of video, Twitter, Instagram messages and more traditional letters of support to Royal patronage’s and those working on the front line.

As a nation we and the Royal Family, along with many other nations, have applauded the stoic and inspirational efforts of the wonderful Captain Tom Moore who, at almost 100 years old, has raised a phenomenal amount of money for the NHS, who are at the forefront of the front line during this COVID-19 crisis.

These are truly unusual times but we will get through them, and emerge into a ‘new normal’ and life will go on.

We will come together again to celebrate St George’s Day but, in the meantime, whilst in social isolation, stay safe and please raise your glasses to ‘The Queen’.

At 8pm, the Branch stopped the Dinner to join neighbours to clap for our heroes, the NHS, carers, key workers and to all those services and volunteers who are working so hard to keep us safe – thank you.

At the end of the evening an inspirational poem sent into Blue Peter called “Stand Together created by Marcie, age 10 completed our virtual dinner:

*In light of the troubles we have today
There’s just a few things I’d like to say
Although the days of this feel long
Together as a country we stand strong*

*Share your kindness and your love
It's no time to be mean, push and shove
Hold on to your loved ones, hold them tight
Listen to the rules and do things right*

*Take time to enjoy all the little things
The small things and the pleasure it brings
But most importantly of all
Stay safe, be brave, we shall not fall.*

Members agreed that the evening had been a very successful St. George's Day dinner with no guests turning up late, no complaints about the food, the wine excellent and speeches reasonably short.

Attachments:

Photos 1 and 2: Cllr & Mrs. Dick Taplin, Mayor and Mayoress of Godmanchester
(RSSG Guests)

Photo 3: Heather and Michael Williamson JP DL (RSSG Members)

Photo 4: Monica Thompson (RSSG Member)

Photo 5: Peter and Roslyn Cresswell (RSSG Members)

Photo 6: Col. Derek Bristow (RSSG Vice President and Chairman)

Photo 7: David Hodge (RSSG Vice-Chairman)