

Dear Member

The Founders Lunch at the Victory Services attracted 22 people and was very well received by all who attended. Also, it was the first time the VSC had opened its doors to an outside function since lockdown. However, its success as a branch function was more limited as only 15 members came, so I had to make up the numbers with 6 personal guests. Lack of numbers was undoubtedly due to Covid 19 but, as I remarked at the AGM, our two pre Covid functions in January and February had to be supplemented by my guests (7 at the Catering College and 2 at St Peter's). I find this lack of support disturbing because it means that any function with overheads, such as hire charges or minimum numbers, can run at a loss and makes me disinclined to book them thus limiting the range of enjoyable opportunities.

Normally at this time of year I would be arranging a draft programme for 2021 to present to the Council meeting in October, but that seems pointless at the moment. My inclination is to limit the number of functions in 2021 to the AGM in March, hopefully in Westminster City Hall, a St George's Day Dinner (Wax Chandlers Hall), a Founders Lunch in July, a Trafalgar Day Dinner, perhaps at the Naval Club, a Christmas Lunch at President and the usual post-Christmas lunch at the Chesterfield. There is an element of sameness in this, but some of the venues have a sustained appeal.

Branch Events

The current situation is that the Naval Club are not open for outside functions in 2020 so the Trafalgar Day Dinner on 21st October is cancelled. It is very unlikely that HMS PRESIDENT will be open in December so the Christmas lunch on 9th December is cancelled. However, the Chesterfield has confirmed that they will be happy to receive us as usual on 29th December so the lunch will go ahead.

In an attempt to fill the gap, I have made a provisional booking for the Monday Lunch Club at Ironmonger's Hall on Monday 23rd November. The lunch package includes a glass of sparkling wine, three course lunch and half a bottle of house wine. Numbers are restricted to 30 and guests will be seated on five tables of six. The reception drink will be served at the table. There is a choice of menu and those attending will be asked for their preferences. At this stage I am testing the waters, so please tell Annabelle if you wish to come.

The Ironmongers Company is tenth in order of precedence and is, therefore, one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies. It is located at Off Shaftesbury Pl, Aldersgate St, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA

Summary

Having shared my thoughts with you I would be delighted to receive your views on how the 2021 programme could be improved. Please contact me at alansco@internet.com or call on 020 8670 1488.

BRANCH EVENT BOOKING

**All events are to be booked with the Branch Secretary, Annabelle Emney
12, Park House, Kingswood Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, KENT, TN2 4BP**

Email: annemney@gmail.com

Call or text 07828 013795

Cheques should be made payable to RSSG Westminster Branch

Electronic Transfers quote surname and event reference and tell Annabelle

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