



The Royal Society of St George

**The Royal Society Of St. George  
British Columbia Branch**

**Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

**"Representing the English Community  
in British Columbia, Canada"**

**"Your English Club in B.C."**

**Sponsor: Anglo INFO Vancouver**

**www.vancouver.angloinfo.com**

**The Independent Immigration Aid Association**

**January - February 2013**

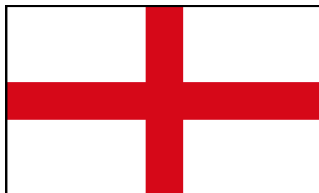
**Message from the  
President:**

**A Happy New Year and best wishes from Your  
Royal Society of St. George, BC Branch!**

**The Upstart English Democrats**

**I receive email messages frequently from  
Robin Tilbrook, Party Chairman of the English  
Democrats. They are full of exhortations to be  
proud of England and indignations regarding  
what politicians and bureaucrats are doing that  
are contrary to England's interests. Clearly, the  
English Democrats would like to be seen as the  
equivalent of the SNP in Scotland and Plaid  
Cymru in Wales. Key planks in their political  
platform are a the establishment of a separate  
parliament for England and for St. George's Day  
to be a bank holiday.**

**They are most adamant  
that further involvement  
with the European  
Union is a bad idea.**



**Dragon  
Fire**



**I haven't taken the English  
Democrats seriously up to now. They  
always appeared to be just one of the  
British fringe parties. Too many of them  
appeal to our worse instincts and offer a  
potent mix of negative policies based on  
race and fear of change. The English  
Democrats may be different. They have a  
positive message that is based on the  
accomplishments of England (akin to our  
RSSG). They are also growing in  
acceptance by electing local officials and  
gaining in the popular vote. Here's the  
link to the party magazine.**

**<http://www.englishandproud.org/england-arise.pdf>**

**The party website is at**

**[www.englishdemocrats.org.uk](http://www.englishdemocrats.org.uk)**

**I don't know what the future holds  
for the English Democrats. Maybe they  
are just a collection of disgruntled old  
guys. I'd like to know if you have views  
about it.**

**Dan Brown, President**



## **Dragon Fire**

The Official Newsletter of  
The Royal Society of St. George,  
British Columbia Branch  
Recipients of the Canadian 2008 Citation  
for Citizenship Award

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stgeorge@telus.net                      www.stgeorgebc.ca

### **Royal Society of St. George Executive:**

- Dan Brown \* President 604- 263-7369  
e mail: stgeorge@telus.net
- Roger Dawson \* Vice President 778-229-6831  
e mail: rdawson@dawsonlawyers.com
- Malcolm Pinteau - Treasurer

### **Directors-at-Large:**

- Steve McVittie 604-940-5366  
email: celtict@telus.net
- Bob Davies \*604-738-6756
- Dorothy Evers 604-926-6366
- Denise Wheater 604 925 0729  
e mail: dentravels@shaw.ca
- Carole Clark 778-928-6832  
email: carol.clark43@yahoo.co.uk
- Basil Fox  
email: basilfox@shaw.ca.
- Fred Axam email: faxam@shaw.ca
- Arline McFarlane email: arlinemc@shaw.ca
- Lee Clark email: leeclark1001@gmail.com

### **IIAA, our registered charity:**

Above RSSG directors and officers, plus  
the following Directors-at-Large:

- Alan Hackett 604-926-7409
- afhackett@shaw.ca

## **St. George and England Magazine**

Due to membership interest the  
Executive has agreed to make  
available to our members the  
attractive magazine of the Royal  
Society of St. George in England.  
We will let you know how to obtain a  
sample copy and how to subscribe.

## **Renewed Executive and Associates 2013**

This is the time of year when we elect new directors and appoint new associates. The directors, who comprise the Executive, meet six-to-eight times yearly over a pleasant pub lunch or dinner. The associates are people who are "in the loop" regarding the business of the RSSG and who often perform specific functions. Some join the Executive's gatherings. In 2012, we had 11 people serve as directors and 10 as associates. If you have any interest in lending a hand to our important English society, please let Dorothy Evers know. She is our cheerful Nominations Committee of One for 2013. Her email address is: [dmevers@shaw.ca](mailto:dmevers@shaw.ca).

## **Membership Dues**

### Reminder to Renew

If you haven't renewed your family membership for 2013 already, please do so. This request applies to continuing members and those who joined in 2012 as free trial members (unless you joined in November or December). You may send in your cheque for \$30 for a membership payable to the RSSG. Alternatively, you may pass your dues to an RSSG director at one of our events scheduled in January. Our address is:

**RSSG, 5639 Dunbar Street, Vancouver BC,  
V6N 1W5. Cheers!**

Thanks to many of you who have renewed already for 2013!

Your support is appreciated greatly!

Thanks to those of you who contributed to IIAA, our registered charity that supports newcomers from Britain.

Our address is:

**RSSG, 5639 Dunbar Street, Vancouver BC,  
V6N 1W5. Cheers!**

## Letter to the Editor:

On Christmas, the English, and Stir-up Sunday

Just a brief (at least I thought that it was going to be) note to mention that Steve McVittie's very informative (and then fortified by all the information in the new issue of Dragon Fire) note on the distinctive English contribution to Christmas reminded me of the conclusion that I came to when I spent a year in England in 1981-82. It occurred to me then that while most countries' national day (like Canada's) commemorates something like a revolution, constitution, or (boo!) republic, England's national holiday (not St George's Day) was obviously Christmas Day! I was rather consoled and edified by this conclusion.

In the same way, while Burns' Day is clearly very important (but St Andrew's Day is no more Scotland's national holiday than St George's Day is England's), Scotland's national holiday is obviously New Year's Day!

Steve's note prompts me to ask whether the reason for the name "Stir-up Sunday" given to the Sunday before Advent (which is said to have reminded housewives to begin the preparation of their Christmas puddings) is commonly known. It comes from the translation of the initial word of the collect (the principal "theme" or short introductory prayer used in the Mass and offices of that week) in the Sarum (derived from the Roman) liturgy, "Excita!" ("Stir up the wills of thy faithful people, we beseech thee, O Lord...."). The word is repeated (it really does create a theme) in many of the collects of Advent, but is either replaced or obscured (it appears as "Raise up" on the Fourth Sunday of Advent) in the Prayer Book tradition.

Richard Toporoski,  
Associate.





## **Past Events:**

### **Mid-Island Group's Remembrance Day Lunch in South Nanaimo**

Twenty-two attended this lunch at the Gryphon's Lair. The buffet was "all you can eat." Pam Thorp provided a Remembrance Day quiz which was won by Ken Chatterton. Thanks to Ken for organizing this fine event!

### **Tri-Cities and Ridge-Meadows Group's Pre-Christmas Lunch in Port Coquitlam**

The Tri-Cities and Ridge Meadows Group held its Pre-Christmas Lunch in late November at the Port Coquitlam Legion Hall. About 32 members and friends gathered to start off the holiday celebrations. We indulged in a sumptuous feast, told stories, and won a number of 50-50 prizes. Our special guests from the City of Port Coquitlam were Councillor Darrell Penner, who brought season's greetings, and Councillor Mike Forest. Thanks go to Johnny McClelland for his appearance as Father Christmas in a hot Santa suit, to Jingle Belle Jilly (Jill Croll) for her lively solos and leading us in song, and especially to Jayne Boyer for her super job of being not just our MC, but our organizer for this great event! She and her dedicated team made the occasion a very satisfying one.

### **Mid-Island Group's Christmas Dinner in Nanoose Bay**

The Mid-Island Group held its Second Annual Traditional English Christmas Dinner at the Rocking Horse Pub in Nanoose Bay. Eighteen gathered for this sumptuous occasion with great food and good service. The team quiz was won by the Nicholas Nickelby crew of Mel & Irene Drage and Valerie Baker & Bill Chipman. Thanks to Ken Chatterton and Julian Mattock for the preparations and to Reg Wilson for the fine pictures!



## **PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP YOUR DATA UP TO DATE**

### **Address Up Dates & Changes Needed:**

If you changed your address,  
phone number, or  
email address during 2011 or 2012,  
St. George needs to know.

**Please inform Peter Howard at  
[peterh@pacificcoast.net](mailto:peterh@pacificcoast.net) or  
604-931-5120.**

Cheers!

## Upcoming Events:

**Mid-Island Pub Lunch** on Saturday, January 19. Scheduled at the Crow and Gate south of Nanaimo. Watch for the email announcement!

### Annual General Meeting Sunday, January 27, 2013

The AGM gives us an opportunity to meet old and new acquaintances that we might not see at some of the St. George social events and we also get a chance to meet the newly elected executive where they are eager to listen to your suggestions and get new ideas for the advancement of the St. George society. We combine it with a really exceptional buffet lunch and enjoy ourselves at this midwinter gathering. Scheduled at 1:00 pm at Cheers Restaurant in North Vancouver. Please contact Denise Wheater to confirm your attendance so the restaurant may expect the correct number. We look forward to meeting some of our Island and Valley members at this time.

Denise can be contacted at  
[dentravels@shaw.ca](mailto:dentravels@shaw.ca)  
or leave a message at 604-925-0729.

**Mid-Island Brunch/Bufferet** on Sunday, February 17. Scheduled at the Longwood northwest of Nanaimo. Watch for the email notice!

**South-Island Pub Lunch** in February? Dan Brown plans to visit the South-Island Group in Victoria. Watch for an email notice!

**British Meet-up Groups' Events.** The meet-up groups continue to gather at interesting pubs on fairly short notice. The

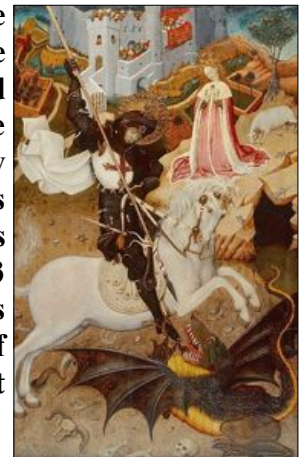
most active groups are in Victoria and Coquitlam. They are also located in Langley, Kelowna, and Vancouver.

**Mid-Island Pub Lunch** on Saturday, March 23. Scheduled at the Black Goose Pub in Parksville. Watch for the email.

### St. George's Day Lunches.

The Vancouver Group plans to host a lunch on Sunday, April 21. Watch for announcements and further information in the March-April issue. Other groups are invited to celebrate St. George's Day as well.

Saint George (c. 275/281 – 23 April 303) was a Greek who became an officer in the Roman army. His father was the Greek Gerondios from Cappadocia Asia Minor and his mother was the Greek Polychronia from the city Lyda. Lyda was a Greek city from the times of the conquest of Alexander the Great (333 BC), now in Israel. He became an officer in the Roman army in the Guard of Diocletian. He is venerated as a Christian martyr. In hagiography, Saint George is one of the most venerated saints in the Catholic (Western and Eastern Rites), Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, and the Oriental Orthodox churches. He is immortalized in the tale of Saint George and the Dragon and is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. His memorial is celebrated on 23 April, and he is regarded as one of the most prominent military saints.



## Donations to IAA, Our Registered Charity

It's the time of year when we all consider what we have given to worthy causes and if we can make an extra effort before the possibility of receiving another tax receipt for 2012 is closed. Well, we hope you contemplate making a donation to IAA this year. The Independent Immigration Aid Association is the way we assist our Royal Society of St. George to welcome new immigrants from Britain.

Your donation this year will help us reach out to British immigrants who are newly arrived in BC so that they are made aware of the RSSG and the welcome they will receive when they make contact with us. Our British immigrants are often highly skilled and acutely needed in Canada. Although they speak our language, they face a big change in their lives, uprooting families, selling homes, and coming to BC with never enough knowledge about the cities in which they plan to settle.

While their circumstances are different from those of use who came to Canada many years ago, our recent newcomers still share the immigrants' experience of making sacrifices and they cling to the hope of a better future for their children. Please help us help them and send a donation, payable to IAA, if you can.

The address is IAA, 5639 Dunbar Street, Vancouver, BC, V6N 1W9.

“There is a forgotten, nay almost forbidden word, which means more to me than any other. That word is England.”

Sir Winston Churchill

### British Sovereign:

The Sovereign acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognizes success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service.

[www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)

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<p><b>A Proper English Breakfast</b></p> <p>White &amp; Black Pudding, British Style Sausages &amp; Bacon, Heinz Beanz</p>				<p><b>Royal Wedding &amp; Queen's Diamond Jubilee Souvenirs</b></p> <p><b>35% OFF</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Stock</b></p> <p><b>35% OFF</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTED TEAS</b></p> <p>London Cuppa, PG Tips, Ty.Phoo, M. &amp; S., Tetley's, Barry's Scottish Blend, Edinburgh, Bewley's, Glengettie, Taylor's of Harrogate, etc.</p>		<p>“On the waterfront, East Beach”</p> <p><b>15557 MARINE DRIVE</b></p> <p><b>WHITE ROCK, B.C</b></p> <p><b>(604) 538-2277</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.britishimportsweets.ca">www.britishimportsweets.ca</a></p>	
<p><b>Candies, Chocolates, Sweets, Biscuits,</b></p> <p><b>IMPERIAL LEATHER</b></p> <p>British Country &amp; Soccer Souvenirs: Flags, Sew-on Badges, Mugs, Pins etc.</p> <p><b>IN OUR DELI:</b></p> <p>Clotted Cream, English &amp; Irish Cheeses</p> <p>Meat Pies, Sausage Rolls, Pork Pies, Scotch Pies</p> <p>Melton Mowbray, Kippers, Haddock, Cornish Pasty's,</p>						<p>“Tilbury Park”</p> <p><b>#14, 7550 RIVER ROAD</b></p> <p><b>DELTA, B.C</b></p> <p><b>(604) 940-5366</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.britisheuropeanimports.ca">www.britisheuropeanimports.ca</a></p>	
							
							





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- Property & Real Estate
- Shopping & Style
- Sport & Leisure
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Vancouver, BC  
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Website: <http://www.dawsonlawyers.com>  
E-mail: [rdawson@dawsonlawyers.com](mailto:rdawson@dawsonlawyers.com)  
Fax: 604 722 8339

## MEET UP GROUPS

<http://www.meetup.com/BCBRITISH/>

<http://www.meetup.com/British-Expats-of-Langley-and-area/>

<http://www.meetup.com/British-Expats-of-Vancouver-Island/>

<http://www.meetup.com/Ridge-Meadows-Brits/>

<http://www.meetup.com/BritishExpat/>

For further information contact  
[info@meetup.com](mailto:info@meetup.com);

## Old English Summer Soup

### Ingredients:

12 oz (350 g) potatoes, peeled and finely diced

4 or 5 spring onions, finely chopped (including the green parts)

1 small, round lettuce, washed, patted dry and shredded

½ medium cucumber, chopped (no need to peel)

3 oz (75 g) butter

1½ pints (850 ml) chicken or vegetable stock

Snipped fresh chives, to garnish

Salt and freshly milled black pepper

### Method:

First of all, in a medium saucepan, melt the butter gently, then add the potatoes, spring onions, lettuce and cucumber. Stir everything round in the butter then, keeping the heat very low, put a lid on and let everything sweat for 10 minutes. Now pour in the stock, stir, add some salt and freshly milled black pepper and bring to the boil. Then reduce the heat to low, put the lid on and let it simmer gently for another 20 minutes.

Leave the soup to cool a little, then puree the whole lot in a blender. If you need to do this in two batches, it is helpful to have a bowl to hand to put the first batch in. Finally, check the seasoning, gently re-heat the soup and serve it with the freshly snipped chives stirred in at the last moment or sprinkle a few into each bowl.

By Delia Smith ([www.deliaonline.com](http://www.deliaonline.com))

Check out this website

<http://www.stgeorgesday.com/>

**Our Heritage and our Culture  
Isn't it great to be British**

## TRIVIA

Lil and I spent three weeks in the U.K. with one week in London. One of our favourite pubs was The Swan on 66 Bayswater Road, London.

They can date The Swan back to 1721; the first date written in the licence victualler's register, but it's widely believed to have been an inn for much longer. A traditional coaching inn, The Swan is also reputed to have been the final drinking place for the victims of the 'Gibbet' Tyburn Gallows, now known as Marble Arch. Notorious highwayman Claude Duval, active on the London to Uxbridge road, is alleged to have had his final drink in our pub before being hanged at Tyburn in 1670.

It has also been suggested that the terms '**one for the road**' and '**on the wagon**' were first coined here. The jailer would draw up with the prisoners cage outside and request 'one for the road'. After the horses had pulled them away, men at the bar would say: "he's on the wagon," alluding to the fact that they would never drink again.

Our favourite meal was their Fish & Chips with a pint of "London Pride" ale.

