



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

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The Independent Immigration Aid Association

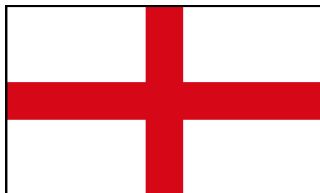
November—December 2012

President's Remarks

Looking Back on Remembrance Day, 2012

I attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Maple Ridge. It was simple and dignified. The names of the fallen in World War I and II were read out. Having started life in Maple Ridge, I recalled my grandfather's service at the Somme, my father's service in the Forestry Corps when I was very young, and my uncle's unfortunate experiences as an infantryman in the liberation of Holland. All three returned but all three bore scars. I was glad to have served in the Royal Canadian Navy although that was not in time of war so I do not consider myself a veteran (not a "real" one, anyway).

The good people of Maple Ridge turned out in large numbers. I could not estimate the size of the onlookers but the parade had many participants, our Armed Forces were well presented, we stood patiently while the muskets were fired, the bugler blew, the sun appeared briefly, and the fly past arrived on cue. People of all ages attended, from ancient ones in wheelchairs to infants in prams. I was delighted to see the cross



**Dragon
Fire**



section of representation and the attention given to each part of the proceedings. That overall impression was similar to another one.

My recent trip to Australia included a visit to Australian War Memorial in Canberra, the largest war memorial on earth, I was told. Along with uniformed students from many field trips, Marnie and I gazed upon the displays that included trench warfare in World War I and the exploits of the Royal Australian Navy in World War II. Although Australia has always had a smaller population than Canada, the sacrifices made were proportionately greater by the Aussie "diggers" and their landsmen. One more fell in Afghanistan while we were in "Oz."

Remembrance Day ceremonies and their accompanying media attention to the sacrifices of those who served in the armed forces of all the Commonwealth countries remind us of the contributions that persons of Anglo-American backgrounds have made to world peace and security. More than other cultures, we have responded to the defence of world freedom and the maintenance of world order. Let's hope that we can continue to do so in the future. From a nautical point of view, the wish that "Britannia rule the waves" is not an idle one in light of emergent powers and a shift of interest from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Dan Brown.

President

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

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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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.

Early Bird Offer for Membership Renewal!

Your RSSGBC is again offering a discount if you renew early. That offer applies to regular members and those who joined in 2012 as free trial members. You may send in your cheque for \$25 for a family membership by December 31. Please make it payable to the RSSG. Alternatively, you may pass your reduced dues to an RSSG director at one of our events scheduled before the end of December.

After that, fees will revert to \$30.

Our address is:

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



Brief Review of Past Events

Mid-Island Group's Lunch in North Nanaimo, October 13

This fine lunch at the Black Bear Pub was very successful with 25 people attending, including two guests. As usual, the English and friends had a good time. **Irene Drage** provided the luncheon quiz and it was won by **Dominic and Pam Thorp**. Something must be done about that. **Shirley Pratten** won the 50/50 draw. Thanks to **Ken Chatterton and Julian Mattock** for the organization and to **Reg Wilson** for the engaging pictures.

British Expats Meetup Dinner in Port Coquitlam, October 13

This is an example of the more informal gatherings assembled by the meetup lists.

Vancouver Group's Trafalgar Day and War of 1812 Lunch October 23

This successful gathering was co-sponsored and co-organized by the Mainland Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society. About 35 members of both societies attended this event at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club, an old English establishment in the heart of Vancouver. Lunch was mixed with entertainment; participants sang nine songs led by Stuart James, a fine musician.

We were especially delighted to be joined by **Luke du Lac**, former member and long-time friend of the RSSGBC who is now a member of C Company, 6th Battalion of the British Rifle Regiment who are currently deployed to Afghanistan. Luke was on a flying visit to BC while on leave from his regiment and ably proposed the toast to HM the Queen while also providing a moving description of his regiment's history of service to Queen and Country.

Thanks to **Shawn Wade**, President of the Mainland RCS who served as able co-organizer and co-MC, to **Roger Dawson** (our RSSG's Vice President) for the St. George's side of the program, organizing the entertainment and also co-MC, to **Alan Jones** for his fine pictures and a splendid display portraying the naval and military events being commemorated and to all the others who helped out.

Mid-Island Remembrance Day Lunch in South Nanaimo on November 11

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.



Upcoming Events

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Tri-Cities and Ridge Meadows' Pre-Christmas Lunch, Saturday, November 24

This gala event is to be held at the Legion Hall in Port Coquitlam. We thought it would be fun to schedule an festive gathering before the Christmas rush!

Mid-Island Second Annual Traditional Christmas Dinner, Nanoose Bay on Saturday, December 15

Last year's dinner was a most enjoyable occasion! A notice from Ken is due out shortly.

British Meetup Groups' Events

The meetup groups continue to gather at interesting pubs on fairly short notice. The most active groups are in Victoria and Coquitlam. If you'd like to receive notices, please sign up.

Annual General Meeting for 2013, end of January

Although an AGM doesn't sound exciting, we combine it with a lunch and enjoy ourselves at this midwinter gathering. Most likely to be held on the North Shore or in Vancouver. Watch for the announcement.

St. George's Day Lunches in April

We plan to hold major lunches in honour of St. George in April.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
and support these events
BRING A FRIEND**



**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 or
604-931-5120.**

Cheers!



**A English Christmas Dinner
Shared with Family and Friends
Bring back the English Customs & Traditions**

Christmas In England

Christmas has been celebrated in England for over a thousand years now. It came up in England in 596 AD when St. Augustine, along with other monks, introduced Christianity to the Anglo Saxons. More than ten thousand people were baptized to the Christian faith then. England has a chilly and beautiful white Christmas with sheets of snow covering the country. Streets are adorned with lights and wonderfully decorated Christmas trees. Birds chirping on the frosted branches and cats prowling the deep layers of snow conjure up the spirit of Christmas in England. Families and friends get together to enjoy and share centuries old customs and traditions of the festive season. Traditional food, Christmas music and many other peculiar customs are integral to Christmas in England. All this makes Christmas the most awaited time of the year. Go through the distinct English customs that make Christmas in England so enjoyable.

English Christmas Customs

Countdown to Christmas

The start of the Christmas season in England is known as 'Advent'. Advent calendars are a countdown to Christmas and start four Sundays before Christmas. The advent calendar is the first sign of Christmas in English homes and offers a reason to look forward to Christmas Eve.

Decors

People decorate their houses with lights during Christmas. Red and green are the common decoration colours where green symbolizes the belief of eternal life through Jesus Christ and red symbolizes the blood that Jesus shed for mankind. The traditional Christmas tree in England is the fir tree.

Caroling Away

Evening carol services and midnight masses are

old English traditions that are upheld even today.

People go carol singing from one house to another to collect money for charity. This singing starts from St Thomas day i.e. 21st December and lasts till Christmas day.

Mumming

Mumming is one of the most popular English traditions which originated during the Middle Ages. It is when artists called mummers wear masks and enact Christmas plays in towns or villages. The plays depict the struggle between good and evil and are, in a way, based on St. George and the dragon.

Gifts Galore

Family and friends place gifts for other family members under the Christmas tree. The gifts are opened in the afternoon, or after the dinner feast. Christmas stockings are a very traditional part of English customs and coming in plenty of designs and colors, they are a gift on their own. Children usually hang these stockings in and around the house for Santa to fill them up with goodies.

Christmas Delicacies

Food and festivals go hand in hand. Christmas dinner is usually eaten midday and only a type of porridge, made from a corn called Frumenty, can be eaten before that. There are different kinds of dishes which are devoured for dinner. Roasted turkey, sprouts, toffee puddings, plum puddings, mince pies, orange marmalade cake, chocolate Yule log and sauces, like cranberry sauce or Cumberland sauce, are a few dishes that decorate the English dinner table. Wassail, an ale-based drink, seasoned with spices and honey has been associated with Christmas since the 1400s. It is passed around in a bowl and symbolizes the passing-on of good wishes.

Boxing Day

The day after Christmas, i.e. 26th December, is called Boxing Day. On this day, boys go around collecting money and open the box once it is full. The contents from this box are then given to the poor.



Donations to IIAA, 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 IIAA 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 IIAA, if you can.

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

The recipients of our service will be grateful. Cheers!

BOXING DAY TRADITION:

An 'Alms Box' was placed in every church on Christmas Day, into which worshippers placed a gift for the poor of the parish. These boxes were always opened the day after Christmas, which is why that day became know as Boxing Day.

Many poorly paid workers were required to work on Christmas Day and took the following day off to visit their families. As they prepared to leave, their employers would present them with Christmas boxes.

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<p>Candies, Chocolates, Sweets, Biscuits,</p> <p>IMPERIAL LEATHER</p> <p>British Country & Soccer Souvenirs: Flags, Sew-on Badges, Mugs, Pins etc.</p> <p>IN OUR DELI:</p> <p>Clotted Cream, English & Irish Cheeses Meat Pies, Sausage Rolls, Pork Pies, Scotch Pies Melton Mowbray, Kippers & Scottish Haddock, Cornish Pasty's, etc.</p> 	<p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> 	<p>"Tilbury Park"</p> <p>#14, 7550 RIVER ROAD DELTA, B.C (604) 940-5366 www.britisheuropeanimports.ca</p> 



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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;

ENGLISH TRADITIONS



A traditional full English breakfast is a meal that's very popular with tourists in London. We just got back from three weeks in the U.K. and every morning the hotels would offer a buffet of a full English breakfast. The fun part was that we were the only one in the buffet line that spoke English. The tourists loved the breakfast selection. Celebrate your English heritage by having a full English breakfast Christmas Morning.

THE EDITOR

The traditional English breakfast consists of black pudding, baked beans, sausage, tomato, mushrooms, English bacon, English Breakfast sausages, eggs and toast.

Servings:

Ingredients for two

4 black pudding, sliced 1/4-inch thick (we have rings, slices and chubs)

6 good-quality CTC English Breakfast sausages,

6 slices CTC Streaky or Ayrshire bacon

2 eggs,

1 pints cherry tomatoes, halved

1 cans Heinz baked beanz

4 slices granary or whole wheat bread

8 button mushrooms, trimmed

The Celtic Treasure Chest will allow 20% off any purchase of British style bacon or sausage to all members of the Royal Society of St. George for your Traditional Full English Breakfast. When you purchase your Christmas Breakfast fixings just mention that you are a member of the St. George Society.

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

ENGLISH YULE LOG

The Yule Log:



It is traditional to light a special 'Yule log' on Christmas Eve and keep it burning through the 12 nights of

Christmas until Twelfth Night.

Traditionally, a huge log would be selected in the forest on Christmas Eve, decorated with ribbons, and dragged back home. This was known as 'Bringing in the Yule Log'. The magical properties of the Yule Log were said to ensure good luck in the coming year to all those who lent a hand at pulling it over the rough ground.

Once yule log was brought to the fireplace, a blessing was said over it, asking that it should last forever. Wine was poured over the log at this point to make it feel welcome. It was then placed on the fire and lit with a torch made from a piece of wood left over from last year's Yule Log.

After lighting, it was kept burning throughout the twelve days of Christmas.

The Celts believed that, for twelve days at the end of December, the sun stood still (which is why the days grew shorter and shorter). If they could keep yule logs burning bright for those twelve days, then the sun would be persuaded to move again, and make the days grow longer. If a Yule Log went out, then there would be terrible luck.

For Christians, the symbolism of the Yule log was that it represented the need to keep the stable warm for the Infant Christ.

Yule Logs today

A Yule log is today the most common answer would be a log shaped chocolate cake eaten around Christmas time.