



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"



"Dragon Fire"



Spring 2020



The British Isles "Heritage Festival" Saturday Feb. 22nd. 2020



2020 Executive

President - Shawn Wade
Past President - Steve McVittie,
"Dragon Fire" - Editor
Vice President – Roger Dawson
Treasurer, Director - Jimmy Yan
Director – Jayne Boyer
Director – Pat Morris
Director - Robert Rathbun
Recording Secretary - open

Appointments:

Maureen Templeton - Membership
Chairperson
Dan Brown - Communications

Membership Dues for 2020 are due on January 1st (\$30 per family)

Cheques should be made payable to RSSG-
BC and mailed with a completed form to:
RSSG-BC Membership, 5639 Dunbar St,
Vancouver, BC V6N 1W5



News and Events

Congratulations to our
members Captain Reverend
Gordon Barrett, who has been
accepted into The Order of St.
George, and will be Knighted
and invested into the Order in a
lovely ceremony at Holy Trinity Cathedral in
New Westminster, British Columbia,
Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 1:30

The Royal Society of St. George, B.C.,
Web Page

<https://www.stgeorgebc.ca/>

The Royal Society of St. George, B.C.
Branch, Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Royal-Society-of-St-George-BC-Branch-124821680873964/>



The Royal Society of St.
George,
United Kingdom

<http://rssg.org.uk/>

WHY NOT?

Are you a member of
the Royal Society of St. George?

If not, why not?

Membership of the Society
is open to all people who share our
love of all things British.

By joining the Society today you are
following in the footsteps of such great
Englishmen as Lord Baden-Powell,
siege of Mafeking and founder of the
world-wide Scout movement, Sir Winston
Churchill, whose leadership of his nation
in wartime continues to provide
inspiration to generations of Brits. and of
Rudyard Kipling, writer, poet,
and novelist.

We encourage members of the Royal
Society to participate in events that
Celebrate England's National Day, on St.
George's day the 23rd of April. It is also
the birth day and death day of William
Shakespeare. Festivities are organized by
our branches worldwide.

The Society also celebrates Trafalgar Day,
commemorating Admiral Lord Nelson's
great victory at sea on 21st October 1805,
The Battle Of Britain and other
momentous events in British History.





President's Message

So it is that a wondrous 2020 has dawned. It Began with a bang on January 31st, with Brexit finally happening after all the drama, grid lock and constitutional crises—it came and went off

without a hitch. This is only the beginning of a new era, one which could well end in tears and see Britain locked into some weird trade agreement with Europe in the future or relationship with America which some do not want to see—but Brexit the legislative soap opera is over—for the moment.

We're also seeing what has been dubbed "Megxit"! This is the decampment of the Sussexes to our own little corner of the world. I've already talked to the CBS Morning News about his., so it is likely that a few more stories will be told about British Columbia's newest Expatriate Brits—welcome Harry, Megan and little Archie!

We have recently had a most successful gathering of the clans, so to speak, the British Heritage Festival staged by our good friend, Steve McVittie, who so looked so totally in his element with his baseball cap and "Hit me Vest" directing traffic—an A1 job! Well done Steve and your organizing committee along with your volunteers. Tons of food trucks, some interesting exhibits and amazing entertainers—all were hallmarks of this fine event, which we hope will become an annual one in our Vancouver mosaic.

Many thanks to Jayne Boyer for her excellent display at our RSSG tent and the many volunteers she inspired to come out! The Welsh Society and the Royal Commonwealth Society were there too so our friends and colleagues were well represented. Our table featured some wonderful pictures a great Lucky draw and some amazing slices of Britain. It was very busy too! Wow! Lets' hope

we got some new members!

We had an amazing AGM in February at the Castle Restaurant, and I was re-elected your President. I and my team will do our best to ensure that we run a good series of events for you this year. We do need your help to make them happen—so please tip up to them!

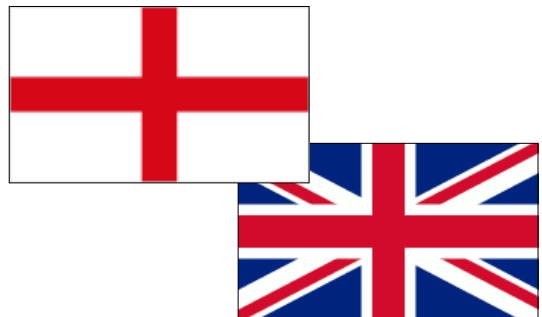
April is St. George's day, and we are already working on our St. George's Supercharged Weekend! We are working on a Luncheon for Friday, April 24, 2020. We are having a Church Parade on Sunday, April 26 2020 at All Saints Anglican Church in Burnaby as part of their 10:30 AM Service, with the Officers of the Honourable Guard carrying the flags into and out of the Church. There will be cake and a reception in the Church basement afterwards.

We have a special treat this year as The Order of St. George are having their first Investiture in British Columbia, at Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral in New Westminster on Saturday, April 25, 2020. This is open to the public. There will also be a Gala Dinner afterwards. Our own Captain Rev. Gordon Barrett, will be Knighted and Invested into the Order at this special ceremony.

We are also working on such annual fan favourites as Bard on the Beach and we hope to have a Garden Party or Afternoon Tea event this Summer. There has never been a better time to belong to The Royal Society of St. George or to cheer for England..

England for St. George.

Shawn M. Wade, CD, LL.M., President.



WOW What a weekend



“Cheeze Does It” sold over eight pounds of sausages in British Sausage Butty’s and over eleven pounds of Bacon in English Bacon Sarnie’s.



The Vancouver Cornwall Society in the Bannock Queen booth had sold out of Cornish Pasties and Scottish Eggs by 2:00 p.m. The Scottish Selkirk Bannock was a big seller.

The next Festival planned for the British Isles Historic Society will be in the fall.



WATCH FOR THE DATE:

Scottish History in B.C.

- Friday:** Gala Scottish concert.
Saturday: Mini Parade
Market, Scottish and British Isles foods and merchandise
Street Entertainment
Indigenous Entertainment
Sunday: Old English Car Rally
Beer Garden



The British Isles Historic Society

The British Isles Historic Society is incorporated under the B.C. Society Act.

The purposes of The British Isles Historic Society are to:

To do research and record Historic sites, locations, names and landmarks that were founded by the immigrants from the British Isles.

To dedicate the preserving, collecting, researching, and interpreting of historical information.

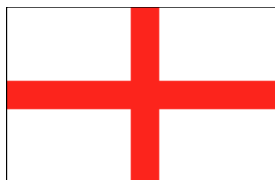
To disseminate information about the history of the community through exhibits, educational programs and publications based on the Society’s research.

To create ways to help future generations understand their heritage.

To hold festivals and events related to the British Isles.

To circulate newsletters and other materials on historic sites and landmarks.

To work with British and Celtic organizations as a public relations media.



**St.
George’s
Day,
Thursday April 23rd**





The Welsh Society of Vancouver

Thank you for your participation in The Heritage Festival

Saturday, February 29th St. David's Day Dinner

The celebration will be held at the Cambrian Hall and the doors will be open at 6 pm, the dinner will be served at 7 pm. This will be an evening of delightful food and entertainment. The dinner will be catered by Just Right Caterers the charge being \$45 pp, and the entertainment will be by harpist Leanne Page together with her son Connor. Tickets available from Gaynor Evans by phone (604 271-3134) or email fgevens@telus.net.

Sunday, March 1st St. David's Day Open House

This will be held at the Red Dragon and will include druids ceremony, entertainment, much singing and cawl cennin/leek soup. The doors will be open at 2:00 pm and the entertainment commence at 3:00 pm. It is expected that the event will carry on into the evening.

Saturday, March 7th Twmpath dance

The Welsh Society of Vancouver invites you to a
Ceilidh/Twmpath/Barn Dance



The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver
on
Saturday March 7th 2020 from 7:30pm - 10:30pm
with
The Rattlebone Band
All dances taught on the spot! Come along and have some fun!
Beer, wine, coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be for sale.
\$10 (15 years and older)
\$5 (6 - 12 years)
Free (5 years and under)
For advance ticket sales, please contact: Pat Morris
(phone: 494 236 2551 - email: druidsgreen@gmail.com)

CELTICFEST VANCOUVER

Sunday March 8th, Sharon Shannon will be back in the Rogue Folk Club again; entertaining the crowd with her accordion and fiddle technique. Beginning with Irish folk music, her work demonstrates a wide-ranging number of musical influences. <http://www.roguefolk.bc.ca/concerts/ev19122020>

Friday March 13th, the Hellenic Community Centre will host the CelticFest Ceilidh from 7.30pm. With traditional Irish performers and dances being taught throughout the night, there is something for everyone here. A Ceilidh is the essential Celtic tradition – so make sure not to miss out on this one! Tickets at this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celticfest-vancouver-ceilidh-2020-tickets-73040210235>

March 14th. The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir will perform at Christ Church Cathedral at 7.30pm, their voices will lift the roof with their mix of traditional Celtic Music & Modern songs. <https://celticfestchristchurch.bpt.me/>

Sunday March 15th, with a free daytime event for families and people of all ages. This year, the Family Day will take centre stage at Vancouver Art Gallery's front square, where there will be dancing, music, kid's crafts, food vendors and more.

March 22nd. The Altan Irish Trad band will perform at the Rogue Folk Club on March 22nd. The traditional Irish music in Ireland and on the World stage. Tickets at this link; <http://www.roguefolk.bc.ca/concerts/ev20032220>

March 27th & 28th The Celtic Tenors will perform alongside the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at the Orpheum Theatre from 8pm. The Celtic Tenors offer something truly unique — the skill, range and ability of world-class tenors, combined with the personality and fun of genuine performers. Tickets at this link; <http://www.vancouversymphony.ca/event/the-celtic-tenors/>

More Details: www.celticfestvancouver.com/celticfest-2020-full-line-up/

Hello Members and Friends of The Royal Society of St. George

Please join us for a fun afternoon of



Darts and Dinner
at BC's Oldest Pub.
The Six Mile Pub,
494 Island Highway

(at the corner of Six Mile Road)

On Saturday, March 14th

Darts start at 3:30, goes until winners
(running 2 boards)

Enjoy pints or ?? during the game

Dinner will commence at the end of the
game. We should be finished dinner
6:00 – 6 :30 pm.

**Please reply by March 12th if you
will attend.**

Looking forward to seeing you.
Cheers, Betty.

**Please mark these dates
on your calendar**

March 14, Darts and Dinner at Six Mile Pub,
494 Island Hwy, darts start at 3:30pm, dinner
after the game.

April 19, Lunch at Gorge Vale Golf Club,
Tillicum and Gorge Rd, 12:30pm.

May 30, Tour, tasting and lunch at Seacider,
2487 Mt. St. Michael Rd., 11:15 am.

June 14, Sunday Roast Beef and Yorkshire
dinner, at Apple Tree restaurant, 1501
Admirals Rd, 2:00 pm.

If you wish to attend any of these events
contact Betty, but only if you do not generally
get the monthly notices, in which case please
reply to the notices if you wish to attend.

Betty Hubbard
Director, South Vancouver Island
The Royal Society of St. George

Email: Betty.Hubbard@outlook.com
Home: 250-388-5920

Letters to the Editor

I think that Steve you are at your best
wearing the organizer's pin and that Hit me Vest
looking like the real impresario of the event (I've
run a few shows in my time so I can spot talent!).

I'm sorry I only had time to smile at you
when I was on a morning Recce for Coffee and
Jamaican Patties--both of which I got from the
food trucks(by-cycles)! Thank you very much. It
was an A1 Job! You also managed to get the
RSSG and the RCS supremo spots! Yay!

The peoples' choice Platinum award goes
to the Welsh Society tent but the RSSG if you
will forgive me gets a triple Gold star. Jayne you
should take up interior decorating!

I hope that this becomes an annual event.
April might have been better but we got our
Queen to come and we got Queen's Weather! If
February is our time slot moving forward we
need to do some incantations to give us good
weather that weekend. I was moving between our
two tables and had to leave early to go home to
see my dog and get my uniform and skates for
my return at 6:00 to Robson Square to work on
the ice.

There were no signs of you guys when I
got back at 6:00 so you did a great clean up and
bug out job! A1 all around! Many thanks. I met
some neat people and had at least 10 people from
the RCS, 5 from the Officers of the Honourable
Guard and a posse of St. Georgians (some of
whom belong to all three groups!). I am looking
forward to this event again next year!

Cheerio,
Shawn



St.
George's
Day
Luncheon
Friday, April
24, 2020.

Watch for details to follow

More Letters to the Editor

Thanks to Lady Jayne, we had the best booth ever with it's fine decorations, birthday card for the Queen, welcome card for M&H (not everyone willing to sign that one), sheets for membership and notifications, two attractive baskets for the raffle, and a fine book display by Ed from Chilliwack.

Shawn was at the RCS booth next door so we were able to cooperate easily as needed. Jayne managed to attract Ed, an author, who served as a key participant for the entire day, and Beth, our own Queen Elizabeth, who strutted about and received many requests for photos.

We certainly received plenty of attention and held many interesting conversations during the morning. Jayne, Richard, Ed, and I were the main crew for the forenoon, Jayne returned with Lynn after their lunch break and carried on.

We'll have to find out how the afternoon progressed.

Again a bow to our Lady Jayne! And a special thanks to our volunteers. Dan.

Steve, you should be most proud of the British Heritage Festival that you managed to organize. It was a fine event that benefited our RSSG as Jayne's detailed and very positive report shows.

I had fun and especially enjoyed the food and the performers that I heard—the female Celtic singer around noon was just marvelous with her Skye Boat Song. As you said, the rain behaved and we attracted good crowds. Your courage paid off! Take a bow, Dan.



St. George's Church Parade

on

Sunday, April 26 2020

at All Saints Anglican Church in Burnaby as part of their 10:30 AM Service, with the Officers of the Honourable Guard carrying the flags into and out of the Church. There will be cake and a reception in the Church basement afterwards.



RSCDS Vancouver
presents

An Afternoon Concert

Accordion and Piano Music

by



Colin Dewar



Alasdair Macleod

Come and enjoy a variety of numbers by these two talented musicians from Scotland. Colin, over many years of experience has produced fifteen CD's of Scottish country dance music. Alasdair leads his own Ceilidh band and plays both accordion and keyboard.

This duo will really set your toes tapping!

Sunday March 22, 2020
2pm

\$20

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
1440 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver
Tickets: <https://rscdsvancouver.org>



The Heather Ball

Saturday, March 21st.

Scottish Cultural Centre
8886 Hudson Street,
Vancouver

\$80 RSCDS members
\$90 non RSCDS members
Reception 5:45 pm – Dinner 6:15 pm –
Grand March & Dance 7:45 pm
Superb music provided by
Colin Dewar and Alasdair Macleod
Enjoy a champagne reception, full hot
supper & soiree after the dance

Our Scottish Heritage in British Columbia

History & Heritage of Maple Ridge

Maple Ridge has a deep rooted historical past that dates back to the mid-1850s when the first settlers arrived. The earliest settlers in Maple Ridge were Hawaiians called Kanakas that were employed by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC).

Samuel Robertson was the first settler in Maple Ridge and came to Maple Ridge from **Scotland**, he was also an employee of the HBC.

John McIver, the first land owner in Maple Ridge, also came to Maple Ridge from **Scotland** when he was 19 years old on a supply ship bound for Fort Churchill on Hudson's Bay. John McIver, along with his teen aged companion, Kenneth Morrison, started a long dangerous journey from Fort Churchill to Fort Langley by snowshoe and canoe. First Nations people along the route saved the party from starvation and freezing.

Maple Ridge has many neighbourhoods that have unique historical roots. Explore the many neighbourhoods of Maple Ridge for a look at the past, present and future.

<https://www.mapleridge.ca/1651/History-Heritage>



Sam Robertson

Sam was born in the Orkney Islands of Scotland in 1823. Before he left there, he became a tradesman skilled in boat building, carpentry, and cabinet-making. He signed

on with the Hudson's Bay Company, whose ships stopped at the Orkneys for fresh water, shipping round the Horn with a huge sandstone grindstone brought from home, and arrived at Fort Langley in 1843. He worked there for several years, working off his passage, and became attracted to the beautiful land he could see across the river.

While still working at the Fort, he would row across the river and plant young fruit trees wherever he could find natural clearings. As a result, by the time he took up his homestead in 1858, he already had bearing trees – the first in BC not owned by the Hudson's Bay Company. Samuel was the first European to settle and farm in Maple Ridge. Remnants of those early orchards can still be found near the mouth of Kanaka Creek.

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>



John A. McIver

John A. McIver was born on January 1st, 1832, on the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides, Scotland. When he was 19 years old, he left Scotland on a sailing ship to Canada. He got as far as Churchill, Manitoba by boat and then with his friend, Keith Morrison and several other men from the same part of Scotland, he WALKED all the way to Fort Langley.

After walking all this way, John obtained work as a cooper for the Hudson's Bay Company Fort. He worked there until the Company disbanded their crew in 1858.

While many of the company's men took up land around Fort Langley, John McIver and Samuel Robertson decided to go to the North side of the Fraser River to settle. John chose property in what is now the Hammond area. It was bounded by the Fraser River to what is now Camwood Street, and from 207th to 210th Street.

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>

The English Language

An English teacher wrote these words on the whiteboard: "woman without her man is nothing". The teacher then asked the students to punctuate the words correctly.

The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing."

The women wrote: "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

Vancouver B.C. Streets

BARCLAY: Henry Vere Barclay (1845-1917) was an English explorer, naval officer, and surveyor. Barclay was born in Lancashire, England on 6 January 1845. He joined the Royal Marines as a lieutenant and served for many years as a naval surveyor.

BIDWELL: Robin ("Ron") Leonard Bidwell (1927 in St Giles, London – 1994 in Bury St Edmunds) was an English orientalist and author.

DENMAN: Rear Admiral Joseph Denman, was a British naval officer. Joseph entered the Royal Navy on 7 April 1823, and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1831 and commander in 1835.

South Vancouver Island R.S.S.G.

These are the photos taken at our Christmas Lunch at the Gorge Vale Golf Course in Victoria on Friday, December 13th. There were 24 attendees and everyone seemed to have a good time. We had a delicious turkey dinner finished off with mince tarts made at the club. Dan Brown gave us a chat and a toast to the Queen. David Spence of the Royal Commonwealth Society narrated the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" – done wearing an elfish hat – to an in a darkened room which added to the ambience. We then had Margaret Spark playing Christmas Carols in which we all joined in to sing. After this we had Christmas gifts and door prizes which ended our day. It was a very nice fun afternoon for all of the attendees. From all of us here on South Vancouver Island, we hope you all had a very Happy Christmas and we wish you all the best for 2020.

Cheers, Betty.

Betty Hubbard

Director, South Vancouver Island
The Royal Society of St. George

Christmas Lunch Friday, December 13th.



Capt. Vancouver's Ship Discovery

Mount Baker – after Discovery's 3rd Lieutenant Joseph Baker, the first on the expedition to spot it
Mount St. Helens – after his friend, Alleyne Fitzherbert, 1st Baron St Helens
Puget Sound – after Discovery's 2nd lieutenant Peter Puget, who explored its southern reaches.