

January 2010

1



The Royal Society of St George

Dragon Fire

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE, BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH
"Representing the English Community in British Columbia, Canada"

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Citation for Citizenship Award

Featured in this Issue:

AGM Lunch on Sunday, January 31
See Page 5

Notice: The Society has a new postal address. Steve McVittie, a director and proprietor of the Celtic Treasure Chest, has volunteered to accept mail for the Society. The change will be more convenient for pickup and less costly for the RSSG. Many thanks to Steve-- and Lil, too! The old P.O. Box will be monitored for the next while.

Who's Who

Dan Brown - President
Roger Dawson - Vice President
Allan MacKenzie - Treasurer
Peter Howard (Secretary/Membership)
Douglas Brown (Director of Development)

Directors-at-large:

Steve McVittie
Bob Davies
Dorothy Evers
Len Compton

Editor- Norman Stanfield

Christmas Dinner with the Welsh



Courtesy Alan Jones, our Official Photographer

Our RSSG was ably represented at the Welsh Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 19 at the Cambrian Hall in Vancouver. We did justice to a fine buffet, listened to recitations, and sang our Christmas carols with gusto accompanied by many strong Welsh voices (the Welsh Society started the Welsh Men's Choir in 1990). The musical strength of the group was nicely matched by the strength of the lead singer who had the microphone. We also had the pleasure of meeting the lady who joined the VWS in 1907 (hard to believe but there is no mistake about the

year). John Morris, President, welcomed us warmly and we were acknowledged throughout the evening. Thanks especially to Bob Davies for his phone calls, Peter Howard for his flyer, and Steve McVittie for setting up the arrangement.

You may expect announcements of Welsh events in future issues of the Dragon Fire.

Royal Commonwealth Society's Dickens Buffet, Tuesday, December 8

A group of eight St. Georgians turned out for the Christmas Dickens Buffet sponsored by the Royal Commonwealth Society and held at the Vancouver Lawn, Tennis & Badminton Club. A fine spread with Yorkshire Pudding (the authenticity of which is always questioned), lamb pie, steak & kidney pie, along with dark Christmas pudding with both hard and runny sauces. Members who attended skipped their dinners that day as well as breakfast and lunch the next day. Plenty of prizes in the raffle!

Highlights of Royal Society of St. George Executive Meeting of December 3, 2009

Plans are underway to hold our St. George's Day Dinner on a Sunday in late April. Our RSSG will not participate in the EuroFest this year but members are encouraged to attend on Saturday, May 29.

Next Executive meeting on Monday, March 1 assuming that Vancouver streets are passable.

Highlights of the Independent Immigration Aid Association's Annual General Meeting on December 14, 2009

Alan Hackett, Treasurer, reported a healthy bank balance of \$3,000 thanks to recent charitable donations. The 2009 slate of officers was reelected for 2010.

Dan Brown will send copies of "Reasonable Expectations for Immigrants to English Canada" to elected officials and members of the media. He will be the spokesperson for the IIAA/RSSG.

Who's Who for the IIAA, our registered charity:

Dan Brown
Roger Dawson
Alan Hackett
Peter Howard
Bob Davies
Kris Parent

Our website, stgeorgebc.ca, is again up and running.

Our Executive Group

We get together once every six-to-eight weeks to catch up, plan events, enjoy some tasty treats, and generally take care of the Society. Our gatherings are usually held in homes which are invariably inviting and comfortable. The Elephant and Castle was a pretty good venue, too. If you are willing to consider service of this kind in which you actively support English customs and traditions in Canada, please give Dan Brown or Dorothy Evers a call to learn more.

Membership Renewal Incentive

If your \$25 or one year trial membership expired on December 31st the executive offers you the following incentive:

Memberships for 2010 received at RSSG, 5639 Dunbar Street, Vancouver BC V6N 1W5 [Note the new address] by January 23, 2010, \$20 per person. Otherwise, \$25 per person as usual.

Cheques payable to Royal Society of St George, please.

NOTE: For those that have already paid their membership at \$25 for 2010 \$5 will be refunded upon application to Peter Howard, Membership.

Somber News from England

Norman Stanfield

This note was sent by Peter Millington in December to several hundred morris dance enthusiasts around the world.

“As far as I can tell, there has been no formal announcement, nor do I expect there to be one, but the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition (NATCECT) no longer exists. I first heard the news through the grapevine, and it was confirmed to me during a visit to the University of Sheffield before Christmas. This is the unfortunate conclusion to the slow erosion of its position over the past few years. The coup de grace was the recent review and rationalisation at the University of Sheffield in anticipation of expected funding cuts.

This means that England now has no academic department or institute dedicated to English folklore studies, although Sheffield still offers a popular option on folklore for its undergraduate English courses, and the Folk and Traditional Music course at University of Newcastle offers partial coverage of the field.

It is ironic that this development follows so closely on the recent Katherine Briggs Lecture to the Folklore Society by Prof. John Widdowson entitled "Folklore Studies in English Higher Education: Lost Cause or New Opportunity?"