

THE BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY

WEST COUNTRY BRANCH

BRISTOL - CORNWALL - DEVON - DORSET - GLOUCESTERSHIRE - SOMERSET - WILTSHIRE

24/02/2015

To West Country Branch Members of the Britain-Australia Society

BRANCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015

Note from the Chairman - Keith Newton



Dear Branch members and friends,

I would like to wish all our members and friends a belated happy and prosperous new year for 2015. The year promises to be very busy and important for the Britain-Australia Society and our two great countries' relations. The Branch certainly started the year well with the Australia Day service and lunch in Sherborne being a great success. It was an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends, enjoy the splendours of Sherborne Abbey, and enjoy the hospitality of Canon Woods of the Abbey.

Notwithstanding the Cricket and Rugby World Cups being held in 2015, the main event for the year is, of course, the centenary anniversary of the first ANZAC landings at Gallipoli. This will be commemorated at

place for a large number of WWI Australian servicemen and women.

Please make your bookings early to the ANZAC Luncheon as we are expecting a large turnout, given the importance of the event, and our invited guests and speakers which at this stage include Julian Fellowes and Professor Carl Bridge, an academic expert on Australians in WW1. We will also hold our AGM before the Lunch at the Infantry Officer's Mess in Warminster.

Also this year the Branch will again support the Annual Cricket match at Sutton Veny between the Sutton Veny Village team and the Australian Consulate team; the Admiral Phillip Birthday Lunch in October; and a summer event which we hope to be at the SS Great Britain co-hosted with the National Society Body. Details of all these are contained in this newsletter and are on our web site, which I encourage you to visit, along with the national web site which contains all the national events as well as the events and functions of the other branches of the Society.

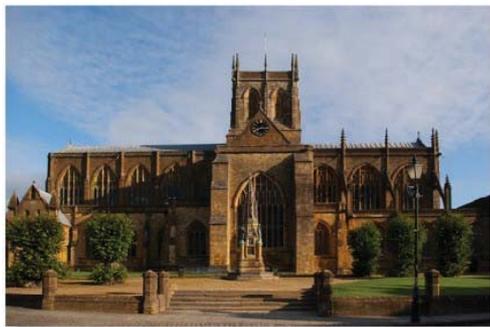
After nearly a decade as the rector at St Nicholas Church at Bathampton, the resting place of Admiral Arthur Phillip and the focus of many of our branch activities over the past few years, the Revd. Paul Burden has moved on. A new rector has been appointed, the Revd. Jonty Frith, and I will represent the Branch at his Institution at St Nicholas on May 6. Hopefully we can build the same relationship between him and the Branch as we had with Revd. Burden, who was an excellent friend of the Branch, with a keen interest in Admiral Phillip.

ANZAC cove in Gallipoli, at the Cenotaph and Westminster Abbey in London, and in every city, suburb and town in Australia. The Britain-Australia Society is taking a leading role in these commemorations and our West Country Branch will again be holding our luncheon, followed by the church service, at Sutton Veny in Wiltshire – the final resting

We will be holding a committee meeting before the ANZAC day AGM, so if you have any suggestions or comments please send them directly to me, or any of the committee members. I look forward to seeing you at Sutton Veny.

Keith Newton
Branch Chairman

Australia Day Service and Luncheon 25 January 2015



Sherborne Abbey

Sunday, 25 January saw 27 B-AS members and guests make their way to Sherborne Abbey to celebrate Australia Day in a service led by Canon Eric Woods. The Canon did an excellent job of welcoming and including the party in the celebration and also, very generously, hosting the Society at the Vicarage for pre-lunch drinks. This was followed by a very successful lunch at the Eastbury Hotel where Professor Christina Slade, Vice-Chancellor, Bath Spa University gave a very stimulating address and guests enjoyed a two-course lunch with Australian wines.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Ray Lawler's Summer of The Seventeenth Doll 25-28 February 2015 Rondo Theatre, Larkhall, Bath

An iconic play in Australia, set in 1953 in Melbourne, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* is rarely performed in the UK. First performed in Australia and the London West End in the late 1950s, Core Theatre Company are thrilled to be presenting this beautiful drama to Bath theatre-goers at the Rondo. For further information please see the link below:

<http://www.rondotheatre.co.uk/production/1150/>

For booking details:

https://uk.patronbase.com/_RondoTheatre/Productions

ANZAC DAY 2015 April 26, 2015

2015 is the centennial year commemorating the Anzac landings at Gallipoli. In this 100th anniversary year, the Branch is joining with the Commonwealth societies of Bath and Bristol to host the Anzac Day luncheon and service at St John's Church, Sutton Veny. We hope to be joined by The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford DL and Professor Carl Bridge, Professor of Australian Studies at King's College, London as well as representatives of the Australian High Commission Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Before the service West Country Branch members will once again enjoy lunch, this year at The Infantry Officers' Mess at Warminster.

Many ceremonies, parades and other activities are held on ANZAC Day to remember the lives of those who participated or died in military action, particularly on the Gallipoli Peninsula in World War I. Dawn prayer or church services are a particularly important aspect of ANZAC Day. These represent the comradeship that the soldiers experienced as they rose each morning to prepare for another day of military action. In major cities and many smaller towns, parades, marches and reunions of current and past military personnel and memorial services are held. We look forward to seeing many of our members and their guests once again attend the ANZAC Day service of Remembrance at Sutton Veny in this very special anniversary year.

The cost for members is £32 and non-members £35. This includes a short reception, buffet lunch and wine with lunch followed by coffee served in the anti-room.

Further details, directions and booking forms can be found on the Branch web site or by clicking the link here [Anzac Day 2015 Booking Form](#)

Tickets £10; Concessions £8



CRICKET THIS SUMMER
Australia House Cricket Club
vs Sutton Veny & Heytesbury Cricket Club
14 June 2015

Sunday 14th June next to the Sutton Veny Village Hall BA12 7AP

Full details will follow shortly but it will include the cricket match on the beautiful Sutton Veny Village Green, a BBQ and picnic, raffles and awards. There will be no charge for this event.

Summer Event – July (date to be confirmed)

The West Country Branch will be jointly supporting a national event hosted on the SS Great Britain in Bristol. Further details to follow.



SS Great Britain

Admiral Arthur Phillip Birthday Celebrations
12 October 2015

Celebrations will take place this year on Monday, 12 October commencing with a service at St Nicholas, Bathampton followed by lunch at Bailbrook House. Further details to follow



Francis Wheatley's portrait of Admiral Phillip currently on show at the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath

SERVICES

The Britain-Australia Society Wine Club



<http://www.tesco.com/wine/zone/default.aspx?name=britain-australia-society>

Welcome to the Britain-Australian Society Wine Club in partnership with Tesco Wine by the case. The Society hopes that this Club will be fun, social and a great opportunity to get some of the best deals in the country on the best Australian wines. Fine wines, special wines and budget wines for entertaining. Several with 50% off and a few with an additional 25% - great value for wines out of Australian vineyards. Wines from the rest of the world are also included in this offer.

- 5% additional discount on all Australian Wine purchases* (not applicable to additional 25% discounts)
- Free Delivery - Always!
- Dedicated Account Management from a Wine Advisor
- Personalised Email Offers and Weekly Wine Recommendations
- Complimentary Events and Tickets

Finally, a reminder that subscriptions for 2015/16 are due on 1 April. Your continued support is important to us and we hope you will wish to continue be part of these exciting events.

Lucy Townsend
Branch Administrator
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