

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR CHARITY
WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018**



CLERK'S COMMENTS

As I write this piece I have been with St George the Martyr Charity for exactly six months; and what a great six months it has been! Since the last newsletter I've been on two Charity holidays, to Sinah Warren on Hayling Island and Alvaston Hall in Cheshire. I paid for my partner, Patricia to join us on the first of these and she had a wonderful time; she was made really welcome by everyone and said she could see why I love the job.

On the second holiday we were joined by Philippa's niece Nicole; and how lucky we were to have her there. That holiday was rather more 'eventful' than the first, including a couple of trips to the local hospital, so it was great to have someone on hand who is an experienced first aider and has a wonderful, caring manner.

During the summer we booked next year's holidays and I know many of you will be pleased to hear that one of those will be to Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. The Charity hasn't been there for several years, because of difficulties in taking a disabled-accessible coach onto the ferry. However, those difficulties have (hopefully!) been resolved, so we are going again in September 2019. Unfortunately, though, we only have places for 50 people; I know it's going to be very popular so inevitably some people will be disappointed. However, I'm hopeful that we can get more places for the year after. The bigger holiday will be in July 2019, to the beautiful Holme Lacy House Hotel in Herefordshire.

I also experienced my first Charity theatre trip in the past few weeks: The Lion King. It was a great performance, but what really made it for me was seeing how much everyone was enjoying it. We had lots of great feedback afterwards and I hope we're able to keep up the high standard going forward.

Speaking of which, we're intending to plan all the theatre trips and outings for the whole of 2019 over the next few months ... and we'd like your help. On the booking form enclosed with this newsletter you'll see a box for "your ideas". We'd like you to tell us what kinds of things you think we should do. It could be repeating previous outings that were particularly enjoyed or

something completely new. After all, the recent trip to Kensington Palace was suggested by one of our members.

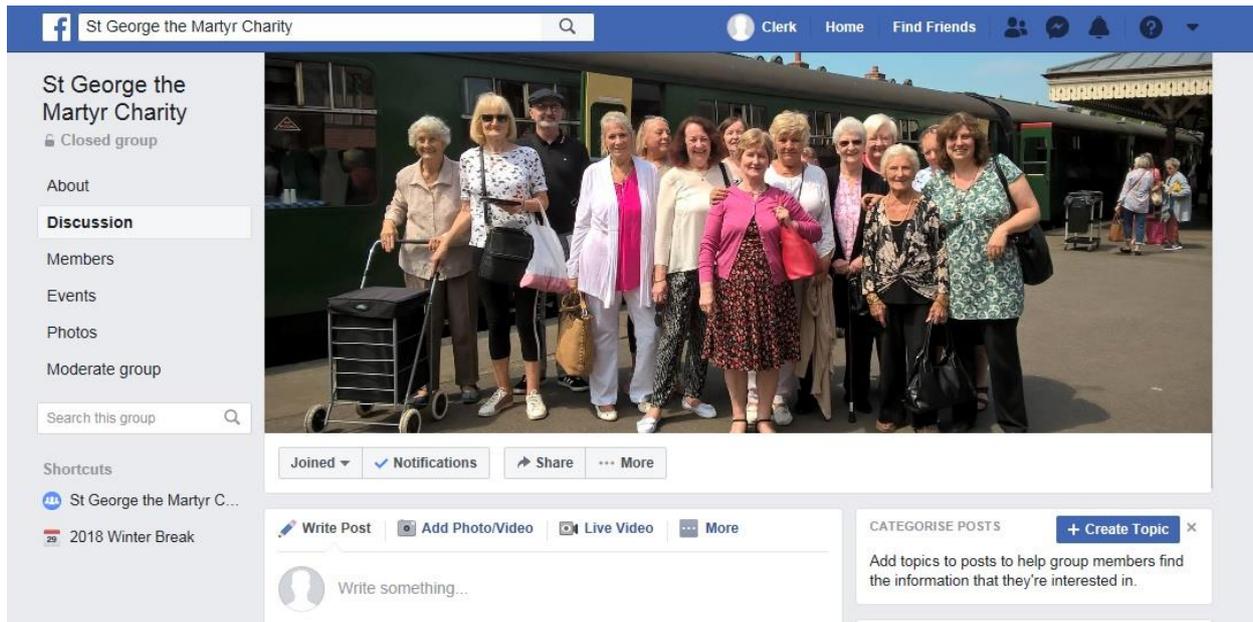
Over the past few months I've been speaking with other charities who provide services or social opportunities for older people in our area. The Trustees recently agreed to provide funding to a couple of organisations and you'll find details of two of those later in this newsletter. We're planning to do more of this next year and if you know of any local charities that you think we could help, please let me know.

Andy Murphy



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Christmas will soon be upon us and we are currently in the process of arranging this year's hampers. They should be arriving during the week of 3rd December and you'll be receiving a separate letter about that in November. This year we are giving people a few more options, to take account of dietary needs. On the booking form you'll see there is a place for you to indicate if you'd like something other than the usual hamper, for example gluten-free or vegetarian.



We have set up our own **Facebook** page! If you know how to use Facebook just do a search for us under 'groups'.

The Facebook page is a place where our members can share stories, photographs and memories. You will also find out information about the trips and holidays, as well as other services and opportunities available to older people in our area. I look forward to seeing some of you there soon!



VISITORS VIEW

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and coped with the heat wave. It was certainly a challenge at times especially whilst on the holiday at Hayling Island but hopefully with all my constant nagging you were kept hydrated! We also had an enjoyable holiday to Alvaston Hall and thank you all for your patience when the coach broke down on the return trip. I'm glad to say that we all got home safely in the end and all bags were successfully reunited with their owners. Other trips included a visit to Brighton and the Brighton Pavilion, recently renovated.



The next holiday to Thoresby Hall will be shortly upon us and those who have been successful in being allocated a place on the holiday will already have been notified. Can I just remind you; please can you make sure you take ALL your medication with you, including any emergency prescriptions.

In the last couple of weeks we were fortunate to see 'The Lion King' and we have had very positive feedback regarding this trip. This production was suggested by a member, so thank you Hazel for making such a good choice as I think it was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who saw it.

With regards to the future theatre trips, unfortunately, as a number of you already know we are unable to make a group booking for 'Tina Turner the Musical' for a matinée performance. However, it may be possible for us to purchase tickets for an evening show should there be enough interest. Therefore, please could you indicate on the return form whether you would like to attend an evening performance if it was available.

Also, due to popular demand, we have purchased another 80 tickets for 'A Christmas Carol' at The Old Vic. These will be allocated firstly to those who did not see it last year and then to those who would like to see it for a second time. This year Stephen Tompkinson stars aka DCI Banks!

Our annual outing to Bricklane Music Hall takes place next year on 12th February and the production is 'Mother Goosed'. I am looking forward to it having missed it last year due to the snow but hopefully we will be snow free this year.

Please find enclosed a leaflet on a new service set up by Age UK aimed at people 50+ in Southwark, Lewisham, and Lambeth. It is a shopping delivery service covering our membership area. I am sure that many of our members could benefit from the service especially those that are housebound. Also 'South London Cares' have provided a feature in our newsletter and a leaflet about their organisation which may interest many of you.

Please note that the Happy Bus Pass outings are now listed on a leaflet enclosed with the Newsletter.

And finally, although I mention it every newsletter, we had a record number of forms returned to us requesting your choice of outings without names on them. Please double check that you have written your name on top of the form, as otherwise we have no way of knowing who sent it in and ultimately you will miss out on outings and holidays.

Philippa van Os



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I hope that you all enjoyed the long hot summer that we had this year. This brought back memories to me of the long hot summer of 1976. I hope that those who were able to go on one of the holidays or the day trips had an enjoyable time.

We are also having very pleasant Autumn weather, but we are now moving towards winter so do be careful if you are out and about following wet weather with wet leaves on the pavements, which can lead to falls. It is also the time to get your Flu Jabs, so do go to your GP to have that done. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War and this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations will be very special. The main Southwark act of Remembrance will take place at the Borough War Memorial on Sunday 11th November starting at 10.45 am. The poppy sculpture that first appeared at the Tower of London in 2014, called the 'Weeping Window', which has been on a tour of the Britain during the last four years has returned to London to the front of the Imperial War Museum on Lambeth Road, where it will be on display until Sunday 18th November.

Ken Hayes



SOUTH LONDON CARES

South London Cares is a charity that brings older and younger Londoners together to share time, laughter and new experiences in our rapidly changing city. They run Social Clubs like dance parties, technology workshops, visits to local businesses, and pub quizzes at which people over 65 can come together with people in their 20s and 30s to enjoy the capital together. And they match neighbours for a little extra friendship one-to-one across Southwark and neighbouring Lambeth.

This year, with the Help of St George the Martyr Charity, South London Cares are running their fifth Winter Wellbeing project. Through this work they can support people over 65 who may be struggling with the cold by delivering blankets and other warm items, supporting people whose circumstances are particularly difficult with winter grants, and connecting people up with organisations and opportunities close by. St George the Martyr Charity is also contributing towards the cost of their Social Clubs.

If you'd like to learn more about South London Cares' projects, including the Social Clubs in your area and Winter Wellbeing, please call **0207 118 0404** or visit www.southlondoncares.org.uk.

INSPIRE



InSpire's termly IT courses has helped hundreds of local residents get to grips with the continual challenges that new technology brings. Thanks to funding from St George the Martyr InSpire is excited to be able to continue to offer our adult computer classes. **We are recruiting now for next term**, please

get in touch by phone/in person if you would like to join one of our groups:

Beginners I.T. programme: Aimed at those with no previous experience of using computers, this course will help build your confidence by teaching you the fundamentals of using computer technology, such as mouse, keyboard and getting started with email and internet.

Intermediates I.T. programme: This programme is aimed at those with some knowledge and experience of using computers and for many provides the perfect progression route after completion of our beginners programme. It's pitched at a 'lower intermediate' level and will focus on introducing programmes like MS Word and Excel, what to look for when buying a computer, shopping on the internet and applied uses of email such as using attachments. So it's perfect for building on some basic knowledge you may already have and will open up a whole host of opportunities.

Drop in I.T. sessions: Looking for a space to work, search for jobs or just browse the internet, InSpire offers free access to its I.T. suite throughout the week to all Southwark residents (excludes Fridays and occasionally other days subject to events).

Fridays:

Beginners (10.30am -12 midday)

Intermediate (1.30pm -3pm)

Location:

InSpire, The Crypt at St Peter's Church, Liverpool Grove,
London, SE17 2HH

For more information call 020 7740 6868

Dates for Diaries

Saturday 3rd November

Regent Street Motor show. See vehicles new and old in the iconic central London shopping street. Free

Monday 5th November

Southwark Fireworks Night, Southwark Park SE16. Gates open 5pm. Last entry 6.30pm. Free to all Southwark residents. Book a ticket online or by calling: 020 8050 1363. Help is available to purchase tickets on line at Southwark Library.

Saturday 10th November.

Lord Mayors' Show. Spectacular procession between Bank and Aldwych. 3 mile long procession formed of 140 floats, 7,000 performers, the Lord Mayor's Coach and two giant wicker figures. Free

Sunday 11th November

Remembrance Sunday commemorations Borough war Memorial
10.45am

Service and Parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Free

Tuesday 1st January

New Year's Day Parade. Route runs from Green park Tube Station at 12pm to Parliament Square at around 3.30pm via Piccadilly Circus, Lower regent Street, Pall Mall, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall. Includes 8,000 performers with dancers, acrobats, cheerleaders, marching bands and historic vehicles representing the London boroughs and countries across the globe.

Our office hours are: Monday to Wednesday 9am -5.30pm
Over the Christmas period the office will be closed from **20th December and we will be back in on Monday 7th January 2019**

Check out our website at www.stgeorgethemartyrcharity.com



St. George the Martyr Charity
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