



THE RAG

ARMY & NAVY CLUB



In Celebration of the Club's Patron, **HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Update from the Chair • Update from the CEO • What's On: Upcoming Events • The Wren Project:
Interview with Rev'd Lucy Winkett • Platinum Jubilee Celebrations • Business Suite News

Army and Navy Club Updates

Update from the Chair



Six months in post as Chair and the time has absolutely flown by. Initially the Board was busy dealing with Covid restraints and ramifications, now the Board is busy dealing with a nice 'problem' supporting the management team in running an increasingly busy club. The absorption of the Naval Club has been a great success - a marriage not of competitors but of friends and the benefits to all have become increasingly clear as time has gone by. New members are applying to join at an unprecedented rate and the applicants age range reflects the fact the Rag is becoming increasingly attractive to the young. We comfortably weathered the ravages of Covid and have a financially sound Club, an experienced and committed CEO, an accomplished Chef, a sound management team and loyal staff. The Christmas bonus you gave the staff matched any local London Club. They thank you all!

Looking forward, we will reinforce what works for you all and discard that which does not. The message that we need to weave our military heritage into the fabric of what we do has been received and is well understood. Please share your suggestions with the CEO - this may help us improve in this regard.

The Board was heartened by the quality and quantity of those members who so generously offered to help the Board with their legal skills when required recently. Laurence Denton, Company Secretary, stated that not in recent history have so many highly experienced members put their names forward to stand and serve the Board until the AGM on 6 July 2022: this bodes well. There will be ample opportunity for all to help our Club. At the AGM we will need to find from the Directors; a Chair of the Membership Committee, a Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, and a Director with legal expertise. Previous commercial Board experience

and business knowledge would also be of value.

Full Military Members or Full Members who wish to stand should forward a brief CV of relevant experience, a recent photo and a short description of their skills and attributes to Laurence Denton by 1st May 2022 (laurence@therag.co.uk). A proposer and seconder must support your nomination in accordance with Article 10.5. Please note, all details will be promulgated in the Members' area of the Club website. The election will take place at the AGM with the right to vote by proxy in advance.

A big thank you to our members who continue to make such tremendous use of all areas of The Rag. Your support has been magnificent and will no doubt increase as the year progresses.

Onwards and upwards!

Frank Froud, Chair

Update from the CEO



It is hard to believe that this publication reaches you with the first quarter of the year already gone. Time seems to pass so quickly; it feels like only a few weeks ago we were saying a fond farewell to Joseph at the Christmas Lunch and just last week that the Pall Mall Room reverberated to the pipes and Auld Lang Syne for Burns Supper. The fact they were months ago suggests there is much going on at the Rag to make time fly.

The team have worked hard to make the Member Events programme even more extensive this year; there is I hope something for everyone and those events that are hybrid allow members for whom travel to London is a challenge, to stay connected. We have of course

Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee to celebrate in early June, more details on which can be found on page 5. We hope those members that plan to be in London at some point over the long Bank Holiday weekend will join us in recognizing our Patron's immense contribution to the country over the last 70 years. As life opens back up fully, we plan to extend our reach beyond the four walls of 36 Pall Mall and engage more with what the neighbourhood of St James's has to offer, for the benefit of the members. On page 4 you will find an interview with Reverend Lucy Winkett from James's Church and their ambitious plans to raise money for the major refurbishment of the Church and grounds, something that will provide member opportunities for tours, talks and dinners in the coming months.

The team have also been working with retailers in the area to establish a series of member discounts and benefits to make the most of.

We plan to do more in the beautiful Square Gardens too. I have recently become Vice-Chairman of the Garden Trustees and am working with my colleagues around the Square to improve facilities and provide an interesting program of art and events. After a couple of years of not being able to hold the Tri-Club Summer Party, we want to do it this year and do it well. It will be great to celebrate summer in the company of many once again, please do come and join us for this and all the other events on offer.

Robin Bidgood, CEO

What's On

Join us for an array of exciting events and happenings this season at the Rag!



St James's Walking Tour with Blue Badge Guide

5th April - 15th October



**Keeping It Classical
A Piano & Cello Duo**

22nd April



Family Day in the Square

23rd April



Tastings on the Terrace

28th April | 19th May



Picnics in the Square

9th May - 9th September



Choral Cocktail Evening

13th May



Beasley Shoot at West London Shooting School | U35s

14th May



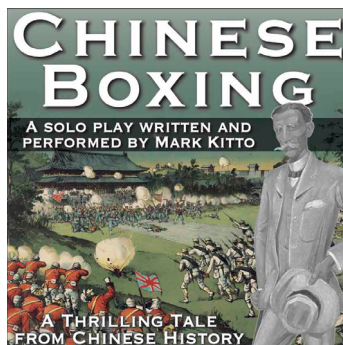
Literary Evening with Captain Dorman-O'Gowan

24th May



Tri-Club Summer Drinks Reception in the Square

23rd June



**Chinese Boxing:
A Solo Play by Mark Kitto**

23rd September

Refer a Friend

We know that many of our members support us by actively spreading the word about the Club and this has never been more important. To thank you, we are offering £50 Rag Card credit in 2023 when you successfully refer a friend to join as a full member this year (T&Cs apply).

For more information on our Refer a Friend initiative, please contact the Membership Office:
T: +44 (0)20 7930 9721, E: membership@therag.co.uk.

Introducing 'A Bit of TLC'

Rag members Maria and Julian Sturdy-Morton met through a shared love of the arts. In 2010, the dynamic duo founded *A Bit of TLC*, an online members club for those passionate about theatre, opera, music and film. Since then, the Sturdy-Mortons have organised numerous outings - from West End shows and historic house visits, to exclusive concerts and performances - for their members to enjoy in the company of like-minded others, and at special rates.

We are delighted to announce a new affiliation with *A Bit of TLC*. We will be working closely with Maria and Julian to add more colour to our Member Events Programme. Upcoming highlights include HMS Pinafore at Opera Holland Park and Superbloom, a stunning display of flower blooms at the Tower of London in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee.

For more information on the Member Events Programme, please contact the Events Team:
T: +44 (0)20 7930 9721, E: events@therag.co.uk or visit www.therag.co.uk

The Wren Project

Q&A with The Reverend Lucy Winkett

 **St James's Church
Piccadilly**



Many members will have heard of The Wren Project, a scheme to restore and rejuvenate the historic Sir Christopher Wren church of St James's. The Rag met with The Reverend Lucy Winkett to discuss the project and how it is hoped that £16 million will be raised to make it happen.

TR: Which part of the project are you most excited about?

LW: The first is to see the historic parts of this Christopher Wren church renovated. In particular, a newly commissioned organ which is going to be placed in the original case. Secondly, to see the church connected with the garden and the surrounding area. On the south side, there will be a new door and a new archway, and on the east side, a new walkway through to the courtyard. This will give our neighbours and anyone walking by the sense that we are open. The church was originally built for the residents of St James's Square. By opening up the doorway that was part of Wren's design, we are re-establishing that connection.

TR: Who is the architect on the project?

LW: Ptolemy Dean is leading the design and we have been working closely with him for the past eight years. As the Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey, we know we are in safe hands!

TR: The project goes beyond the walls of the church. Can you elaborate?

LW: There are two key aspects - one is to landscape the garden to make it fully accessible - in particular for wheelchair users - so that a person in a wheelchair can come to every part of the site without having to ask for help. We are working closely with ecologists on biodiverse planting to ensure a mix of plants in the garden that will encourage wildlife. We are also working with new social enterprise partners to run a café

and food market in the courtyard. We want to give those who need it a second chance, whether they have just got out of prison or are going through homelessness.

TR: Are there parts of the church that will be modernised during the project?

LW: We hope to change the church's heating system from a gas boiler to an air source heat pump. The conundrum has been where to put this, and we think we might be able to put it in the church tower! In addition, the organ will be a traditional pipe organ, but with an additional console so that you are able to see the organist play.

TR: What have you discovered about the church during the project?

LW: The church was badly damaged in the war. Luckily, it was chosen to receive funds for its restoration. By the 1960s, the money had started to run out. To save on costs, a spire made out



of fibreglass was commissioned. If you look up at the church today, although it looks like lead, it is in fact the 60s fibreglass spire.

TR: Is there a timeline for the project?

LW: 2023 is the 300th anniversary of the death of Sir Christopher Wren. If we could raise enough to be able to do something for the tercentenary, we would love to do that, be it redecorating the church, restoring the carvings or putting the original south door back in. The whole transformation of the site will take just a little longer!

For more information and to make a donation, please visit www.sjp.org.uk/donate/the-wren-project.

Grinling Gibbons Talk with Anthony Webb

Thursday 8th September



The reredos at St James's Church is considered to be one of the finest works by the world-famous wood carver, Grinling Gibbons. Join former Master Carver at St Paul's Cathedral and current President of the Master Carver Association, Anthony Webb, for a special talk on the carvings at St James's Church, followed by supper with the speaker in the Coffee Room.

To register your interest for this event, please contact events@therag.co.uk.

Collections Corner

A donation of over 100 books has been made to our Library on behalf of the late Mr. Matthew Skipp, a former member of the Samuel Pepys Club and volunteer at the East Surrey Regiment Museum, by his son Paul. The collection is comprised of nearly forty books on Pepys, as well as some excellent British and military history titles. Of special note is Peter Cunningham's, *The Story of Nell Gwyn and the Sayings of Charles II*, a copy of which forms the core of our four-volume *The Story of Nell Gwyn*.

We are extremely grateful for this generous contribution which will be housed in the Main Library.

Platinum Jubilee Weekend

Celebrate at the Rag | 2nd - 5th June 2022



2022 marks Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year and the Rag will be celebrating this remarkable milestone with a series of exciting events. Join us here in the heart of St James's - just moments away from Buckingham Palace - to celebrate the first ever Platinum Jubilee year in style.

With glorious afternoon teas, resplendent cocktails and coronation-inspired dishes, as well as a fascinating history interwoven with royalty, the Rag is the perfect place to spend the Platinum Jubilee Weekend.

There will be plenty to enjoy at the Club as we gather to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen. From a themed trivia night and a 1950s inspired musical evening, to a quintessential British Barbecue on the Terrace and a traditional Sunday Roast, members and guests will enjoy an unforgettable weekend here at the Rag!

Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea

Available 9th May – 11th September | £27.00 pp



Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in style and indulge like royal-tea with a very special afternoon tea.

Our Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea features delicate finger sandwiches with luxury fillings, delicious cakes and sweet treats and, of course, traditional homemade scones, a pot of tea and a glass of Club Champagne. Presented with themed decorations, members will enjoy these delights, including our extra-special corgi-shaped cookies! Click [here](#) to book now!



Join us for a very special "All Things Royal" trivia night. From official titles to spectacular weddings and royal history, this quiz is sure to sort out who knows their Kings from their Queens! There are some fabulous prizes to be won as we journey through history and test to see who has the greatest royal knowledge; toasting them with Barman Paul's specially crafted Queen Elizabeth Cocktail. Click [here](#) to find out more.



Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on 2nd June 1953 in Westminster Abbey. Guests will be transported back in time to this decade with live music from the era performed by Rosco Shakes in the Smoking Room. Join us as we raise a toast to Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne to the sound of Rock & Roll! Click [here](#) to find out more.



On Saturday 4th June, some of the world's biggest entertainers will be performing at Buckingham Palace as part of the BBC's Platinum Party at the Palace, attended by Her Majesty the Queen. Come and soak up the jubilant atmosphere here in Pall Mall at the Rag's Big Jubilee Barbecue where we will be live streaming the concert for members and guests to enjoy. Click [here](#) to find out more.



Members will no doubt be planning to attend Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant on Sunday 5th June. After enjoying the sights and sounds of this ceremonial parade along The Mall, we invite you to indulge in the best of British fare with succulent roasted meat and all the accompaniments in The Coffee Room. Click [here](#) to find out more.

For more information on the Platinum Jubilee Weekend and to book, please contact the Events Team:

T: +44 (0)20 7930 9721, E: events@therag.co.uk or visit www.therag.co.uk

Coming Soon to the Business Suite

All Day Elevenses

Available in the pantry with complimentary flapjacks and energy bites to enjoy with your coffee.

Express Lunch Menu

A revamped Express Lunch Menu available to order online straight to your desk – simply scan the QR code for super food salads, baguettes, wraps and sandwiches for the quickest lunch in clubland.

5 O'clock Drinks Trolley

A 5 O'clock Drinks Trolley making the rounds every Thursday this summer with Highgate's Sacred English Spiced Vermouth and Sacred Rosehip Cup Negronis to start the weekend early.



Tuesday - Thursday Stays From £220

Two-night stay in a Standard Single room for one guest with continental breakfast. Early check-in and late check-out available upon request.

For more information and to book, contact the Reception Team: T: +44 (0)20 7930 9721, E: reception@therag.co.uk

Corporate Membership



We offer select organisations looking for a prestigious Club in St James's a place to entertain clients, host business meetings and stay in overnight accommodation at excellent rates.

Benefits

- Business Suite with fully serviced office facilities, hot desks, private glass pods and break-out spaces
- Private spaces of varying sizes to host meetings, seminars and events at competitive rates
- Access to wide-screen HD TVs, dial-in conference calling, secure WiFi and IT help-desk support
- Accommodation in the heart of town
- Fine and casual dining with two restaurants, an outdoor terrace and Smoking Room bar
- Access to over 120 carefully selected reciprocal clubs worldwide

Total Number of Members	Annual Fee	Joining Fee
Four	£2,660.00	£1,000.00
Eight	£5,120.00	£2,000.00
Twelve	£7,400.00	£3,000.00

For more information on Corporate Membership, please contact the Membership Office: T: +44 (0)20 7930 9721, E: membership@therag.co.uk

Did you Know?

Unlock your membership further with these facts and tips about the Rag:

- Dining alone? Join fellow members at the Club Table in The Coffee Room and strike up a conversation over fine fare and wine. The Club Table is signified by the silver Ragamuffin statue.
- Access to the Nordic Balance Gym located across the square is included in your membership, simply collect a pass from Reception.
- Younger members have access to the Inter-Club Group uniting under-35 members from London Clubs and beyond. Sign-up online for events, networking and more.
- The Club has its very own Champagne, Claret, White Wine and Port. Order a glass at the bar or online via the A&N Wine Club shop.
- Our monthly Fireside Chats with interesting guest speakers are streamed live via Zoom. Unable to make it in person? Request to join virtually or to be sent a recording.



- The Rag has over 120 reciprocal clubs worldwide. New additions include the Ulster Reform Club (Belfast), The British Club (Singapore) and the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club (Suffolk).
- Members have access to exclusive discounts at local retailers including D. R. Harris, Charles Tyrwhitt, Lock & Co. Hatters, Farlows and Hackett London.

For more information on the above contact info@therag.co.uk or visit www.therag.co.uk