

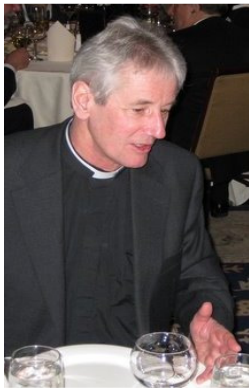


# ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

## E-NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2009

### VICTOR STEWART ELECTED PRESIDENT AT AGM



Victor E. Stewart was elected the Society's new President at the Annual General Meeting held on 21 January at the Harvard Club of New York City. He succeeds Peter M. Felix, CBE, who retired after two years in the office. In addition, John C. Harvey was elected First Vice President, and Robert J.K. Titley Second Vice President. Keith E. Simpson was elected Secretary and Stephen J. Storen was re-elected to serve as Treasurer. Four members were elected to serve as

Directors for three year terms: Ceasar N. Anquillare, Margot W. Astrachan, Barbara Bohrer and Vicki Downey. In addition, Richard Sexton and Kazie Harvey were elected to serve out the unexpired terms of Keith Simpson and Nick Beech. Peter Felix, retiring president, presided at the meeting; Stephen Storen, Treasurer; Robert Titley, Secretary, and Melissa M. Gibbs, chairman of the Beneficiaries Committee, and Natalie Pray, chairman of the Nominating Committee, also delivered reports, as well as John Shannon, the executive director. In remarks delivered during the dinner that followed the meeting, Mr. Stewart said he was honored to be the Society's president and pledged to maintain support for the Society's beneficiaries, encourage younger people to join, and develop new and affordable social events that draw on Britain's fellow Commonwealth nations. Our featured speaker, the Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev. Philip Buckler (photo above), gave a well-received presentation entitled, "To have But Not To Hold," on the Cathedral and its copy of the Magna Carta, which is currently on view at the Ronald Reagan Library in California and due to be displayed in New York this Fall at the Fraunces Tavern Museum, where the semiannual meeting and dinner will be held in October.

### ENGLISH BALL TO HONOR FOUR AT WALDORF=ASTORIA



Preparations are well-underway for the Society's 2009 English Ball, to be held this year on 24 April 2009 at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel's Starlight Roof. The room is one of the finest spaces in New York and the venue for many major fundraisers and award dinners throughout the year. This year's gala will honor four remarkable individuals who have each had a transformative effect on

their worlds: Lionel Barber, editor of the Financial Times;

### UPCOMING AND RECENT MEMBERSHIP EVENTS



Don't miss the Members Only Office Party on Tuesday 10 February. No charge for members. Friends may join as members on the spot. On the next night, 11 February, St. George's is co-sponsoring a talk by Curt DiCamillo entitled

"Jewels of Scandal and Desire," in partnership with the Royal Oak Foundation. St. George's members pay the ROF member price (\$30). Over the past few months we have seen some fantastic and varied events take place! There was the successful Rugby Legends Dinner on 3 December at the Union Square Ballroom.

Member Richard Sexton approached the Society to sponsor the event with two other beneficiaries, Sparks and Play Rugby USA. The dinner featured six Rugby Legends, a live and a silent auction, and a Question and Answer period with the sports stars. The Christmas Luncheon at the Yale Club on 13 December was a jolly event at which over 150 St. George's members celebrated the holiday season. There were English hors d'œuvres, crackers, rousing singing, along with a traditional turkey Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Also in December was a special children's Arts Initiative event hosted by Jim Dale at the Welsh Assembly Government's office in the Chrysler Building. Admission was only possible if you brought a child! There was also a screening "A Child's Christmas in Wales," a new animated version of the tale by Dylan Thomas, voiced by Matthew Rhys and Jim recited "The Shoe Bird," by Eudora Welty, in 14 fantastic voices. Around 15 children attended and tucked into various festive treats!

### MESSAGE FROM MANTON SOCIAL WORKER MARY LAMASNEY



Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to be working here at the St. George's Society of New York. We are presently assisting 71 beneficiaries with monthly stipends. We are now however, initiating a wait list for any new beneficiaries. I have now met with all our beneficiaries since I started working here in May, 2008.

They are an interesting and diverse group of individuals who profess deep appreciation for St. George's Society's assistance and support. I would like to share a few notes

Louis V. Gerstner, KBE, former chairman of IBM Corporation; Sir Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco; and Sir John Rose, chief executive of Rolls-Royce. As a result of much hard work by many members, the English Ball has grown into the premier English event in the New York social calendar. As well as being a worthy event, it has also acquired a reputation as a fun party, such that people are reluctant to leave at the end of the evening. With the economy in recession, charity events are struggling as corporations cut back on sponsorship and individual ticket buyers rethink their priorities. The Ball managers know this; and yet at the same time, our help is needed more than ever as we attempt to help more people and contain charitable expenditure. The Ball has become critical to the success of the Society and we need your support not only to make the party a success but to help those we assist. To assist with corporate outreach the Society has retained Projects Plus, Inc., to reach out to likely sponsors; and it is to be presumed that the four honorees will attract more people than the usual one honoree. Formal invitations will be mailed in March; to have your name listed on the invitation you must call the office now. The deadline is 23 February.

### BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT VICTOR E. STEWART

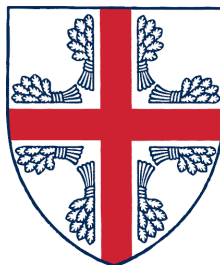


Victor Edwin Stewart is the embodiment of an Anglo-American. He likes to say that he grew up in New York and London, where his family had a home near Berkeley Square. Mr. Stewart's family has had a long-standing relationship with Barbados, where his father was stationed in the Royal Navy during the First World War. Mr. Stewart is a senior partner in the firm of Lovell Stewart Halebian LLP and has more than

twenty-five years' experience in securities, commodities and antitrust law. After graduating from St. Mark's School in Southborough, Massachusetts in 1968, he earned a BA in English at Yale University (1972), an MBA from Harvard Business School (1975) and a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law (1979). He joined the St. George's Society in 1983 and is a life member. He is also a life member (and past president) of the Saint Andrew's Society in the State of New York and is a life member (and former board member) of the New England Society. Mr. Stewart is also a life member and twice past master of Kane Lodge and has been active in Masonic organizations in the United States, England and Canada. He is a member of many professional organizations, including the Maritime Law Association, and is a Proctor in Admiralty. He is a member of a number of social organizations, and an active diver and life member of the National Association of Underwater Instructors, a life member of MENSA and member of the Triple Nine Society and the ISPE. He lives in Ridgewood, New Jersey, with his wife Carol and their three sons, Victor, James and Andrew. The family also has a home in Barbados.

of appreciation that we have received in the past few months: "Let me thank you the St. George's Society for the amazing assistance that has been given to me in this last year... I need to say it has made a huge difference in my outlook on life and my sense of the future." (GW, 78, Canadian-born interior decorator.) "I am writing to thank you for my stipend check which I received today. It is such a great relief to know that I do not have to worry about my rent, and I can't thank you enough for your help in my time of need! As soon as I am able, I will be looking for a job and I will let you know as soon as I get one." (PR, 77, Scottish born gardener.) Finally: "I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have saved me from losing my home and my life. I will pray for all of you." (SB, 70, Jamaican-born nursing assistant.)

### THE SOCIETY IN 2009



It is clear that the coming year is going to be "challenging" but there is every reason to believe that the Society is going to come through the ordeal stronger. St. George's position is not the worst but neither is it the best. On the plus side, we have built up the Advisory Council, developed new relationships with foundations, expanded the President's Appeal, and launched

the Campaign for St George – all before the global economy seized up. In retrospect, those were well-timed developments. On the minus side, we are in a new environment. The endowment has suffered (though thankfully not as much as many others); donors will be feeling the pain and cutting back (though there is anecdotal evidence of the contrary since donors know the need is greater); and the Society will face increased demand for its services. The officers and directors of St. George's Society are collectively responsible for its well-being. Their support, as well as that of all the members, will be needed to ensure that St. George's Society makes it through 2009 in good shape. With luck, things will be better in 2010. Right now we can rejoice that the Society is alive and well, is doing good work, and is respected by its peers. All members may take comfort from the fact that, thanks to them, dozens of good people are able to support themselves in dignity throughout the metropolitan region. The secret of the Society's endurance is that people depend on it. If that were not so, the Society might well have closed a long time because there was no need for it to continue.

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