



# ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

## E-NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2009

### 2009 ENGLISH BALL AT WALDORF HONORS FOUR BUSINESS LEADERS



The 2009 English Ball on 24 April at the Waldorf-Astoria's Starlight Roof was exceptional as much for the caliber of the medalists as for the quantity. For the first time the Society honored four individuals in one year. Sir John Rose of Rolls-Royce, Sir Terry Leahy of

TESCO, Louis Gerstner, KBE, formerly of IBM and Lionel Barber of the FT (in photo, left to right) and are widely respected for their professional leadership and accomplishments. Their acceptance of the Medal of Honour has enhanced its prestige; and while attendance and revenue were lower compared to previous years, the numbers were respectable considering the prevailing economic recession. Thanks to generous supporters we held our own. Sponsors included Rolls-Royce, Sony Corporation, Tesco, PM Contracting, Olivia Fussell and Francis Finlay, Ceasar N. Anquillare, R. Brandon Fradd, John and Kazie Harvey, William and Irene Miller, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Federal Express, Jeffrey and Vicki Downey, and the British Consulate General in New York. Special thanks are owed this year to Sir Howard Stringer and Francis Finlay, Advisory Council members, who overcame huge logistical obstacles to introduce the four honorees. Also in attendance were British Consul-General, Sir Alan Collins, and Lady (Ann) Collins, Jim and Julie Dale, and half a dozen heads of our sister societies. George McNeely of Christie's conducted a live auction, including a trip to London on American Airlines, with a BritRail Pass and a stay at the Athenaeum Hotel. Ultimately the Society is grateful to Vicki Downey, Hilda Frost and Olivia Fussell for steering the benefit. It is always a challenging task, and never more so than this year.

### BRITISH & IRISH SPORTING LEGENDS DINNER ON 8 JULY



Following on the success of the Rugby Legends dinner last December, St. George's Society is proud to partner once again with SPARKS, the British sports charity for children, to co-host another sporting celebrity-studded event: The British & Irish Sporting Legends Dinner on Wednesday 8 July 2009 at the New York Athletic Club (NYAC). With its sporting traditions, handsome facility on Central Park South and dramatic park views, the club is the perfect venue for this event at which four

noted sports figures will be present, courtesy of British Airways: Welsh boxer Joe Calzaghe, English footballer Sir Geoff Hurst (holding trophy in photo), Irish boxer Steve Collins, and Scottish footballer Andy Gray. The master of ceremonies for the evening will be Sky Sports host Alan McInally. The evening will feature an interactive Q&A with the Legends, a charity auction of sport memorabilia, fundraising games, an open bar cocktail hour, a three-course dinner with wine/beer throughout! Tickets are only \$175 per person or you can buy a table of ten for the discounted price of \$1,600. If the Rugby Legends dinner is any indication, the upcoming Sporting Legends dinner will draw a lively group of sport enthusiasts and will realize much-needed funds for SPARKS ([www.sparks.org.uk](http://www.sparks.org.uk)) and St. George's Society. Tickets sales are already underway so don't wait to RSVP: remember the Rugby Legends Dinner sold out in one week! Contact Chevon Morgan ([chevon.morgan@stgeorgessociety.org](mailto:chevon.morgan@stgeorgessociety.org) or 212 682-6110) for more details about the event or to buy tickets.

### UPCOMING EVENTS: SPORTS, GOLF, MAGNA CARTA AND HISTORY



A number of activities are planned for the coming months. The Arts Initiative is co-hosting a sensational evening with BAFTA East Coast celebrating the deathless "Carry On" films at the National Arts Club on 22 June, featuring Jim Dale, who starred in several of the pictures. The Summer Garden Party will be held again on Wednesday 15 July. The venue will be the attractive, gothic-style premises of The Union Theological

Seminary on Broadway at 120<sup>th</sup> Street. With an open bar

### SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT BY MARY LAMASNEY



We were sent a wonderful letter last month from a former recipient of one-time aid from the Society. The Society in the past provided assistance to beneficiaries in many different forms: buckets of coal in the winter, winter coats or shoes for families, small cash outlays for emergencies, employment referrals, aid to the sick and

infirm, late rent or utility costs. Today our 70+ beneficiaries are almost all monthly stipendiary recipients but back in 1950s a common occurrence was for a person of English origin just to come up to the office and ask for help. This is

and light food, and a low price of just \$30, this is the Society's most popular event of the year. On 11 August there will be a members golf outing (limited to 15 players) at the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, New Jersey. The club's two championship courses, the Lower and Upper, were created by Golden Age architect A.W. Tillinghast and the courses have hosted 16 national championships, including seven U.S. Opens and one PGA Championship. There will be a reception with private viewing of the Lincoln Cathedral copy of the Magna Carta at Fraunces Tavern on 16 September. Our special guest will be the Very Rev. Philip Buckler, Dean of Lincoln. Oxford history professor Dr. Christopher Tyerman, an authority of 13<sup>th</sup> century English history and the crusades, will speak on the lingering influence of Henry III's Italian in-laws at the semi-annual dinner on 27 October. This talk is co-sponsored with the American Foundation of Savoy Orders. Invitations to all events will be emailed. Call the office for reservations or more details.

## NEW MOUNTBATTEN INTERN CHEVON MORGAN SUCCEEDS BECKY TURNER



There has been another changing of the guard, so to speak, at the Society's office: Becky Turner completed her one-year internship with us in April and has been succeeded by Chevon Morgan (in photo). A 2007 graduate of Aston University with a BSc Honors in Public Policy & Management and Sociology, Chevon was

most recently employed as Executive Assistant at Sheffield Local Medical Committee and previously worked for the Department of Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Defense. Chevon's time with us here at St. George's will be shorter than her Mountbatten predecessor's as she will only be with us for six months, but she is very excited to make the most of her time and get involved with the Society. Chevon has a key interest in event planning and will be assisting the Events and Membership Manager, Marisa Mace, in the Society's many upcoming events over the summer and early fall months. There are approximately 300 Mountbatten's working in New York at any time. In addition to placing the interns in jobs in the New York area, the program also obtains their J-1 visa, provides them with housing and organizes classes in international business and American culture which result in a certificate from Cambridge University. Chevon has adapted well to the very different areas of activity within the Society, from helping members on the phone to managing events at venues around the city. Like all her predecessors, she is availing herself of every opportunity to experience the life and culture of New York, as well as visiting other cities when the opportunity presents itself.

what happened to this gentleman in 1955 who never forgot the Society's kindness to him. This is the text of his letter: "Dear Sir: 54 years ago a young emigrant from England was desperate and hungry in New York. He had a bus to catch to Cleveland and no money left for food. He was told to go to the St. George's Society for help. With no questions asked they gave him \$10.00 to tide him over. That man was me and all these years I have meant to return the favor but kept forgetting. I am sure the \$10 is now worth a lot more so I am enclosing a check for \$50 and hoping you can maybe help another young man who needs it. Sincerely, Kenneth M. Andrews." We have responded to Mr. Andrews's very kind contribution and have assured him that our mission continues today in assisting those in need here in New York born under the British flag.

## NEW E-COMMERCE SITE UNDERWAY TO PAY FOR MEMBERSHIP, EVENTS AND GIFTS



The Society will soon launch a new e-commerce website to enable members to pay for membership dues, social events and gift items such as ties, cufflinks or scarves, in the same way one buys a book on amazon.com. In addition to providing the added convenience of shopping online, the new

system will cost less to operate than processing credit card transactions using a terminal in the office, which incurs multiple usage and transaction fees. Shoppers will register with a user name and a password, and their information such as address, telephone number, email address and payment method, will be kept secure. After the first purchase, there will be no need to re-enter that information, thus speeding up and simplifying future purchases and eliminating the chance for error. (Of course, information can be changed or updated as the need arises.)

Recognizing that many members preferred the convenience and benefits of paying with a credit card, the Society bought a terminal a decade ago and set up a merchant account to be able to do so. The percentage of transactions paid for by credit and debit cards grew considerably in the following years, increased the volume of business but also resulting in higher bank processing charges. The new e-commerce site will cost less and save time and labor since the customer will do the inputting of information and the site will process the transaction. The new site will become operative in July. But if you have yet to remit your 2009 annual dues, you should still send in a check or call with a credit card number.

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