



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
Bath and District Branch

Dear Members and Friends

By the time you receive this we will have all enjoyed the magnificent Coronation of King Charles III. Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth our thoughts also go out to our new Queen Camilla who has been so closely involved with the Royal Commonwealth Society over the past few years.

There was a service on May 7th at Wells Cathedral to celebrate this event and as we were invited to take part Irene Prentice, one of our members read the first lesson and Jonathan Dimpleby, the broadcaster, who was at the Coronation gave the address. It was good to see several members at the event which was supported by organisations from all over the area.

On May 30th we will be hosting at the Bath and County Club when we will be joined by the exceptional entrepreneur Nav Sawhney. At one time a student at the University of Bath he has developed an incredible washing machine that works by hand. This has empowered women all over the world and is in use in refugee camps and isolated communities. He is a charismatic speaker, and I am sure will have us spellbound with his incredible achievements.

We sadly have to say goodbye to one of our trustees Natasha Hopkins who has provided incredible support and advice whilst with us. Due to work and the increasing commitments of her family she is sadly standing down. We are therefore looking for a new trustee so if you would like to join our team then please do get in touch.

Several members joined with the West Country Branch of the Britain-Australia Society and Australian and New Zealand military to commemorate Anzac Day. The service took place at St Johns Church Sutton Veny, and you will find pictures and a report on the website.

The talk from the RCS Chief Operating Officer Libby Van der Valk was a great success, and several Commonwealth students joined us for the event.

The trustees are currently working on a Strategy Document and the reorganisation of our website. We are also currently setting up a possible Diplomatic Dinner in Bath during the Autumn but more about that later in the year.

One date that should also go in your diaries is the AGM which will precede a talk from one of the organisers of the Commonwealth Games on July 26th at the Bath and County Club probably somewhere around 11.30 am.

We have had several applications for grants from Commonwealth students and are currently finalizing our decisions and payments. The applications are always very interesting. We are always open to possible Bath and area-based projects as long they have Commonwealth links so if you know of any schools or students who need financial support get in touch.

As always new members are always welcome and further details on how to join can be found as always on our website.

Best wishes

Godfrey Hall Chair.