

St GEORGE FOR ENGLAND

Winter 2025-26

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF St GEORGE – The Premier Patriotic Society of England
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THE ST GEORGE'S SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE

A Season of Remembrance and Celebration

Zachary J. Dixon

President of St George's Society of Baltimore Ltd

Commemorating Eighty Years of Peace

The St George's Society of Baltimore began its summer season with the annual St George's Polo Cup, led by Chairman J. Scott Watkins and his committee. This year's gathering carried a profound theme, commemorating the eightieth anniversaries of VE and VJ Days and the conclusion of the Second World War.

Held beneath a grand tent at the Maryland Polo Club, the Polo Cup delivered a day that was both spirited and solemn. Guests enjoyed an unforgettable blend of polo matches, vintage cars, pony carriages, military ceremony, millinery and fascinators, and an exciting auction. Among the highlights was the donation of a cheeky and charming signed print, *Guards at Ease*, by acclaimed British artist Jeremy Houghton, formerly Artist in Residence at both Windsor Castle and Highgrove, once described as "the late Queen's favorite young artist at Windsor." The print was won during the auction by Mr. James T. Young, past-president and early founder of the Polo Cup, with proceeds benefiting the charities of the Society's Foundation.

The occasion was further distinguished by the presence of the 3rd US Army Infantry Continental Honour Guard, better known as *The Old Guard*, joined by the Royal Marines Historical Re-enactment Group and the Ship's Company. Together, they lent weight and dignity to the presentation of colours and the national anthems. As part of this year's commemorative programme, relatives of current Society members who served in the Second World War were recognised and honoured through special tribute donations, with proceeds benefiting the Society's Foundation. This meaningful gesture connected the memory of their service to the charitable purpose of the event. It reinforced the day's theme of remembrance. A spirited hat contest, featuring fourteen participants, was judged by Mrs Alana E. Dixon and won by Ms Leslie Mansfield, adding a dash of British pageantry. The Society was

also honoured to welcome Cdr Lyndsey Netherwood, RN, Assistant Naval Attaché at the British Embassy, and Colonel Stephen Brooks, MBE, BA, The Ranger Regiment. Their presence underscored the enduring bonds between the United Kingdom and the United States.

In recognition of his leadership and tireless efforts in growing the Polo Cup over the past several years, Chairman Watkins was presented with the Society's plaque in front of the tent following the day's polo matches and trophy presentations, a fitting tribute to the vision and dedication that have made the event such a success.

The "\$80 for 80" Campaign

To further honour the wartime legacy of British and American families who laid down their burdens and began the long road of remembrance and rebuilding, the Society's Foundation launched the "\$80 for 80" campaign. This charitable initiative supports four causes that reflect the Society's values and heritage: the American Memorial Chapel at St Paul's Cathedral, the Royal British Legion, the Royal Oak Foundation, and the Trussell Trust.

Thanks to this campaign and the success of the Polo Cup, 2025 was a record-setting year for the Society. Fundraising revenue increased by more than 50%, and total donations across all campaigns surged by nearly 244%. This extraordinary momentum speaks not only to the generosity of our members and friends, but also to the strength of our mission: to preserve British heritage while supporting causes that unite Britain and America.

A Night at the Senator Theatre

In September, the Society gathered for a private box screening of *Downton Abbey 3: The Grand Finale* at Baltimore's beloved Senator Theatre. The setting could not have been more fitting. The theatre's Art Deco rotunda glowed under its signature chandelier, with gilded railings, curved balconies, and hand-painted murals depicting classical figures overlooking the polished wood doors below. The terrazzo floor and pastel friezes recalled the elegance of 1939, when the Senator first opened its doors.

Members paused to admire the historic space, taking in its architectural details before settling into the theatre's domed auditorium. As the lights dimmed, the film opened with a drive through 1930s London, passing glittering marquees and arriving at the Richmond Theatre in West London. Watching this scene unfold from the private box of Baltimore's own 1939 landmark created a remarkable sense of continuity, a moment in which the Society's members shared an experience not unlike that of London audiences nearly a century ago.

MGs on the Rocks

Later that month, members of the Society gathered at MG's on the Rocks, the world's longest continuously running British car show, set against the wooded backdrop of Rocks State Park. More than 200 MGs, Austin-Healeys, Morgans, Sprites, Jaguars, Lotuses, and other marques gleamed in neat rows across the grassy field, their polished chrome and bright paintwork catching the soft autumn light.

The air carried the mingled scent of fresh grass and petrol, punctuated by the occasional rev of an engine, while a soundtrack of The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, The Beatles, and Petula Clark played in the background. Families wandered between the cars, children darted ahead to peek under open bonnets, and enthusiasts paused to swap stories and admire the workmanship of lovingly restored classics. Several Society members proudly displayed their own cars, adding a personal touch to the occasion and drawing fellow members together in conversation. Union Jacks lined the hillside, and conversation drifted warmly across the field.

The result was a scene that felt less like an exhibition and more like a festive gathering, a celebration of British motoring heritage and a perfect day of fellowship for our members.

Trafalgar Night Dinner

In October, the Society's signature Trafalgar Night Dinner was once again sold out, filling the storied halls of the Maryland Club with pageantry, fellowship, and reflection. Among the evening's guests were fifteen first-time attendees, prospective members who joined in the commemoration of Admiral Lord Nelson and the heroism of Trafalgar. By the time of this writing, ten of them have already been invited to join and accepted membership, a testament to the Society's growing strength and enduring appeal.

The evening began with dinner chairman Capt James S. Hanna, USN (Ret) delivering the opening remarks, followed by an invocation from chaplain Fr Christopher Pyles. Guests enjoyed a blue crab bisque, Madeira-glazed beef tenderloin, and triple chocolate mousse parfait, accompanied by fine wines and Warre's Heritage Port, courtesy of the Estate of Curtis Carroll Davis.

The highlight of the night was the keynote address by Cdr Lyndsey Netherwood, RN. In a stirring and often humorous reflection, she honoured Admiral Lord Nelson's daring leadership and the enduring lessons of Trafalgar. Cdr Netherwood drew parallels between Nelson's innovation, his "Nelson's Touch" of trust, clarity of intent, and decentralised command, and the modern spirit of adaptability guiding both



the Royal and United States Navies today. She reminded guests that, as Nelson once said, “*I have always been a quarter of an hour before my time,*” and urged that same readiness in meeting the challenges of the present age.

As the port was poured, Mr James Harp, Artistic Director at Maryland Opera, took to the piano, joined by soloist Mr Joseph Richwine. Their performance brought the room to life, beginning with *On the Road to Mandalay* and leading guests in rousing choruses of *Rule, Britannia!*, *What Shall We Do with a Drunken Sailor*, *Heart of Oak*, *Land of Hope and Glory*, and *Spanish Ladies*. Voices rose in harmony, filling the Maryland Club’s oak-panelled dining room with music and pride.

After the performance members and guests retired to the porch for port,

champagne, and cigars, where conversation lingered late into the night. It was a fitting conclusion to an evening that balanced reverence and revelry, an enduring expression of the Society’s spirit of camaraderie, tradition, and transatlantic friendship.

Cdr. Netherwood closed her remarks by recognising the 250th anniversary of the US Navy, paying tribute to the shared courage, cooperation, and kinship that have long bound the Royal and US Navies together.

Looking Ahead

The Society is reimagining its Remembrance Sunday observance. While a group of Board members will continue to tend the veteran tombstones in our care, we are partnering with Grace and St Peter’s

Church for a special service. The musical programme highlights include, *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré. The Anthems of the Allies: *La Marseillaise*, *God Save the King*, and *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Beloved English hymns including *Jerusalem* and *Thaxted* led by our own Dr Jordan Prescott, organist, and choir. A brunch will follow the service at the Engineer’s Club. In December, we will host a holiday mixer designed to engage prospective members and share in festive merriment.

With a year marked by remembrance, record-breaking generosity, and renewed fellowship, the St George’s Society of Baltimore enters 2026 with confidence and purpose, committed to preserving British heritage, deepening transatlantic friendship, and advancing its charitable mission with energy and vision.
