

THE BANGKOK ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY



# The Banner



May • June • July • August - 2003



# President's Message



*Dear Members,*

Gosh, the middle of the year has already arrived and we are speeding on towards Autumn - if only such a season existed over here! Many of our members, especially those with children, will be spending their long summer holidays back 'home'. Me too, I shall spend nearly three weeks in Derbyshire during July, my first trip to England in the summer for a number of years, usually I arrive at Birmingham airport just before Christmas, shivering and dithering in December, the darkest month of the year. This time I am hoping for a little British sunshine (pleassee) as I shall be attending my niece's wedding in Ashby de La Zouch, although I am sure it will be delightful regardless of the weather.

In this issue of the Banner we pay tribute to the tremendous St George's Day Ball which was held on 10th May in the Conrad Hotel and also give our readers an update on the very successful Oak Apple Day celebrations in June. Our thanks go to Michael Ball for another of his enjoyable and interesting historical articles and also to Gale Bailey for sharing her memories of the trip she took to Cambodia with her daughter Jane, a prize she won in the 2002 St George's Annual Ball Grand Raffle.

Referring back to this year's St George's Ball, I would like to thank our wonderful and generous sponsors who helped make the event possible: The Conrad Hotel, Bangkok • Central Watsons Co. Ltd • The Dubliner • Transpo International • TNT • Shrewsbury International School • AATC • BNH Hospital • Yorkies Pork Platter • Rajawongse Clothiers • Thai Glass Industries • Cranbrook International • and all our generous raffle prize sponsors.

You may have noticed this year that the Banner has slipped to a 4 monthly magazine, previously it has always been published every three months. The main reason for the change is that without an income from advertisers the magazine eats away at the Society's limited funds. I am sure you would all agree that instead of cutting out an issue each year it would be far better to find advertisers who are willing to regularly support our Society magazine. So please, if you know of a company looking for a quality magazine in which to promote its quality services to quality readers, in Thailand and around the world, remember, even our patron HM Queen Elizabeth II receives a copy, please send me their contact details as soon as possible.

The Council has recently lost three of its members who have played a vital role. Our Honorary Treasurer, Colin Broadhurst, is reluctantly resigning from his duties in August due to work commitments. Honorary Secretary, Sara Haboubi and Social Secretary, Lynn Nelson, have both departed from Thailand - Sara to Australia, although I believe she may have now returned, and Lynn and her family back home to England. Our thanks and good luck wishes go to all of them. If you, or anyone you know, would like to volunteer to be on the St George's Council we would love to hear from you. If you have recently arrived in Thailand it is a great way to quickly get involved with the British community and have fun organising activities. Please contact me if you would like to join the team.

Thank you and hope to see you soon

*Angela Stafford  
President*

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## Forthcoming Events 2003

**Wednesday, 23rd July**

Vintage British Comedy Night at the British Club

**Tuesday, 19th August**

Quiz Night at the Dubliner Pub

**Saturday, 20th September**

President's Lunch at the British Club

**Tuesday, 14th October**

AGM and Fish & Chip Supper

*Have you logged on  
to our website yet?*



[www.bangkokstgeorgesoc.org](http://www.bangkokstgeorgesoc.org)

# Your Council Members

| Name              | Responsibility                   | Contact Numbers       |                            |                             |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
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New Society Website! [www.bangkokstgeorgesoc.org](http://www.bangkokstgeorgesoc.org)

Bangkok St. George's Society c/o The British Club 189 Surawong Road, Bangkok 10500 Tel: 0-2234 0247 Fax: 0-2235 1560

## Society Membership

### Dear Members

Our membership of the Society is growing rapidly and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members and their families:



Anton Bontje  
Richard Price  
Alistair Dickman  
Stephen Mitchell  
Simon Young  
Greg Miller  
Trevor Adams  
Catherine Kershaw  
Gary Wright



The St. Georges Society offers members a great way to meet fellow English people and to enjoy some of our favourite past times. The Oak Apple Day last month was a fabulous event with real pork sausages and pies from Yorkies Pork Platter, and much, much more.

There are more great events to come this year so watch out for news of these through your email or check the Social Events calendar on our website. If you are not receiving information please let me have an update of your contact details. If you do not have access to email and prefer to receive notification by post please advise me. Contact Angela Baker on 02 663 1971 or [angela@cranbrookint.com](mailto:angela@cranbrookint.com)

So - enjoy the coming months of social gatherings and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

*Very Best Wishes,*  
*Angela Baker,*  
Membership Secretary

Please remember to renew your membership in October as this will enable us to keep you informed of all coming events. Fees are:

New Members: 1000 baht (Entrance fee & first year's subscription)  
Renewal: 500 baht (annual subscription)

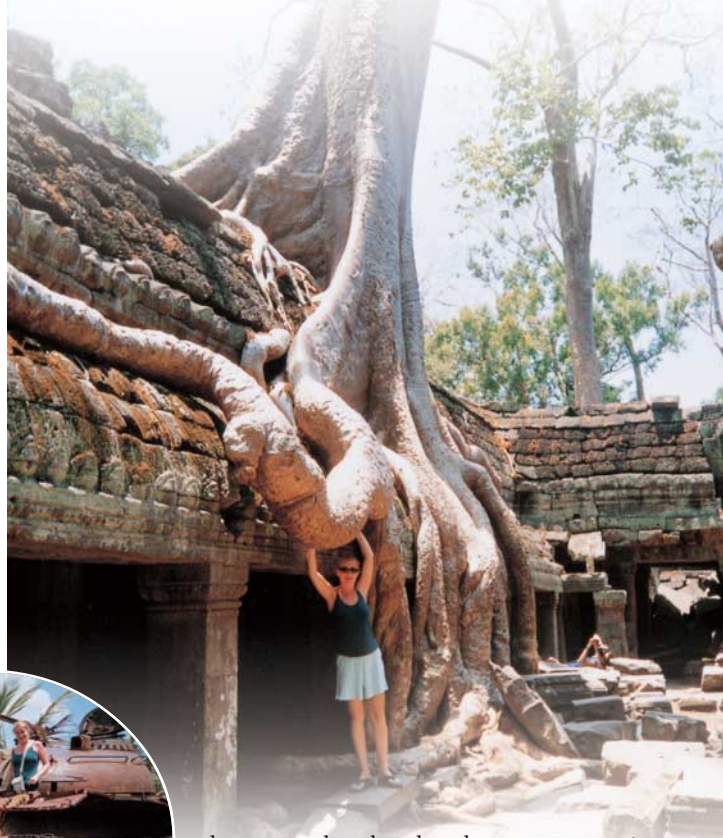
Payment may be made by cash or cheque (payable to Bangkok St Georges Society) and mailed or delivered to:  
The Membership Secretary, Bangkok St George's Society, c/o The British Club 189 Surawong Road, Bangkok, 10500

# Visit to Cambodia

## Courtesy of Bangkok Airways

What a lucky person I am - not only having a great time whilst helping at the 2002 St. George's Ball, but the very 'chuffed' winner of two Bangkok Airways return flights to Siem Reap, Cambodia - WOW! When I lived in England, I thought it was great if I won a basket of fruit or a meal at the local pub in a raffle! Due to my husband's extensive travelling, he was unable to go even within the generous timescale so our very delighted daughter, Jane, leapt at the chance to have 3 days 'quality' time with mum!

US dollars are the order of the day for anything, and after obtaining our \$20 visas on arrival, we battled our way through the horde of taxi drivers tempting us with a \$1 'carrot dangler' trip to the town centre. This also covered the cost of finding a suitable hotel so, of course, we booked him to take us sightseeing as well! We stayed in a lovely teak house within the grounds of a



downtown hotel and as the temperature is on a par with Bangkok, we had a swim and some lunch whilst planning our itinerary. We knew we were downtown as the one and only set of traffic lights were on the corner near our hotel. The pavements are mostly non-existent

and traffic is 'interesting' - bikes, motorised cyclos, lorries, pedestrians and animals battle it out like a scene I remembered from the Vietnam War newsreels! It is immediately obvious that Cambodia is a much poorer country than Thailand but it is great to witness another culture. Many road improvements and buildings are going on however I feel that the massive hotels under construction will be hard to fill. Although it is dollar orientated, I was pleased NOT to see the usual array of fast food outlets which are usually 'the norm'. Ethnic food please!

We visited the Angkor Wat, the great legacy of the ancient Khmer civilisation, which is truly magnificent. Whilst Jane climbed much higher (being younger, fitter and fearless), we both managed to explore quite a lot over and around the many temples which are spread out, covering an area of 77 square miles. The magnificence of this wonder of the world is baffling - how on earth could all this have been built without modern technology? Our favourite was Ta Prohm where the temple is held in a stranglehold of trees and is quite awesome. We did want to watch the sunset but it was too overcast.

We also paid a visit to the War Museum where our guide, whose English was remarkably good, informed us he had lost a leg being an innocent victim of a landmine. He told us his father had been a doctor but had disappeared during the time Pol Pot controlled the country. It is really hard for us to imagine just how awful it must be to live under such a regime. The Cambodians have certainly had more than their share of hardship.

Our explorations and adventures were limited due to time and heat but this is definitely somewhere where I would love to return. Thank you so much Bangkok Airways and St. George Society - your contribution was very much appreciated.



# A Jolly Good Knees-up!

## St George's Ball, 10th May 2003 Conrad Hotel Bangkok

As the pictures clearly show, the 2003 St George's Ball was a truly fun night enjoyed by all who attended and missed by those who didn't! The Baron of Beef ceremony, popular tunes from the Bandit Beatles, a 'Last Night of the Proms' session courtesy of the Royal Thai Army Band (and led with gusto by Peter Bowden) and the Big Boy Band serenading us into the not-so-early hours of the next morning all showed just how much fun members really can have when they let their hair down! Our thanks go to all members who supported the event, especially the raffle which raised a staggering Baht 150,000 on the night, and of course to all Council members for organising the entire event.



*Many thanks go to Khun Somjit who once again arranged the hotel to host another wonderful St. George's Ball*





# St George's Takes Off!

Congratulations to member James Finnigan seen here enjoying his Flight Simulator ride which he won at this year's St. George's Ball. James successfully landed a jet-airliner at Koh Samui airport on the 17th June.

The St. George's Society would also like to thank AATC-Bangkok for their generous sponsorship of the Ball raffle in providing this exciting prize.

## Aunty Margaret's Superior Pasty Recipe

The staple of many a filling meal back in Blighty, this month we show you how to make your own delicious Cornish Pasty - a real treat from back home

for all the family. Many thanks to new member Linda Adams for supplying this traditional Cornish recipe. If any other members have a recipe or two for some delicious home-grown treats, please send them in!



### INGREDIENTS

For 4 Superior Pasties you will need:

1lb diced beef skirt

1lb shortcrust pastry

1lb sliced potatoes

1/2lb chopped onion (leek may be substituted)

6oz sliced swede

2oz butter

Salt & pepper

### AUNTY MARGARET'S METHOD

- Pre-heat oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit (230 degrees Celcius). Roll out shortcrust pastry and cut around plate of the appropriate size (10"=large).
- Chop onion fairly finely and place in three piles on the pastry base.
- Put potato on top of this (sliced potato, not diced, as in the mass produced and infinitely inferior pasties), saving a few slices.
- Put sliced swede in small dollops on top of potato.
- Trim excess fat from beef and dice into 1/2 inch cubes.
- Place over swede to cover the same area.
- Then put some more onion on top of beef - covering a similar area.
- Put the remaining few slices of potato on top of the onion - followed by a large knob of butter placed centrally.
- Pepper and salt, then close and crimp, and sprinkle with more salt.
- Put a hole in the top.
- Place in the oven for 30 minutes.
- Brush with milk at 10 minute intervals.
- Reduce heat to 300 degrees Fahrenheit (150 degrees Celcius) for 5 minutes. Turn off heat, but leave in oven for further 20 minutes. (Making 55 minutes altogether.)
- If slightly overdone, put some greaseproof paper on top for 5 minutes. This will prevent drying out.

# Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

Ranking with Queen Victoria as one of the most famous British monarchs Queen Elizabeth I was born in 1533 and succeeded to the Tudor throne in 1558, she died in 1603 after 44 years on the throne. Michael Ball, writes of the times of Queen Elizabeth I, and the accession of James I (IV of Scotland). He places them in perspective to contemporary Thailand.



Elizabeth's reign was marked by the defeat of the Spanish Armada, and the re-emergence of England as a still relatively small power, but one to be reckoned with. The previous century was a dismal one for England, it lost its French possessions and was wracked by the Wars of the Roses.

A trait of Elizabeth's that is often overlooked but proved useful to the nation, was her frugality, in this she followed her miserly grandfather Henry VII. Her father Henry VIII by contrast to both was a man of luxurious profligacy. Her frugality paid off, because during her reign there was a slow down of inflation, and reduction in the debased coinage and a return of the mint. More than any man Sir Francis Drake's epic world circumnavigation in 1577-1580 established England as a major maritime power. Besides this courageous feat Sir Francis returned with a load of Spanish loot, and established an era of discovery and privateering. English literature bloomed, at the forefront was William Shakespeare. However, Elizabeth was not quite the "Good Queen Bess" of popular belief, nor was her reign entirely happy and peaceful. Making herself indispensable and never naming an heir or successor was cunning but also selfish, and dangerous to the nation. Had she died in 1562, when she was struck down by small pox, England could have been plunged into the chaos of civil war and the anarchy of only 80 years earlier. Indeed had she died in either the 1570's or 1580's there would have been no obvious or acceptable successor. This uncertainty must have caused nightmares to the little group of loyal and able administrators, including the father and son combination of the Cecils.

Elizabeth had a harsh childhood and youth, when she was only three years old her mother Anne Boleyn was beheaded and Elizabeth was declared illegitimate, although later rescinded. In 1547 Henry VIII's only legitimate son the sickly Edward VI came to the throne and disinherited both his sisters, before he died of consumption in 1553.

When her half sister "Bloody Mary" succeeded to the throne, married Philip of Spain and brought about a Catholic restoration, Elizabeth was in great danger. She was put in the Tower of London, and narrowly escaped execution. The Plantagenets had extinguished one another in the Wars of the Roses, and despite Henry VIII's six wives the Tudors were heading toward extinction by failure to reproduce. Elizabeth was the last of the line.

Despite all the propaganda about "Gloriana" it seems that Elizabeth was rather physically unattractive. The story that she became bald in later life is probably untrue, but she took to wearing a garish ginger wig to cover her graying hair. She was however, very well educated and highly intelligent. She knew Latin, Greek, French, Italian and some Spanish. She delegated the day to day administration to a handful of loyal friends, headed by the Cecils and including Hatton and Walsingham.

Elizabeth herself wanted no more religious strife. Although Protestant she was willing to tolerate Catholics who may have totaled a quarter of the population. It was the Papal Bull of



*A young Elizabeth, and a portrait from her coronation*

excommunication in 1570, followed by the Ridolfi plot and the threat of Spanish invasion which provoked her into self defence.

The Duke of Norfolk was executed in 1572 and Mary Stuart (of Scots) in 1587. Both were involved in plots against state and Queen. Mary was the next in line to the throne of England and had she

succeeded, there would have been a disaster. Mary was the opposite of Elizabeth in all ways – she was physically more attractive but she was also stupid, reckless and irresponsible.

In Scotland she had been involved in many scandals including the murder of her first husband. This caused her to flee from her own country and seek refuge in England. Even though the two women never met Elizabeth granted Mary political asylum. However, she abused it. Mary's uncompromising ambition was to restore Roman Catholicism and conspired to bring this about. News of her plotting reached Elizabeth. Even though the only penalty was death, the Queen agonized and hesitated in signing Mary's death warrant.

Following Mary Stuart's execution, the only successor to the English crown was James VI of Scotland. Born in 1566 James too had a troubled childhood and youth. While still an infant his father was murdered, and his mother fled in disgrace. He was brought up by strict Calvinists and by regents who murdered one another. He continued to face the threat of assassination into his adulthood.

Mary and James Stuart owed their claim to the English throne through one of Henry VIII's sisters, Margaret who had married James IV of Scotland. Another of Henry's sisters was Mary who married the Duke of Suffolk. One of their children was Lady Jane Grey, Queen for just a week in a failed coup to stop the succession of Mary I in 1553. The only realistic alternative to the throne was Elizabeth, the "Virgin Queen", who had many foreign suitors, including the Duke of Anjou, but his interest in marriage was simply to play the French off against the Spanish.

An English man who vainly continued to hope for marriage was

## ELIZABETH I (1533-1603)

Dudley, Earl of Lancaster and commander of her tiny army. This marriage would not have been popular, although far less unpopular than to a French or Spanish prince. Dudley was kept on a string until his death in 1588. Sir Christopher Hatton was another said to be in love with her, and school children may still be familiar with the story of Sir Walter Raleigh throwing his cloak onto a puddle so that the Queen would not get her feet wet.

The sobriquet "Virgin Queen" is probably accurate, but whilst not giving way to any of her suitors she became extremely jealous when they married others or went astray. Sir Walter Raleigh was sent away in disgrace after making one of her maids of honour pregnant.

At thirty-years his senior and in the last years of Elizabeth's life there was to be an infatuation with Robert Devereaux, Earl of Essex. It is likely that this arrogant and ambitious young man imagined that he could rule the country through her. While prone to flattery and adulation, Elizabeth was no fool, she was determined to maintain political power and control for herself alone.

When Essex deserted his command in Ireland, reappeared at court without permission and tried to stage a coup in 1601 he was arrested and executed. Apart from his bad temper and overbearing ambition he wanted to involve England in a continuous war with Spain and the Hapsburgs.

Even though England was strong at sea, her army was weak and ineffectual, as shown in a little war to support the Dutch in their struggle to free themselves from Spanish rule. Elizabeth was aware of its failings and considered war only in self defence.

Elizabeth has been described as a "cold flirt" and it is likely that she was unable to bear children but four centuries on we may never know. However, she was overheard to bitterly complain that she was barren. But she knew that while she was sole ruler any consort would diminish her power. Into old age her sex was a powerful weapon.

To even contemplate the death of a sovereign and consider how to replace them was considered treason. Whilst loyal to the Queen, Robert Cecil who had succeeded his father as Lord Treasurer took responsibility of ensuring a peaceful succession by secretly corresponding with James VI of Scotland.

James was not an attractive character and was called the "wisest fool in Christendom", due to a lack of education and a unswerving belief in the 'Divine right of Kings'. This in combination with an



excessive talkativeness, a loose tongue, ungainly appearance, and a reluctance to take baths along with occasional neurotic and vulgar behaviour made him less appealing.

Although he was a homosexual he did his dynastic duty by marrying Anne of Denmark and procreating a line that was to last into the 18th century. He also encouraged the Church of England to tread a careful middle way between the two extremes of Calvinism

and Catholicism. James I is still remembered for his translation and revision of the Bible. The James I version is still being used in churches throughout the Anglican Communion.

But one of the greatest benefits of his accession was the union of Scotland with England. Lawlessness along the common border would be ended and no longer would the Scots support the French against the English.

In 1603 the population of England and Wales was about four million along with half a million Irish, to which a million Scots



*Elizabeth during later stages of her reign*



could now be added.

What was going on in Thailand at this momentous time in British history? Thailand was not commonly known as Siam even at that time, but when Bangkok was no more than a riverside village, the Central Plains were known by the name of the then capital, Ayutthaya. As far as can be known or guessed the population of what is now

Thailand was about the same as for the British Isles. It is even believed that Ayutthaya city had a bigger population than London, which was reckoned at over 200,000 people.

Farangs or Europeans were known mainly from the Portuguese who in the 16th century were trying to spread their influence in South East Asia and beyond. The Spanish were conquering central and south America, and in this part of the world the Philippines fell to their power.

The first Englishman in this area was James Lancaster, a sea captain, who in 1591 raided Portuguese shipping in the Straights of Malacca and as far north to what is now Phuket. Another was Ralph Fitch who travelled through Burma in 1587 and may have visited Chiang Mai.

Although the Portuguese introduced firearms and fought as mercenaries on both sides, the Thais were too concerned about Burmese invasions to show much interest in the outside world, The Burmese had captured and pillaged Ayutthaya in 1569, then the famous Thai King Naresuan brought about a recovery and drove the Burmese back into Burma. He died in 1595, five years before Elizabeth, but it is doubtful that the two monarchs knew of each other.

Although European contact with the Thais began in the 16th century, replacement of the raiding Portuguese and Spaniards by the French and Dutch and eventually the British lay many, many years into the future.



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# Oak Apple Day Celebrations



The British Club, 10th June 2003



A goodly crowd of members and guests attended the annual Bangkok Saint George's Society Oak Apple Day celebrations at the British Club. A delicious dinner of roast sucking pig, freshly carved from the spit, and apple sauce with plum pudding and platters of real English pork pies (many thanks to Yorkies of Pattaya) were relished by everyone. St George stalwart and general mover & shaker, Gale Bailey, supplied us with a real brain-basher of a quiz with questions such as 'How many and what kind of horses pulled the Golden State Coach?' 'Who was the first to use the Golden State Coach?' 'On what day was the Queen crowned?' . However winners were forthcoming and losers still enjoyed what was undoubtedly a superb evening.

