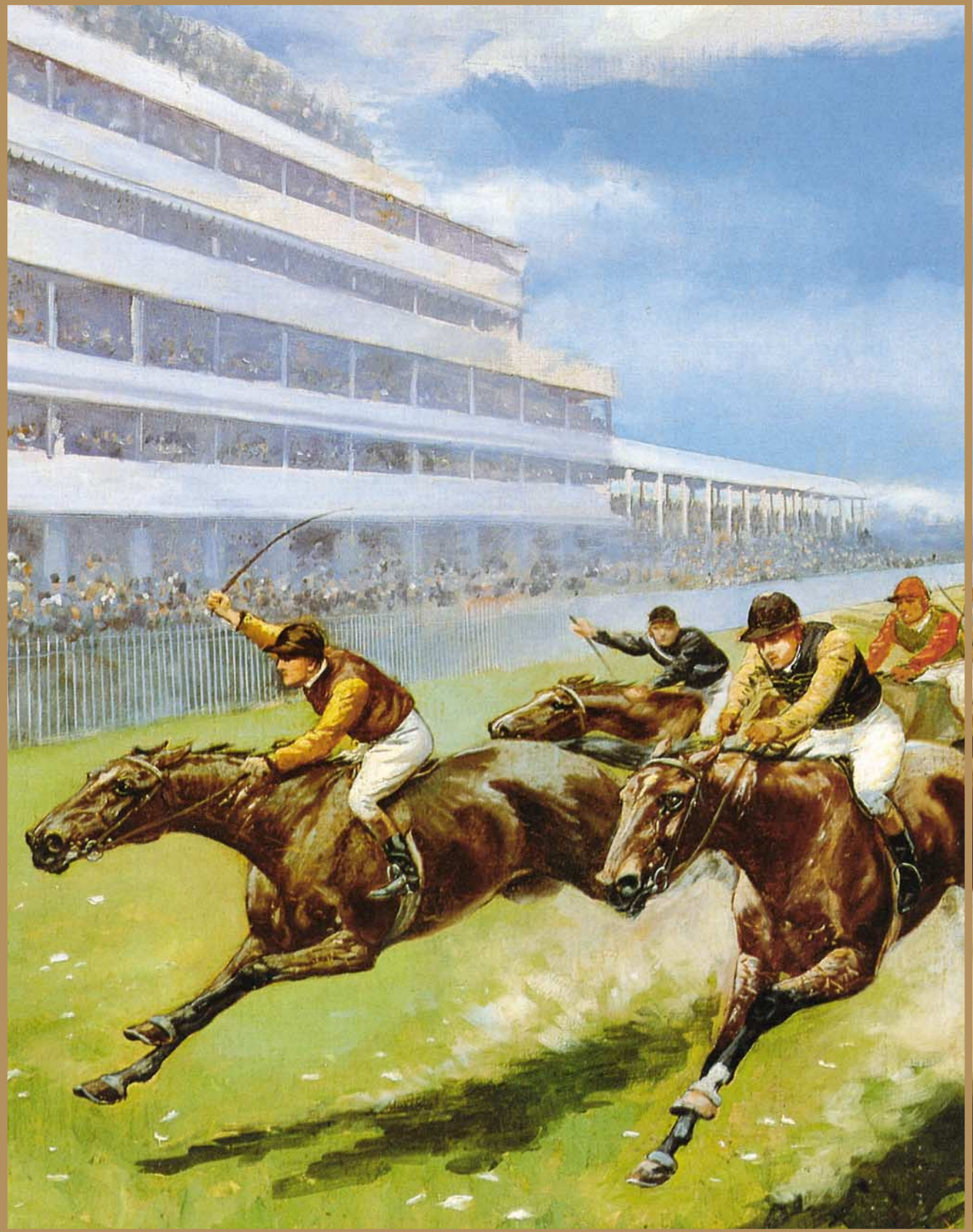


THE BANGKOK ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY



The Banner



July • August • September - 2002

President's Message

Dear Members,

It hardly seems any time at all since I was writing the President's Message for the last issue of the Banner, and yet, here I am again putting pen to paper, so to speak. Looking back over the last three, action-packed, months there are so many things to report on that this issue of the Banner is bulging with editorials and photographs of the many functions that have taken place. Looking forward to July, August and September I am sure that the activities we have planned will be just as much fun and the time will pass just as quickly!

To begin with, my message must pay tribute to the most notable event of the year, which was, of course, the St. George's Society Annual Ball held in the Siam Inter-Continental Hotel on 27th April, 2002. And what a splendid and 'elegant' night it turned out to be! I can safely say, without fear of contradiction, that the 2002 Annual Ball, honouring Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee Year, will go down in history as one of the best! Throughout the evening Council Members were seen breathing sighs of relief as the planned entertainment proved to be of an exceptional standard and popular with everyone who attended the Ball. A full report on the evening is given on page 5, but I would like to use this message to congratulate the Council on creating such an excellent evening – the combination of the Royal Thai Army Orchestra, the Bandit Beatles and the Big Boy Band was simply superb! Other functions which members and guests have enjoyed over the last few months have included the pre-Easter trip around GalloThai Chocolate Factory and the Society's first ever Oak Apple Day celebration, which was held in the Sala at the British Club in May. Again reports and photos are included within the magazine. A Society Quiz Night is planned for July in O'Reillys Irish Pub. The manager Mr. Bruno Begni has kindly donated a barrel of Carlsberg beer so the evening should get off to a great start. In September we will be holding the traditional President's Barbecue Lunch on the back lawn of the British Club and this year plan to make the event more of a family affair – with clowns, jugglers and face painting. Look out for details of both events, which will be sent to you by e-mail or post, and make your reservations early to avoid disappointment.



Once again, we have to say a fond farewell to two of our excellent council members; Jane Peake, who will be returning to England with her partner David in July; and Judith Airey, our Banner Editor and Co-ordinator, will also be leaving in July to join her husband in Germany. Jane has masterminded all of the social activities since the AGM last October and has organised many memorable and imaginative events such as the 'Pancake Party' held on Shrove Tuesday, the 'Hungarian Dinner' and the 'Oak Apple Day' celebration. Jane will be leaving behind a legacy of unbelievably difficult quiz questions, having stretched members to the limit with questions such as "Give the full name of Hungary's international airport" at the Hungarian Evening and "Where did the 'Royal' come from in the annual Royal Shrove tide football game in Ashbourne, Derbyshire?" at the Oak Apple Day celebrations – as you can imagine, there was much scratching of heads at these events. Good luck to Jane and David 'back home' in England. Judith has skillfully compiled the attractive and interesting Banner magazines since the AGM and of course, will never be forgotten for the part she has played so well in our Annual Ball's 'Baron of Beef' ceremony – as the buxom Nell Gwyn, she delighted in 'lobbing' oranges to the assembled diners – an activity currently under review for next year's Ball, since she managed a direct hit on the British Ambassador's wine glass this year!

I am pleased to say that we have managed to attract / persuade / coerce Lynn Nelson to organise membership. We also have offers from three new British Women's Group ladies, thanks to Gale Bailey, who are interested in helping with advertising and compiling the Banner. Well, that's it for this issue. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Angela Stafford
President

Forthcoming Events 2002

17th July, 2002
July Jamboree & Mini Quiz Night

7th September, 2002
President's Lunch at the British Club

September (date t.b.a.)
President's Dinner

16th October, 2002
AGM & Fish & Chips



Your Council Members

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		Office	Home	
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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,

Before I welcome the new members to the society I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lynn Nelson and I am the new Membership Secretary for the St. George's Society. I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking John Allen and Dave Baker for the great job they both did. John is now in charge of advertising for the St. George's Society and Dave has left Thailand.

I hope you will all help me in encouraging new members to join the society.

A big welcome to the following new members and their spouses who have joined us since the last edition of The Banner in April. I look forward to seeing you all at society events throughout the year.

Andrew Cummings
Bruce Causton
Ivor Morton
Keith Meadmore

Eva Hollbaum
Graham Davies
Leslie Dowd

As our next copy of The Banner is not published until October, I would just like to remind you all that subscription fees are also due that month. At a bargain fee of only 500 baht how can anyone refuse?! Payment can be made by cash or cheque (payable to the Bangkok St. George's Society) and mailed or delivered to:

The Membership Secretary
Bangkok St. George's Society
c/o The British Club
189 Surawong Road
Bangkok 10500

*Best wishes,
Lynn Nelson*

Personal Details

If you have not sent in your email address could you please notify me as soon as possible? I also need to know of any change of address or telephone numbers to ensure that you receive your correspondence, including your copy of The Banner, otherwise you could miss out on some of the great events we have planned for this year. You can contact me on email: lynnnelson47@yahoo.co.uk, bkkstgeorges@hotmail.com or by correspondence to the address shown above.

Recent Society Memories

ST. GEORGE'S 42ND ANNUAL BALL, SATURDAY 27TH APRIL, 2002 A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH, IN HER GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

Well – what a brilliant night, and morning for many!

The last ever Bangkok St. George's Annual Ball to be held in the legendary Siam Inter-Continental Hotel was truly one to remember. The Ballroom, festooned in red and white bunting, draped in English standards with elegant baskets of roses hanging from the ceiling, and tables decked with gold cloth and decorated with flags, candles and souvenir programmes, was a credit of the hotel's Director of Catering, Khun Somjit Poiakit, who's motto is "Nothing is too much trouble". It was the perfect setting for the English pomp and ceremony that was to follow. After the President, Angela Stafford, had declared the roast beef presented to her during the 'Baron of Beef' ceremony, succulent and delicious, it was time to toast the Chef, H.M. Queen Elizabeth and H.M. the King of Thailand and let the evening commence.

The orchestra of the Royal Thai Army, conducted by Major Somkit Julaopas, played a pleasing selection of chamber music throughout dinner finishing with a rousing 'Last Night of the Proms' session which had everyone on their feet, singing and waving their flags along to 'Land of Hope and Glory' and 'Rule Britannia'. After a short break the 'Bandit Beatles' blasted the audience back to the 60's. The dance floor was packed within seconds and remained packed throughout their two sessions with party-goers jiving, stomping and twisting to all the Fab Four favourites. The 'Bandits', a look-alike Beatles group from England, were invited to Thailand by the Society to star at the Ball and their journey was well worth it. They not only sounded authentic but thanks to some pretty natty wigs and costumes, looked the part too. They were excellent and extremely popular. After the raffle had been drawn at midnight, and KLM General Manager, Richard Oliver, had presented the door prize to the lucky winner – two return tickets to Old Blighty - it was time for



Thailand's very own 'Big Boy Band' to take the place by storm with an opening session of Queen, 'Grease' and Pink Floyd numbers. They too were exceptional and kept the dance floor full until 3.30 a.m. when, reluctantly due to exhaustion, they bid farewell. (You can see them every night at Admakers in Soi Lang Suan).

So what to do next with over 200 hundred revellers not wanting to go home...? The 'Bandits' offered to perform again but the amplifiers and microphones had been dismantled. Only Khun Somjit could find a solution at nearly 4.00 in the morning - within minutes a full-sized piano appeared out of nowhere and was wheeled to the breakfast area. A jam session, reminiscent of old black & white films where everyone stands around the piano singing, followed with society members and guests joining in. Others relaxed listening, tucking into a truly English breakfast with bacon, sausages, black pudding and pork pies supplied by English butchers (and St. George's members) 'Yorkies Pork Platter' from Pattaya.

Reluctantly, as dawn approached, a few began to wend their weary, but happy, way home, raising eyebrows as they stumbled onto the BTS system or clambered into taxis, still wearing their DJs and ball gowns. Around 30 diehards, which included all four 'Bandits', finally called it a day at 7.30 am and the 42nd St. George's Annual Ball was officially declared over and a great success!





Ball Sponsors

THE BANGKOK ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

- Siam Inter-Continental Hotel • KLM Royal Dutch Airlines • Transpo International Ltd.
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- Phuket Country Club
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- Pearl Village, Samui
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- JW Marriott
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- Evergreen Laurel
- The British Club
- Amari Atrium
- Novotel
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- Fortune Hotel
- Rajawongse
- Bourbon Street Bar and Restaurant
- Nickermann's Tailors
- Panipa Beauty Salon
- Pansy's Beauty Salon

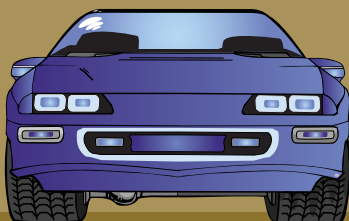
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Society Projects

THAILAND HILLTRIBES EDUCATION PROJECT – (THEP)

The above project is supported by Susan Race of Lotus Design & Publishing Co., Ltd. which produces cards, calendars, gift wrap, tags, gifts etc. The proceeds from this company go towards supplying



educational aids and assistance for the hilltribes of Thailand. St. George's Society has made previous donations to THEP and the photograph shows the generator which was supplied by the Society. Outside the building housing the generator stands Khun Prasert who is Headmaster at the Ban Khun Wong School.

Susan is now trying to raise more for a school boarding house for 20 students and I am sure St. George's Society will be able to help in some way in the future. Congratulations to Susan for her hard work and efforts in this commendable undertaking.

Gale Bailey

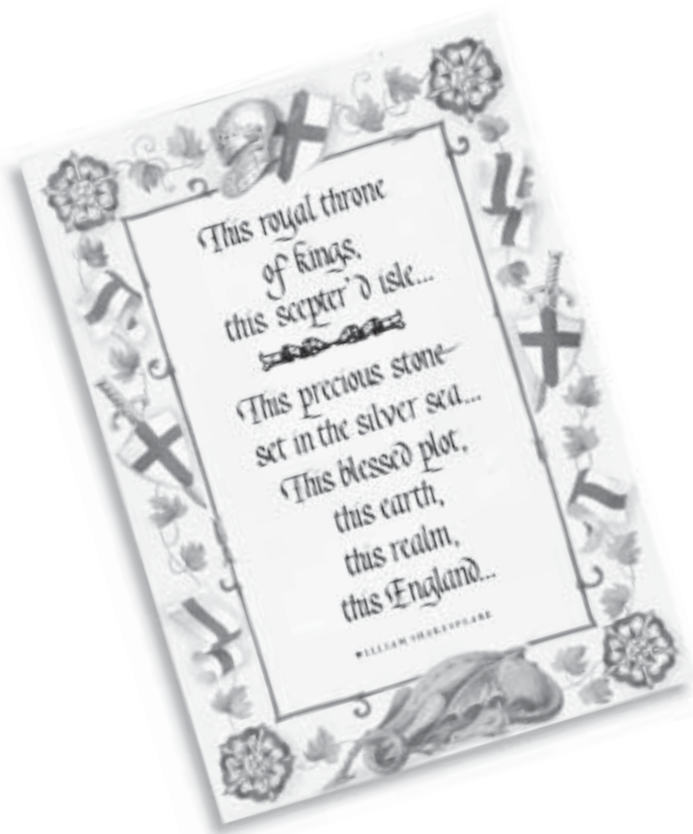
Obituary

FAREWELL TO NICHOLAS LYNX-LOMONDE



Sadly Nicholas passed away on 8th May, 2002 after a long illness. Many St. George's Society members will remember Nicholas as a cheerful, friendly and kind man who enjoyed organising and attending many of the monthly activities, particularly the Quiz

Nights. Nicholas' circumstances before he died were unfortunate – he was between jobs when he was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer and consequently his new company's insurance would not cover any related expenses. The St. George's Society raised around 20,000 baht from an appeal just before his death and many of his close friends from the British Club, the Curry Club and the St. George's gave financial support throughout his illness. The British Embassy also helped by arranging for the Officers Association to pay his final hospital bill and for his old school to pay for his cremation at the Temple. Before coming to Thailand, Nicholas was an officer in the Military Police and served in Northern Ireland. The Society sends its condolences to Khun Apple, Nicholas's second wife, who dedicated herself to looking after him during his illness.



Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee

A LOOK BACK AT ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY CELEBRATIONS



Each year the President of the Bangkok St. George's Society sends birthday wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. In this special Golden Jubilee Year, the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting, Susan Hussey, has acknowledged, on behalf of Her Majesty, the congratulations sent by the Society in the following letter. It is exciting to think that Her Majesty has seen 'The Banner' magazines and is aware of the 'English' activities that the Society organises in Her honour.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

To: The President, Council and Members of the Bangkok St. George's Society

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you all for sending birthday wishes to Her Majesty on the occasion of the Annual St. George's Day Ball.

The Queen was interested to see the Society's magazine "The Banner" that you kindly enclosed, and to know that the local Thai and English communities enjoy the social functions you arrange on a monthly basis, promoting English traditions and customs.

Her Majesty hopes you will understand that as she has been overwhelmed with kind letters over the last few months it has not been possible to reply to your thoughtful letter until now. The Queen has been deeply touched by the wonderful response to her Golden Jubilee and thanks you again for your good wishes.

Susan Hussey

Lady-in-Waiting

26th June 2002

This year's St. George's Annual was a special tribute to Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee – the programme contained a message of congratulations and souvenir Golden Jubilee tumblers were given away to all guests.

English Festivals

OAK APPLE DAY, OAK APPLE DAY, IS ON THE 29TH MAY

Good King Charles hid in me then fled to France across the sea,
But back he came to his people loyal
And for my deed he made me Royal

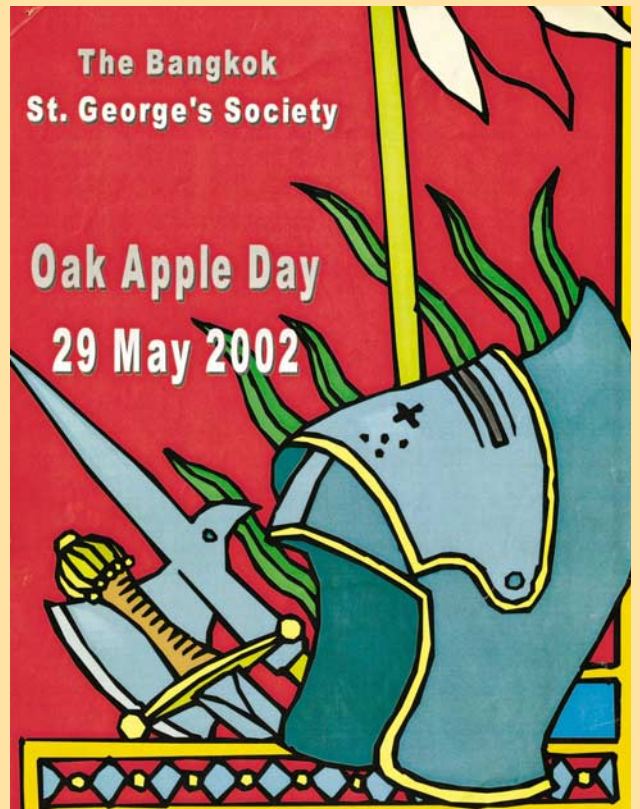


Who knew much, if anything, about Oak Apple Day before Jane Peake, our own little fount of knowledge, put us wise! Jane distributed information sheets and devised one of her wonderful quizzes which had us all scratching our heads and digging deep into the old memory bank! Oak Apple Day was celebrated at the British Club with food befitting its title, Parsnip and Apple Soup, Pork and Apple Casserole, Baked Apple, to name a few on offer. As usual, the food was so delicious that many of us were forced to sample a small portion of each item on the menu (goodbye diet yet again!).



Raffle prizes were sponsored by Amari Hotel, Bourbon Street and BNH, and to keep the tongues from wagging, 'Jammy Gale' did not win anything, but the person sitting next to her was a lucky recipient! This would have pleased Andy Pickup who was unable to attend as he had just become a daddy again. Congratulations to Andy and Nan, and welcome to Nikome, a sister for Philip.

The brain-teasing quiz was won by Michael Pomphrey who sat at 'the clever table'. He very chivalrously handed his prize over to Stella Bryant who he decreed deserved to be the winner. For the record Terry Adams and his quiz partner, Ann Davies won the booby prize (who said two heads are better than one!) Obviously the 'No conferring' rules were not applied!



Yet another enjoyable evening was spent in the company of the St. George's 'crowd' even though we all went home with headaches after trying to answer the questions. Thanks to all concerned for organising this event but especially to Jane for the hand-outs and quiz. We are all going to miss you and wish you good luck for the future when you return to England in July.



Gallothai Chocolate Factory



You just knew it was going to be a good St. George's event when the morning started with delicious coffee and hot chocolate. We are so easy to please! We were welcomed to the Gallothai coffee shop (open daily) by Jean-Louis Graindorge, General Manager, who explained about the different types of cocoa beans and the processes for making various types of chocolate. It was very interesting and obvious that Jean-Louis is totally committed to producing quality chocolate products. Many factors govern this, one of which is the hot and humid climate which creates difficulties in ensuring 'factory fresh condition' when transporting to commercial outlets.

We then went to the adjoining factory where there was much hilarity when we all had to don white hairnets for hygiene purposes – just look at the photos for a laugh! It was quite fascinating to be shown the procedures for making hollow chocolate bunnies and solid Easter eggs - the sampling was a much-appreciated bonus. They were almost as yummy as Jean-Louis! Hygiene and correct procedures are fervently observed in this haven of mouth-watering delights, so we could only observe the 'shop floor' through a window, wondering how the staff could resist popping the odd chocolate into their mouths. We were assured that the novelty of being a chocoholic soon wears off when you work with the product every day. I wonder

With the visit taking place just before Easter, we all made purchases of eggs and bunnies. How could we resist? But I wonder how many lasted until Easter, many of us succumbing to temptation I am sure!

We continued on to Soi 39 to Brown Eyes Café for lunch in a very pleasant bistro run by Kumi Yuki. It also houses an art gallery and ceramic studio – worth a visit. The set lunch is extremely reasonable and well presented in a friendly atmosphere. The warm bread, salad, pasta and ice cream were delicious, however the two juniors, Pickup and Allen, resorted to chips and ketchup! A very pleasant morning for St. George's members.

