

the Companion

magazine for the College of St George



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DIARY OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 2 Lunchtime Organ recital
- 2 Quarterly Obit at Evensong
- 9 Lunchtime Organ recital
- 14, 15 & 16 Solemnity of St George
- 16 Lunchtime Organ recital
- 23 Lunchtime Organ recital
- 30 Lunchtime Organ recital

JULY

- 2 Feast of Title - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 5 St George's School speech day
- 7 Lunchtime Organ recital

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

- 27 September Obit at 10.45 am
- 27, 28 & 30 Windsor Festival recital, talk and concert

OCTOBER

- 2 Windsor Festival concert
- 13 Feast of Title – Edward the Confessor.
- 21 Bond Memorial Lecture by Professor Jane Geddes (Gilebertus & John Tresilian, two master smiths of the Middle Ages in St George's Chapel)

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints
- 2 All Souls
- 8 Remembrance Sunday
- 14 'Come & Sing' with John Rutter
- 29 Advent Sunday

DECEMBER

- 1 Quarterly Obit at Evensong
- 15 December concert (FESTIVO)
- 23 Nine Lessons & Carols at 5.15pm
- 24 Nine Lessons & Carols at 5.15pm and Midnight Mass at 11.15 pm
- 25 Christmas Day– services include Sung Mattins at 10.45 am and Evensong at 3.30 pm

REGULAR SERVICES AT ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, TO WHICH ALL ARE WELCOME, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

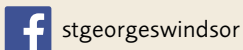
SUNDAY

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.45 am *Mattins with sermon
- 12 noon *Sung Eucharist
- 5.15 pm *Evensong

MONDAY TO SATURDAY

- 7.30 am Mattins
- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 5.15 pm *Evensong (except Wednesdays when the service is said)

FRIDAY Additional 12 noon Holy Communion Service
**sung by the choir of St George's Chapel during term time*



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Companion Committee: Colonel David Axson, Emma Goble, Carol Griffiths, Charlotte Manley LVO OBE, Kate McQuillan, Canon Dr James Woodward (Editor) ©2015 The Dean and Canons of Windsor.

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the Companion

Photograph: Karen Townsend



The Dean of Windsor wearing the mantle of the Register of the Order of the Garter

In this edition of *The Companion* you will read a good deal about the Order of the Garter, its history and the annual celebrations associated with it at St George's, Windsor.

In this introductory piece, I wish to set 'Garter Day' within the context of 'The Solemnity of St George', a three day period during which members of this College and community give special thanks for all they have received down through the ages, and renew their commitment to prayer and service.

On the first day of the Solemnity, the Sunday before Garter Day, the usual services are held in St George's Chapel, but with significant additions.

Mattins is a special service of thanksgiving for the founding of the College by King Edward III in 1348, and for our many benefactors. It includes an opportunity for members of the College to renew our intention to remain faithful to our vocation and to be worthy of

the trust invested in us. It is a service in which we are especially mindful of our many blessings, and particularly conscious of a corresponding obligation.

At Evensong, we commemorate King Edward IV who, in 1475, was empowered by the Bishop of Salisbury to "take all measures necessary for the building of a new and greater Church for this College". We 'celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer' in which Edward IV is buried, and once more pray to be worthy of the many blessings that we have received.

On Monday morning, at the daily eucharist it is St George, made patron of the Order of the Garter by Edward III, for whom we offer thanks. We remember that he bore witness to the risen Lord, and we pray that we, in our turn, shall be filled with the same "faith and power of love" that marked his life.

Then, later in the day comes the Garter Service itself. Companions of the Order process with the Sovereign from the State Apartments to the Chapel where a great congregation will join with them in a service of thanksgiving to God for the establishment of the Order, and for all that it has come to represent. When new Companions have been appointed, having been invested earlier in the day, they will be installed during this service; given their own place in their own Chapel.

Once more, at this service, there is a profound sense of rededication. We pray that "we may bear our part with those illustrious Companions who have witnessed to thy truth and upheld thine honour". The ideal of chivalry is held before our eyes, and we are therefore encouraged to aspire to the virtues of courage, honour, courtesy, justice and the readiness to help the weak.

On Tuesday, the third day of the Solemnity, a quieter note is struck. At the Garter Requiem, a beautiful service sung by our choir at the end of the day, we remember the Companions who have departed this life. We give thanks for all that God has given us through their lives, and we pray for them, as indeed we do at almost every service held within the walls of St George's Chapel when we pray the Garter Prayer: "God save our gracious Sovereign and all the Companions, living and departed, of the Most Honourable and Noble Order of the Garter".

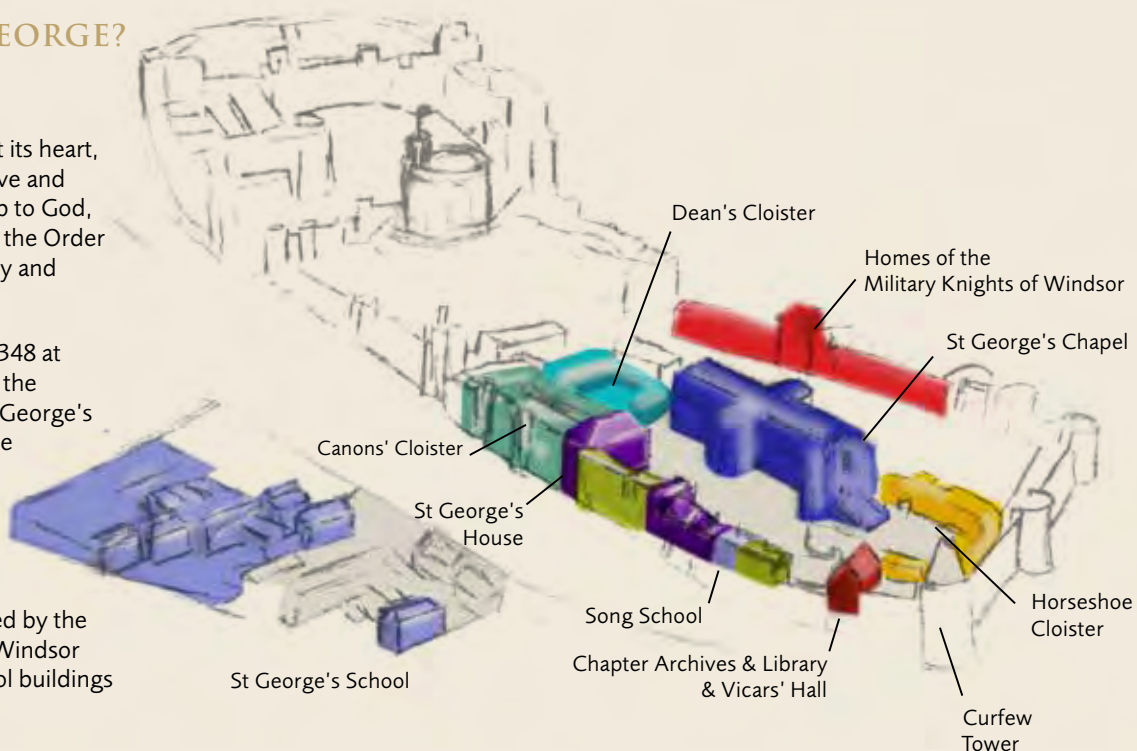
The three days of the Solemnity include a good deal of festivity and pageantry. Members of the College and community derive much pleasure from welcoming and entertaining guests, and offering generous hospitality. At the heart of it however, there remains something very serious. To put it at its most simple: we remember with thanks all that we owe to those who have gone before us, and we pledge ourselves, in following their example, to contribute in whatever ways we can to the well-being of others.

*The Right Reverend David Conner KCVO,
Dean of Windsor and Register of the Order of the Garter*

WHAT IS THE COLLEGE OF ST GEORGE?

The College of St George is, at its heart, a community of people who live and work together to offer worship to God, prayers for the Sovereign and the Order of the Garter, service to society and hospitality to visitors.

The College was founded in 1348 at the same time as the Order of the Garter and now consists of St George's School, St George's House, the Military Knights of Windsor, the Chapter Library & Archives and the Choir as well as, at the centre, St George's Chapel itself. The buildings, owned and occupied by the College, take up a quarter of Windsor Castle together with the school buildings outside the north wall.



THE ORIGINS OF THE ORDER OF THE GARTER

An element of mystery surrounds the foundation of the Order of the Garter. Neither the precise date that it came into being, nor the reason that a garter was chosen as its emblem are known for certain.

King Edward III, who founded the Order, became king of England in 1327 when he was only fifteen years old. Much of his reign was spent warring over territory – with both Scotland in the north and the French across the Channel. In such turbulent times, the king needed strong and unfailingly loyal men about him.

In addition to this, Edward III had a definite interest in knightly and chivalric traditions: he loved to participate in and practise for tournaments and was fascinated by the tales of Arthurian legend.¹ To establish his own fraternity, like Arthur's Knights of the Round Table, would have appealed both to Edward's pragmatic nature as a king at war and to his sense of courtly romance and nobility.

The idea of a chivalrous company of knights in England (several already existed in other parts of Europe) seems to have developed during a week-long tournament held at Windsor in January

1344. According to fourteenth-century chronicler Adam Murimuth, Edward III announced his intention to found a Round Table of three hundred knights in front of all attending the tournament. He swore on the Bible that he would accomplish this scheme and a number of the knights present swore to support him in it.²

In the event, the three hundred-strong company never came into being. Much of the time and money, not only of the king but of all his loyal knights, was absorbed by the war with France, which in part came to a head with Edward III's victory over Philip VI of France at the Battle of Crécy in the summer of 1346.

In 1348 Edward III began to spend more time at Windsor Castle than he had in previous years. He had always visited it, as he would any of his royal residences, but now he began to favour the Castle. It was very likely during this time that he



A seventeenth century depiction of Edward III and the first Companions of the Order of the Garter

developed the idea of basing his new fraternity, now limited in number to himself, his son (the Black Prince) and twenty-four Companions, at Windsor.³ The king's Great Wardrobe account shows that the feast day of St George – the soldier martyr who was made the patron of the Order of the Garter and eventually of England – was first formally celebrated here in 1349.⁴ The earliest surviving Garter statutes are much later, dating from 1415. This makes it hard to pin down a 'birth date' for the Order.



A carving in St George's Chapel of Edward III and his Knights of the Garter.

What is certain, however, is that on 6 August 1348 Edward III issued letters patent founding the College of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St George and St Edward at Windsor. The College was to have twenty-four priests, twenty-four beadsmen, a body of singing men and boys and a virger. Although the Order of the Garter may not have been officially established by this date, it is clear that the College was designed as a support to it and so it is likely that the Order came fully into being shortly afterwards.⁵

The popularly repeated story behind the choice of a garter to symbolise the Order is that whilst at a ball the king noticed that a young lady's garter had fallen down and, in order to save her from embarrassment, he immediately picked it up and announced "honi soit qui mal y pense" – shame on him who thinks evil of it – the phrase that later became the motto of the Order of the Garter. This amusing story seems to have originated around two hundred years after the foundation of the Order, however. The explanation favoured by many historians has less to do with ladies' under-garments and more with Edward III's ambitions for the throne of France. Ashmole proposes that the symbol of a buckled garter represents the binding together of the company of knights, to one another and to their sovereign, in all their endeavours. He also believes it is no coincidence that the garter is depicted in the French colours of blue and gold, or that the motto appears in French rather than English or Latin, but that these were further indications by Edward of his claims to France, which he challenged anyone to doubt.⁶

(Endnotes)

1. Begent, P. & Chesshyre, H., *The Most Noble of the Garter: 650 Years* (London, 1999), pp. 10-11
2. *Ibid.*, pp. 12-13
3. Saul, N., 'St George's Chapel and the Foundation of the Order of the Garter' in N. Saul & T. Tatton-Brown (eds.), *St George's Chapel, Windsor: History and Heritage* (Stanbridge, 2010), p. 46
4. *Ibid.*, p. 45
5. Begent & Chesshyre, p. 14
6. Ashmole, E., *The Institution, Laws & Ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter* (facsimile edition published by Frederick Muller Ltd., London, 1971), pp. 183-184



Kate McQuillian
Assistant Archivist

ORDER OF THE GARTER TIMELINE

- c.1348** Foundation of the Order of the Garter (exact date unknown).
- 1348** Foundation of the College of St George, Windsor Castle
- 1349** First formal celebration of the feast day of St George at Windsor (23 April)
- 1352** Statutes of the College of St George ratified
- 1415** Earliest surviving Garter statutes (in Latin). Office of Register of the Order mentioned
- 1417** Office of Garter Principal King of Arms instituted
- 1475** Office of Chancellor of the Order instituted
- 1522** Henry VIII issued revised statutes (in French)
- 1635** Office of Register of the Garter joined to the Deanery of Windsor
- 1643-59** Dean and Canons ejected from Windsor Castle by the Commonwealth; the Poor Knights permitted to remain
- 1786** George III declared that his sons (including the Prince of Wales) and those of his successors, if elected, should be additional (supernumerary) members and not be included in the Company of the 26.
- 1805** George III allowed all lineal descendants of George II, if elected, to be additional (supernumerary) members
- 1813** With the installation of Emperor Alexander I of Russia in 1813, supernumerary membership was extended to foreign monarchs, known as "Stranger Knights". Each such installation originally required the enactment of a statute.
- 1831** George III allowed all lineal descendants of George I, if elected, to be additional (supernumerary) members.
- 1901** Edward VII declared his wife, Queen Alexandra, a Lady of the Order of the Garter
- 1904** Office of Secretary of the Order created by Edward VII
- 1939** George VI abolished the system of allocating stalls at Windsor by ranks and seniority
- 1948** 600th anniversary of foundation of Order. Revival of Garter procession and service
- 1954** Statute authorised admission of Stranger Knights without further special enactments
- 1987** Statute issued by Elizabeth II enabled appointment of Lady Companions of the Order



Garter Day – Preparations behind the scenes

Preparations begin months ahead and continue into the last few hours before the Service of Thanksgiving on the afternoon of Garter Day which is the central day of the three day Solemnity of St George.

Some 8,000 tickets are printed in the Chapter Office and then distributed either to departments or individuals; about one eighth of the tickets are individually named and collated and sent out with as much background information as possible. The Chapter staff work with the police and pass office as well as internally to ensure all the lists are accurate. The draft Order of Service is prepared by the Register (the Dean) and the Secretary of the Order; the Garter Booklet is prepared in the Chapter Office. The Chapel is made ready by the Virger and his staff and the Clerk of Works and his team; the Nave altar and sanctuary are removed, seats are turned to face inwards, everything possible is polished or dusted and a blue carpet is laid the full length of the central aisle. The Lay Stewards and Guild of Stewards are





briefed on their duties inside and outside the Chapel, the Clerk of Works team erects ropes and stanchions and ensures the Friends of St George's stand, erected by outside contractors, is a safe structure. On the day itself the Chapel plate is put on the High altar, Guards musicians are welcomed into the Cloisters to rehearse and be given refreshments, the outside areas are given a final sweep and all cars are moved away. The Military Knights of Windsor and others in the procession rehearse on the Friday before Garter Day but the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and the Yeomen of the Guard march in for a final check on their positions before the doors open. St George's House caterers prepare for a lunch in the Vicars' Hall and the Friends tea. The organ is given a final tuning before the choir and organists rehearse. The flower arrangers have by then been at work and the police conduct a final search. After the service is over and the processions have all passed the Chapel is open to those people who have stood in the precincts. This opening is overseen by Stewards but only when the Chapel staff and Clerk of Works team have set up ramps, rolled up part of the carpet and removed some of the chairs. Evening Prayer follows at 6pm and then the organists have a chance to practice for the Garter Requiem which takes place the following day.



Miss Charlotte Manley, LVO, OBE, Chapter Clerk



EPIPHANY

A SHORT STORY SET IN ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL

Bach. The sweep and swell of organ music reminded her always of the sea. It seemed to flood the Quire as the choristers, the Canons, and finally the Dean made their way towards the altar and out into the North Aisle. She sat down again, waiting until the few Evensong worshippers had left the Chapel and she had the place almost to herself. The Virger and a Chapel Steward flitted silently along the stalls, gathering service sheets, quietly readying the place for Mattins.

She had not come to pray. She had not prayed in years. Church had been a habit in her childhood. She remembered the small seaside chapel, the tang of salt sea air on her lips but once she left home, drifting restlessly from place to place, like many habits it had drifted away also. She and Tom had married impetuously in a registry office with neither family present and she often wondered if they had had children whether she would even have had them baptised.

Yet, here she was, a woman in her late thirties, on a bright, gusty summer evening seated beneath the Garter Banners, the stall plates on the walls glinting in yellow light, the dead of English history in the shadows all around her. Impulse had brought her to this place. Her appointment had finished early; the rest of the afternoon was hers. A friend in London had spoken of the beauty of Evensong at St George's Chapel, so she made her way along the river, then through the town to the Henry VIII Gate, the late summer sun warm on her back.

Tom was in America now. 'Marry in haste, repent at leisure,' her father had written unoriginally some months after the marriage. She had torn the letter with its precise handwriting into shreds, laughing or crying, she no longer remembered which.

After her father died, her mother had come to London once or twice on some pretext or other. They met for tea in a little Italian café near Buckingham Palace but the conversation each time was stilted, both aware that they had never been close. When they said their brisk goodbyes at Victoria Station it was with relief.

She closed her eyes to stop this rush of memory, willing the music to fill her very being, as if Bach might somehow purge

her of the relentless reckoning. Two hours ago she had sat across a desk from Dr Morgan as he guided her through his notes, all the time trying to conjure the adjective that would best capture him; the tweed jacket (even in summer), the bow-tie, lively but not, as her old French teacher might have said, *de trop*; the reading glasses perched just so at the end of his nose. Preposterous, perhaps. She smiled to herself. Over his shoulder, through a bay window, she watched a skein of geese glide silently westward across the sky.

She might call Tom later. Or email him. Perhaps she owed him that. A weariness settled on her. She was suddenly exhausted. The thought of getting herself back to the train station seemed utterly overwhelming. Avuncular. That was the word. The avuncular Dr Morgan. Only when she assured him that she had come not in hope but for confirmation did his professional demeanour slip slightly. For a moment she thought she caught the faintest tremor in his voice. Perhaps he had a daughter her age himself.

"I'm afraid I have to lock up for the night." The Virger was standing next to her.

"Of course. I'm so sorry. She stood up and began to gather her belongings. "Does the organist have to leave now too?"

"Dear me, no. We lock him in with the ghosts." He smoothed the front of his cassock. "It's a tradition."

She smiled, began to ease her way along the stall, then stopped and turned to him.

"Do you think I could have one more minute?"

He looked at her, puzzled.

"Of course. But just one. Let me close the Vestry door and come back for you."

As he left, sunlight picked out the reds and blues, the greens and yellows of the stain glass windows. She made her way to the altar, stood before it silently for a moment, then knelt.

She prayed wordlessly, to the sound of Bach, for all the living and the dead, and the dying. Somewhere in the late summer sky, a skein of geese made its way westward.



Gary McKeone
Programme Director
St George's House



THE DEANERY – FROM GARTER ROBINING TO RECENT REFURBISHMENT



The current Deanery building encompasses elements of the 14th century Garter Knights' Chapter House, Vestry and Warden's Lodgings of the Order of the Garter. The highly evocative Dean's Private Chapel at the south end of the Chapter House range (now the Drawing Room) acted as the Vestry, connecting the

Chapter House to the original St George's Chapel (where the Albert Memorial Chapel now stands). The Vestry would have been at the heart of the original Garter ceremonies as it would undoubtedly have been used as a place to store sacred objects such as copes, chasubles, relics and altar ornaments which were in regular use in the Chapel. It would also have been the starting point for the eight daily offices of the



Chapter House to the original St George's Chapel (where the Albert Memorial Chapel now stands). The Vestry would have been at the heart of the original Garter ceremonies as it would undoubtedly have been used as a place to store sacred objects such as copes, chasubles, relics and altar ornaments which were in regular use in the Chapel. It would also have been the starting point for the eight daily offices of the



Dean and Canons, as well as the annual Garter Masses and Evensongs, until services were transferred from the old St George's Chapel to the new at the end of the fifteenth century.

Another little known link between the Deanery and the Order of the Garter is the remarkable table of arms of the Garter Knights in the Dean's study. These elaborate panels date from the late 18th Century when this particular room was used as the Garter Chamber. The tradition of adding the coats of arms of new Garter Knights has been maintained to this day and the resulting panels are truly beautiful.

The Deanery building itself spans the history of the Order of the Garter. There has, of course, been change and refurbishment to the building over the centuries, the most recent of which has just been completed. This latest refurbishment has taken 18 months to complete and has included replacement of the defective copper roofing with new cast-lead roofing, relaying the old hand-made roof tiles, repairs to stone and brick chimneys to the exterior of the building. Internal repairs and refurbishment have involved conservation and repair work to the stonework in the Dean's Private Chapel, complete electrical re-wiring of the building, repairs to timber floors,

fireplaces and hearths. Major works, such as these, are beyond the resources of the Dean and Canons and this project has only been possible with the support of the Canadian Bray Fellowship who have donated over £3.7m.

The Bray and Canadian Bray Fellowships continue our link to the Order of the Garter as they take their name from one of the first benefactors, Sir Reginald Bray, a Garter Knight who died in 1503 and



Photographs: Charlotte Manley



"As Founder of the Canadian Bray I am extremely grateful to those Canadians who have willingly supported this important restoration. Garter Day and St George's are symbols of the monarchy not just here in England, but all across the Commonwealth. We hope that the Canadian Bray's restoration of the Deanery speaks of the enduring bond between Canada and the Crown."
 The Hon. Hilary Weston, Founder of the Canadian Bray Fellowship

left the bulk of his estate to help with the completion of the new St George's Chapel. Our present day Bray Fellows are very much a part of life here at St George's and are often in attendance at services or concerts in St George's. With this edition focusing on the Order of the Garter, we invited some of our Canadian Bray Fellows to tell us what the Deanery project and attending the Garter Day service has meant to them:

"Occasionally in life you are offered an opportunity to put your energies and beliefs into a special project that will withstand the test of time, and give joy to many for years ahead. To have the chance to work with fellow Canadians, under the leadership of The Honourable Hilary M. Weston, and become part of restoring a place of significant religious and historical importance, is a delight and a privilege. Such is the case of The Canadian Bray Fellowship of the College of St George."

Finally, it goes without saying that the support of all our benefactors, from the largest to the smallest, is vital to the College of St George and we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has supported us.



Carol Griffiths
Fundraising Manager

It also allowed me to experience the service in the Chapel on Garter Day, which is so regal, meaningful and a wonderfully proud tradition. To be a part of this age old ceremony is truly inspiring."

Mrs Janice O'Born,
Chair of the Canadian Bray Fellowship

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In this photographic procession **The Queen** is shown with two pages carrying the train of the Garter mantle. By The Queen's side is **The Duke of Edinburgh**; both were installed as members of the Order in 1948. The Sovereign's mantle differs from all others in that it carries an embroidered Garter star rather than Garter badge.

The Garter Day procession is one of the magnificent sights in Windsor Castle's year.

The procession, through the precincts, is lined by Troopers and Guardsmen of the Household Cavalry and of the Brigade of Guards. It links the investitures held in the Garter Throne Room of the State Apartments to the Service of Thanksgiving held in St George's Chapel. During the Service new Companions of the Order of the Garter are installed.

Heralds, or to be more particular, **Kings of Arms, Heralds and Pursuivants** walk in order of seniority with the most junior (Pursuivant) first. It is the role of these Officers of the College of Arms to marshal the procession. In medieval days they organised tournaments and from this has stemmed their modern ceremonial role and their expertise in armory or heraldry. On Garter Day and some other State occasions they wear tabards emblazoned with the Royal Arms; velvet for Kings of Arms, satin for Heralds and damask silk for Pursuivants. They carry white staves with gilded metal handles and topped with a blue dove.

The **Constable and Governor** heads the procession. In former centuries his role, as Constable, was to defend the Castle in time of siege. The photograph shows Sir Ian Macfadyen wearing the uniform of an Air Marshal. This year his successor, Admiral Sir James Perowne, will march in Royal Navy uniform. The Constable & Governor lives in Norman Tower just to the north of the Round Tower.





Twelve members of **The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard** (formed in 1485) march in their distinctive Tudor uniforms carrying partisans over their right shoulders with two of their Officers ahead and one, the Exon, following. It is he who brings the outside procession to an end.

The first four, of six, **Officers of the Order of the Garter** seen in procession are the Secretary, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, Garter Principal King of Arms and the Register. They can be distinguished by mantles of crimson satin. Garter carries a silver gilt sceptre of office and Black Rod carries, unsurprisingly, a black rod. The Register is the Dean of Windsor, he keeps the signed list of Knight attendees from year to year. They are followed by the Prelate (the Bishop of Winchester) and the Chancellor, a KG (currently The Duke of Abercorn) both wearing blue velvet mantles. Both the Prelate and the current Register (as he is a Bishop as well as Dean) wear purple Tudor bonnets rather than the black ones worn by others in the procession.

Royal Knights of the Garter walk in pairs and their robes mirror those of the Companions of the Order. A collar chain of gold knots alternating with enamelled rose medallions is worn over the mantle and is tied at the shoulders with white bows. An enamelled three dimensional figure of St George slaying the dragon hangs from the collar. A black velvet tudor bonnet with ostrich feathers is also worn.

There are up to 24 **Knights and Ladies of the Order** in this section of the procession. They wear a blue mantle made from silk velvet lined with white silk taffeta. The cross of St George, encircled by a Garter bearing the words 'Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense' is embroidered on the left hand side of the mantle. A crimson silk velvet hood sits on the right shoulder. Gold and blue cordons hold the mantle together at the front.

Once the procession reaches St George's Chapel it is led up the centre aisle by the Cross Bearer, Sacristans, Beadles, Choristers, Lay Clerks, Director of Music, Canons Emeritus, Virger and Chapel Clergy thereby adding almost a third to the length of the outside procession. On duty in the Chapel are not only more Yeomen of the Guard but also the State Trumpeters and The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. Formed in 1509 the Gentlemen at Arms wear the uniform of a Heavy Dragoon Guards officer of the 1840s and carry ceremonial battle axes which are 300 years old. They are sometimes known as the 'Nearest Guard' and stand on duty throughout the Service close to the Sovereign.

The **Military Knights of Windsor** are led in formation by their Governor. The route through the Castle takes them past their homes in the Lower Ward. Formed in 1348 to represent the Knights of the Garter their numbers were originally 26 to mirror that of the Knights but are now a Governor plus twelve. They parade at Mattins in St George's Chapel on Sundays in term time and undertake a number of ceremonial roles such as carrying and escorting the banner of a deceased Knight of the Garter when it is laid upon the High Altar before being returned to the family. They wear the uniform of an army officer on the unattached list in 1833.

Miss Charlotte Manley, LVO, OBE, Chapter Clerk



Dean Christopher Wren, Register of the Order of the Garter 1635-1659, with the Garter Register

THE REGISTER OF THE ORDER OF THE GARTER

On Garter Day the Dean of Windsor wears the badge and crimson robes of the Register of the Order and processes down the hill to the Chapel with his fellow Garter Officers, Black Rod, the Garter King of Arms, the Chancellor, the Prelate and the Secretary of the Order; his Garter office overriding his position as Dean.



The office of Register dates from the early days of the Order; the only Garter office mentioned in the first surviving Garter statutes of 1415. Although generally a member of the College of St George, there have been two exceptions – Thomas Ruthall (c.1507-1509), with no College connection, and Thomas (later Cardinal) Wolsey, appointed Register in 1510, the year before becoming a Canon. Prior to 1558, when it became common practice to appoint the Dean as Register, the office was generally held by a Canon. It was formally annexed to the Deanery in 1635, on the appointment of Dean Christopher Wren (father of the famous architect).

The Register's principal duty was, unsurprisingly, to maintain a register, recording decisions of the Garter Chapter (the Order's governing body), Garter elections and the notable achievements (and misdemeanours) of Garter Knights. The surviving Windsor registers, rescued by Dean Christopher Wren from the Parliamentarians during the English Commonwealth, are now held in the St George's Chapel Archives.

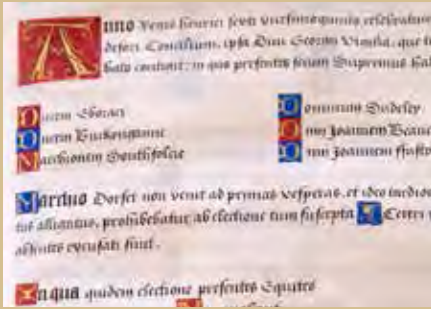
The first of these, the Black Book of the Garter, was commenced by Canon Robert Aldrych, Register from 1534 to 1537. It includes earlier entries, from Edward III's reign, copied from annals no



Portrait of James I in the Red Book of the Garter

Photograph: David Clare

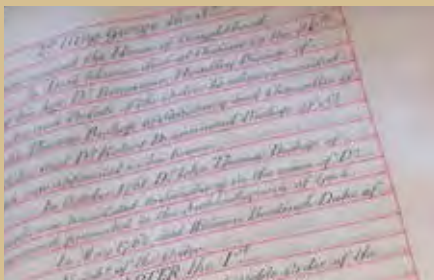




Illuminated entry in the Black Book of the Garter relating to Henry VI's reign



Henry VIII and his Garter Knights from the Black Book of the Garter



Record in the Gold Book of the Garter of the death of Dr Benjamin Hoadly, Garter Prelate, in 1761

longer extant. The volume is beautifully illuminated, almost certainly by Henry VIII's court painter, Lucas Horenbout, with decorated borders and portraits of new Sovereigns at the commencement of each reign. In the centre, a double-paged opening depicts two scenes: Henry VIII seated on his throne, surrounded by his Knights of the Garter, and taking part in a Garter procession. The subsequent two registers (the Blue and Red Books) are similarly, if less extravagantly, decorated and, whilst the later registers contain text only, they remind us of the Dean's continuing Garter role.



Dr Clare Rider FSA
Archivist and
Chapter Librarian



The Manner of sitting at Dinner of Maximilian King of the Romans, on the day of his Investiture.



The Manner of sitting at Dinner of Ferdinand Prince of Spaine, on the day of his Investiture.

Engraving shows two Garter Knights feasting after their installation into the Order

INVESTITURE & INSTALLATION

Vacant positions in the Order of the Garter are filled by the Sovereign, who appoints, invests and installs each new Companion.

Investiture must take place before installation, although both can be on the same day. During investiture a Companion Elect is presented with the Garter robes and regalia – the Garter, riband, star and collar. Knights have the Garter buckled below their left knee and Ladies on their left upper-arm. They make an oath to uphold the Garter statutes and the rule of the Sovereign.

Installation takes place in St George's Chapel, Windsor. On Garter Day the Sovereign and the Companions and Officers of the Order process through Windsor Castle for a service in the Chapel. During the service the Sovereign announces that the newly invested Companions are to be installed as members of the Order and they are escorted to their stalls in the Quire by a Garter Officer.



This completes the formal process of admitting a new Companion into the Order of the Garter.

Kate McQuillan
Assistant Archivist



TE DEUM

Music, both sacred and secular, is a central component of Garter Day.

At the heart of the service in St George's Chapel is the Te Deum, an ancient Christian hymn of praise which remains in regular use in the Church as a thanksgiving to God on special occasions, and, of course, in the Anglican Church at the service of Mattins.



Choir practice in the Quire

The text has provided an inspiration for composers for many centuries and is, despite its rich imagery, difficult to set to music: the least convincing settings lose a sense of musical and textual cohesion due to the sectionalised structure of the text. That said, the best settings enable us to express more profoundly our thanksgiving to God for His work of creating, renewing and sustaining the world.

The earliest existing setting of the Te Deum dates from c. 880 and through the following centuries it was set, in Latin, with increasing complexity culminating in the grand multi-movement works of the 19th and 20th centuries. Settings of the Te Deum in English appeared after the Reformation and, with Purcell's setting in 1694 for St Cecilia's Day, a tradition of English 'festal' settings was begun, and continued by composers such as Handel, Parry, Stanford and Walton (for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II).



Over the decades, a number of fine settings from all periods have been sung at the Garter Day service and, in recent years, these have included those by Howells, Stanford and Ireland (all of which are firmly established in the Anglican choral repertoire). Whether we hear them at Mattins on a Sunday or on a special occasion such as Garter Day, it is certain that these settings of such a familiar text will continue to inspire for centuries to come.

James Vivian, Director of Music

The Choir on the West Steps



Photograph: Charlotte Manley

Symbols of Garter Day

At St George's School, pupils attend Garter Day to watch the procession. We have a special area on the grass from where the children can observe the events and we alternate year groups attending so everyone should, at some point, have the opportunity to enjoy it at least once during their school career.

We have attended the Garter procession a few times and we have been dazzled by the elegance and colour of the clothing. The rich colours and flowing silks and velvets are awe-inspiring.

We have observed that some colours and shades are more plentiful than others. We see lots of royal blues, deep purple, vibrant crimson and glistening gold. Also pure white ostrich feathers look very regal and add something special to the robes.

The splendour and magnificence of the robes make the occasion more memorable. The Queen wears a crest with the cross of St George on the left shoulder, encased in a star

as George is our patron saint.

A highlight of the procession is the marching band in their striking red and gold attire. The instruments gleam and sound tuneful.

We decided to research further to find out about symbols of the Royal Garter. Different variations of the St George's cross can be seen throughout the procession. The Garter Star consists of the St George's cross surrounded by a garter embedded in an eight point star. The second cross of St George is simply

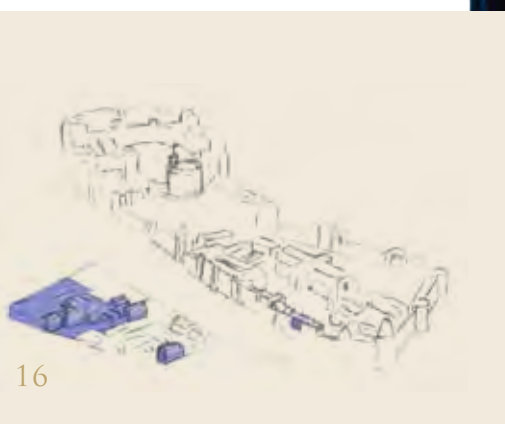
surrounded by a garter. Another symbol of the Royal Garter is the George which shows St George on the back of a horse, slaying a dragon. The badge is worn from a small gold chain, hanging at the right hip.

The Garter is worn around the left calf by Knights and the left arm by ladies and is often seen surrounding the St George's cross. The garter is a buckled, blue velvet strap and has the motto written in gold letters. They were once set with jewels but that is now out of fashion. There

have been two styles used; the first, a working garter where the end slips through the buckle and the other a pre-made garter that is buckled, tucked in and



Photograph: Gill Aspel





Garter Star
by Saskia, aged 10

fastened with a clip. The garter used to be a light blue but is now fashioned of a darker blue.

Mantles of the members are a dark blue velvet while the mantles of the Officers are a deep red. The mantles are decorated with the heraldic shield of St George.

The mantle is a robe which throughout the centuries, the colours have varied between celestial blue, violet and pale blue. Mantles are now a deep blue and are lined with white taffeta. The mantles of key members end in trains, over the right shoulder is a dark red hood which have, over time, lost their function. The hat is a black velvet tudor bonnet with a plume of white ostrich feathers and black heron feathers. To attend the Garter Service in the Chapel you must wear a hat.



Portrait of HM The Queen
by Louis, aged 12

Officers wear badges suspended from a link worn around their necks. Different positions wear different badges. The badge of the prelate displays George circled by a garter, with a bishop's mitre on top. The badge worn by the chancellor is a rose. The badge for the register is two intersecting quills over a book with a crown on top. The badge for the usher is a knot with a crown on top. The badge for the secretary displays two intertwined quills in front of a rose with a crown on top. All of these badges are surrounded by a depiction of a garter.

The collar is worn on special collar days. You can wear it over military uniform or over morning dress by members who are attending formal events.

by Louise and Grace, aged 11

A St George's Pupil at Garter Day

*The sun in its radiancy greets Windsor
A splendid sunny display
Excitement of the coming occasion
Because it is Garter Day !*

*Sun cream squirting everywhere
Water bottles ready
Walking up without a care
Our pace is slow and steady*

*Flustered teachers take the tickets
Children finding pairs
Jostling, nervously waiting
Just to climb the chapel stairs*

*Sat in rows on the grassy verge
Hats and suits and all best attire
Gasps of awe as the procession starts to emerge
A breathtaking display for all to admire*

COMMUNITY NEWS 2014 14 December - Baptism of Samuel Hugh Vernon Thompson • 22 December - Interment of ashes of Peter Downward • 29 December – Funeral of Jan Williams 2015 11 January – Installation of Darren Cave as Clerk of Works and Richard Bannan as Lay Clerk • 22 January – Memorial Evensong for Letty Jones • 25 January – Surplicing of Archibald James Prentis and Matthew John Ryland as Choristers • 27 February – Presentation of the Garter Banner of the Duke of Wellington • 22 March – Baptism of Tyler David Fearn • 24 May – Baptism of Belle Whitrod • 24 May – Confirmation of Emma Balaes, Giacomo Balaes, James Button, Matilda Cayton, Alexander Hamilton, George Purdy, Elizabeth Wales and Jemima Wales • 31 May – Admission of Helen Cotterill and Susan Pendry as Lay Stewards • 6 June – Blessing of Marriage of Jenna Tyer and Alex Buckland • 7 June – Baptism of Grace Goulding and Benedicta Sorensen

Stall Plates & 2015 Anniversaries

In the Quire of St George's the Achievements of Arms of the Companions of the Order of the Garter hang above the stalls and the Stall Plates of about 800 Companions are mounted around the walls.

There are three important anniversaries in 2015 represented in the Quire.

Nine companions are recorded as taking part in the **Battle of Agincourt in 1415**



Sir John Grey
Fought in other French wars



Sir Thomas Erpyngham
Constable of Dover Castle
Steward of the Royal Household



Sir John Cornwall
served in Calais campaign, 1436



Sir William Phelipp
Captain of Harfleur, Chamberlain
of the King's Household



The 4th Lord Fitzhugh
Treasurer of England. Helped to
negotiate the Treaty of Troyes



Sir Lewis Robessart
Standard bearer to Henry V
at Agincourt



Sir Simon Felbrigge
in the retinue of John of Gaunt
at the relief of Brest, Standard
bearer to Richard II



The 4th Lord Bourchier
served with Henry V
in Normandy



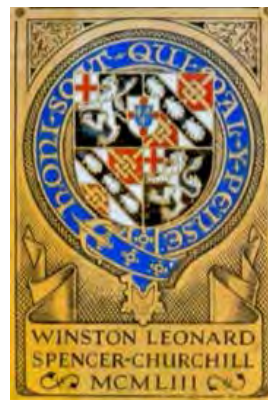
Sir Walter Hungerford
Speaker of the House of Commons,
Chamberlain of the Duchy of
Lancaster, Treasurer of England

Battle of Waterloo 1815



Arthur Wellesley, later the 1st Duke of Wellington, commanded the allied armies, which defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and his Stall Plate is in North 10. This plate and those of the four subsequent Dukes who have been KGs have the augmentation of the Union Flag on the shield commemorating Waterloo.

Death of Sir Winston Churchill 1965



Sir Winston Churchill, one of the greatest statesmen and historians, died in 1965 and his Stall Plate is in North 23. Descended from the 7th Duke of Marlborough (South 24), his ancestor the 1st Duke of Marlborough, the victor at Blenheim is mounted in South 9 and his daughter, Lady Soames, who died recently became a Lady Companion in 2005 and her plate is in North 24.



The new edition of the Catalogue of Stall Plates, printed as a loose leaf document of about 300 pages and enclosed in a full colour binder in order to be able to add new Companions as they are appointed, is available to purchase from St George's Chapel Shop priced at £60 plus £15 postage and packing UK (price on application for overseas). A compact disk, readable on a personal computer is also available price £20 plus £2 postage and packing UK, £5.50 Overseas. To order, contact shop@stgeorges-windsor.org or write to St George's Chapel Shop, 1A The Cloisters, Windsor Castle, Windsor SL4 1NJ

Colonel David Axson, Military Knight of Windsor