25 March 2018

Dear Fellow Member,

On behalf of the Committee I invite you to join us on Tuesday 24 April at The Best Western Shrubbery Hotel, Station Road, Ilminster, TA19 9AR. [Tel: 01460 52108]

This will be the occasion of our AGM, details of which will be circulated separately.

Our guest speaker will be Helen Rappaport, the well-known historian specialising in late Imperial Russia and the reign of Queen Victoria. She has frequently been seen on TV – most recently in “Queen Victoria’s Children”, and previously talking about the Romanov daughters, based on her book, “Four Sisters: the Lost Lives of the Romanov Grand Duchesses”.

On this occasion her talk will focus on her latest book, Caught in the Revolution: Petrograd 1917. This brings a new perspective on the first year of the Russian Revolution, being based on eye-witness accounts of the foreign nationals at the heart of the war-torn capital. Many of them penned vivid descriptions in their private diaries and letters: from the English nurse who survived the Titanic only to end up in Petrograd’s white heat, to the black valet of the American Ambassador to Russia – and even the suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst,

It is voices such as these that will underpin Helen’s compelling and timely talk. We are delighted that she has been able to accommodate us in her busy schedule of engagements, and we hope we can repay the compliment with a larger than usual attendance. This would be an excellent occasion to bring friends (for whom attendance at the AGM would be an entirely optional extra...).

The outline programme will be

1200 – cash bar
1230 – AGM
1300 - lunch
1400 - talk

Directions & Access

The hotel is on the B3168, only half a mile from the A303 and some 10 minutes from the M5. There is ample parking on site. Access is level, with only a few steps to be negotiated inside.
Lunch Menu options

Mains
Whole Baked Plaice with caper butter
Boeuf Bourguignon with rice
Loin of Pork with caramelised apple sauce
Roasted Chestnut, Mushroom & Red Pepper Pithivier
All main courses served with Seasonal Market Vegetables and Potatoes

Desserts
Raspberry Crème Brulée with homemade shortbread
Mixed Berry Eton Mess
Pear & Frangipane Tart with crème anglaise sauce
Fresh Fruit Salad

Tea or Coffee

Costs
The basic cost including lunch is £25 per head.
The closing date for return of booking forms (including menu choices) is Monday 16 April.
Please return the booking form (with cheque) to me at 35 Church Street, Wiveliscombe, Taunton TA4 2LT.
For those who wish to pay on-line, the Society’s bank account details are as follows:
Lloyds, Sort Code: 30 91 84. Account: “The Cambridge Society of Somerset”. Account Number: 23074960. Their booking forms can be emailed to me at adrian.kellett@virgin.net

Forward Programme for 2018
Our plans include
• June 26th (tbc).
  Summer Social (evening) at our Chairman’s home in Crewkerne.
• September (second half)
  Visit to Orchard House, Williton.
• November
  Prof John Bryant to speak at BTC Taunton Campus on recent developments in GM crops
Further details of all these events will be circulated in due course.

With best wishes,
Adrian Kellett
Secretary
(01984 623955)
Ilminster meeting     24 April 2018

Booking Form

[Please use BLOCK CAPITALS]

Name: ............................................. College......................................

Name of Partner: ..........................................

College of Partner if also a Cambridge graduate: .................................

Name(s) of other Guest(s): ....................................................................

**Lunch Selection:** tick choice for each person attending (please copy additional sheets if more than 4 are included in your party)

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**Cost: £25 per person**

Cheque for Total Remittance £...............enclosed
[Cheques should be made payable to: THE CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY OF SOMERSET]

or Please tick if **paying by Bank Transfer** ........