

Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society

Summer Garden Party

Sunday, 16th July 2023



The day before the two solemn days (17th and 18th July) which mark the Martyrdom of the Russian Imperial Family and of GD Elizabeth was the occasion for our Society to hold a Garden Party open to all members and friends. After our Sunday Liturgy in the Chapel of the All-Merciful Saviour in Saint Leonards, we moved to the beautiful garden of St Benedict to sing a moleben (short prayer service) in honour of the Royal Martyrs and St Elizabeth. A wonderful array of food was laid out on tables and our party was accompanied on keyboard by Alexei Knuppfer, our old friend, who is an accomplished pianist and composer. Lots of beautiful pieces of Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Chopin, Khachaturian, Beethoven - a whole programme of Russian and world classical music was brilliantly performed. About 35 people attended, members of the Society with their families, friends and neighbours. A medal of the Society was given to John Harwood, a founding member and a trustee who has been helping the Society as a knowledgeable historian and contributor to all conferences, exhibitions and published works. Another medal was awarded to Anna Scriven, a great supporter of the Society since 2019, who helped the Society to go through difficult times, who also contributed to conferences and magazines and helped with organising many events.

This year the Society was marking 5th anniversary of the unveiling of the Monument to the Romanov-Martyrs on the Isle of Wight (East Cowes). Some members who helped organising this great event were presented with gifts and souvenirs: Natalia and Stuart Wines, Tim and Olga Leeney, Aliona Kozhevnikova, Natalia Lobanova and Father Alexander. A short documentary film produced by the Society in 2018 "The Cross of the Romanovs" was shown to conclude the party. It was based on the footage made by Andrey Shepilov, a friend of the Society, who carefully documented all the events of July 2018. The film also reminded us about the life of the Holy Royal Martyrs, who belonged by birth and culture to Russia, Britain, Denmark and Germany and who have left us an extraordinary example of steadfastness and faith.

See the Report of our recent visit to the Isle of Wight in June 26-27th:

<https://gdelizabeth-society.co.uk/fifth-anniversary-of-the-romanov-monument-on-the-isle-of-wight/>

