GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – January 2009

To all members of the Branch. ***Issue No.* (50)**

The first Newsletter of the year and my opportunity together with the President, Chairman and committee of wishing you all a Peaceful New Year.

BRANCH MEETINGS – AT THE VICTORY CLUB CHELTENHAM

Thursday 29th January 2009. Thursday 26th March (AGM). Thursday 28th May

Thursday 30th July. Thursday 24th September. Thursday 26th November

Please note start times of meetings 19:30 hours to which all members are welcomed

Branch Annual General Meeting. Just to remind everyone that the post of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Social Secretary, Welfare Officer and committee members are all up for re-election. If you would like to consider yourself for election to one of these posts then please let your views be known to the Chairman

Welfare. David Leighton our new Welfare Officer has been very busy and has made many visits including John Stainier who has been in hospital for a serious operation. John is at home now and I was pleased to join David when he visited him. John sends his regards to all members. Boxer Brown was surprised on New Year's Day to receive an unexpected visit from David Leighton, John Carter and myself. He thought for one minute that we had come mob handed to cart him off to the Guard Room to complete his punishment handed out some sixty plus years ago.

Colonel's Fund. The total amount now raised now approaches £1,000.000.00 a magnificent response to date. Thank you to the many members who have supported the cause.

Christmas Social – Sunday 7th December. This turned out to be an exceptional event with a good attendance. For just five pounds members enjoyed a choice of a hot or cold meal with a sweet plus unlimited drinks. Thank you Peter and Pam Jones for all your work in the kitchen. Also all the other willing hands that made the day so enjoyable. Also thank you Alan Holford for promoting the Lottery.
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Pre Christmas break at Littlecote House 19th – 21st December. This went very well with a very good attendance, many and varied entertainment including a superb concert by the Regimental Band,

Formal Lunch – Sunday 26th October. Our formal lunch eventually reached a good number. Many members leave it to the last minute to secure their pace which always causes us a little concern. For the Formal Lunch this year please can I plead that you book on at your earliest.

Dumbleton Christmas Lunch. This private venture organised by Derek Knott was once again a great success. A full compliment thoroughly enjoyed the day. "Well done Derek".

Future Events. Your committee will be busy organising further events for the year which will include Grenadier Day, Formal Lunch, Informal Lunch and a possible visit to the National Memorial Arboretum for the unveiling of the Guards Monument which is now under construction.

Regimental Remembrance Day – Sunday 17th May. Coach will leave Royal Well at 09:00 hours; Gloucester Car Park at Denmans Electrical) 09:20 hours: Cirencester Beeches Car Park 10:00 hours.

Arriving at the Guards Club Windsor at abouyt 11:45 hours where we will stop for lunch and a drink. Do not forget to bring your own packed lunch with you. The bar will be open also cups of tea and coffee will be available. On the return journey we will stop once again at the Guards Club for a Fish and Chi-p Supper. A bread roll with tea and or coffee will be included.

Beating Retreat – Wednesday 3rd June on Horse Guards Parade. Commencing at 21:00 hours. On parade will be:-

The Bands' of the ***Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards*** *and the* ***Welsh Guards.***
Also the ***Mounted Bands*** *of The* ***Life Guards*** *and the* ***Blues and Royals****.*
The ***Corps of Drums*** *of the* ***Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards and the Irish Guards****.*
Pipes and Drums *of* ***the Scots*** *and* ***Irish Guards****.*
The event will also be supported by The ***King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery****.*
"Special Guests" ***His Majesty King's Guard from Norway****.*

I am sure that everyone must agree that this certainly is a "Full House" with the top Regimental Bands all on parade at the same time.

We are going to run a trip to witness the event staying overnight at the Union Jack Club. Cost of coaching and stand tickets is £33.00 per person. Your overnight stay at the Union Jack Club varies as per room rates as follows:- Double or twin £88.00. Single £48.88. Non members double or twin £103.00. Single 57.00. Club members get an extra discount on rates if over 65 years of age.

The cost of the trip will be the coaching, right to and from the door of the Union Jack Club, tickets for Beating Retreat plus the cost of your stay at the club. To this end I have held off a number of rooms but we will need to know **as soon as possible if you wish to join us together with your deposit of £25.00 per person. Any queries or questions then please telephone Colin Knight.**

Branch Formal Lunch – Sunday 26th September. For your early warning and to append the date in your diary Sunday 26th September is the date to record. Venue will be the Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury. Please do your very best to join us. Full details to be published later.

Grenadier Gazette. This excellent publication is issued in March. It is an interesting read and contains a good selection of photographs. Please support your regiment by reserving your copy by completing the proforma to reserve your copy**. Come on chaps lets have a bumper response.**

Request. If you are receiving newsletters and correspondence by post and you are now on e-mail, please would you be kind enough to inform me of your address in order that I may correspond with you in this way. Corresponding by e-mail saves considerable costs for the branch in post and printing it also saves your Hon Sec a lot of time.

Visit your branch site – www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk "Log in" and have a look around. Your views and or comments are most welcome. Also any stories or articles

Please try and make the next meeting on Thursday 29th January. Your Branch. Your meeting, to which **all members are most welcome.**

Colin Knight **Honorary Secretary.**

If you require further information on any of the items in this Newsletter, then please telephone **Alan Holford 01452 534175** or **Colin Knight 01594 530154** Alternatively e-mail **grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk** For any event. On the day the mobile telephone number to use is:- **07980 019017**

PROFORMA

St. George's Day Service – Thursday 23rd April. Gloucester Cathedral. Tickets are complimentary. I apply for ……. Tickets for the Service.

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