GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – June 2010

To all members of the Branch. ***Issue No.* (58)**

BRANCH MEETINGS – AT THE VICTORY CLUB CHELTENHAM

Thursday 29th July Thursday 30th September Thursday 25th November

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

Welfare. David Leighton our Welfare Officer has had a very busy year in office. He has made many visits and telephone calls to some of our more elderly members and those not in good health. Most visits were accompanied by a gift of flowers a basket of fruit of a bottle of a brand of medicine not available on the National Health.

Obituary. We have lost to the Higher Parade Ground F J Foster always known as "Swaney". Also Ted Pattenden. An excellent turn out on each sad occasion for a Guard of Honour. Ted was borne into church by a Branch Bearer Party. Our condolences go to both families.

New Member. We welcome to our ranks Anthony Archer a former National Service Musician in our band.

Branch A G M. A record turn out of members turned up for the meeting. It is very satisfying to see so many members showing an interest in their branch and long may it continue. All officers' and the entire committee were re-elected. On the welfare front David Leighton assisted by his good lady Janet is very proactive and a big "Thank You" must be extended to them for their efforts. Also another big "Thank You" to John & Gill Carter who continue to send a birthday card to the great majority of members. If you do not receive a card it is because we do not have your date of birth. Let us know you birthday and you will receive a personal card on your special day. Funds stand firm. There were no major contentious issued reported throughout the past year.

Informal Lunch. A couple of hic cups however a good turn out enjoyed their lunch in fine surroundings

Presentation of New Colours by H M The Queen to the First Battalion Tuesday 11th May. We managed to secure 29 places for branch members. Travelling up to London the day prior we stayed overnight at the Union Jack Club. The next day saw us at the Palace to witness the presentation of the new colours. It was a magnificent occasion only marred a little by the cold wind.

Branch Canoeing – Thursday 17th June. Why not consider joining us for a leisurely paddle down the River Wye followed by a picnic. You do not need to be an expert to join in. Good exercise, lovely peaceful scenery and something different. Canoes are two man and high sided.

Grenadiers Return - Saturday 26th June Formally Grenadier Day To be held at Littlecote House on Saturday 26th June. Yes **Saturday** is the day and not on a Sunday as it has been since the day was first held. Full arrangements will be announced later however anyone wishing to stay over for three nights commencing Friday 25th through to Monday 27th June then please contact Hon Sec for full details. At the last meeting it was thought that as Littlecote was not that far away that we would only order a coach for the day if there were enough demand. If you would like to avail yourself of coach travel for the day please call Alan Holford or Colin Knight.

Gurkha Meal -Thursday 15th July. On a couple of previous occasions a number of members have met up at the Roadmaker for a Gurkha Meal. The proprietor is now a branch member and I am sure that he will afford us a warm welcome. Suggest we meet up from 12:00 hours for 13:00 hours. We hope he will put on a mixed hot mixed buffet as per our last visit. If you prefer English Food then this can be accommodated. We need to know approximate numbers therefore a five pounds per person deposit is requested.

Branch Garden Party – Saturday 7th August. (Yes Saturday) Yet once again Colonel Peel has kindly invited the branch to his home for a Garden Party. This has always proved to be popular. It is intended to follow previous years format. Guests may arrive from 12:00 hours. A substantial Barbecue Lunch will be served in the region of 13:15 hours. We will have the Chedworth Band entertain us during the afternoon. Plus there may be an additional "Surprise" entertainment. There will be a complimentary bar, soft drinks tea and coffee. If possible can you please bring your chairs with you? We will have chairs already in the garden but chair lugging to and from the village hall is hard work and time consuming. Ladies and of course those chaps that are handy in the kitchen, please can you consider making and bring a cake, cakes, tarts or similar with you. Most years we have an excellent response with this and hopefully this year will be no exception.

Branch Cycling – Thursday 12th August. We will cycle along dedicated cycle tracks in the Forest of Dean. Excellent ten gear cycles are available for hire. An excellent way to spend a day out in the fresh air and beautiful surroundings. Half way around the route we will take a picnic.

Visit to the National Memorial Arboretum - Sunday 15th August. The Bristol Branch have organised a visit and have invited any interested member from this branch to join them. Their coach will pick up in Gloucester. Cost £15.00 per person.

Scarlet & Gold – Saturday 18th September. As I write all places have been taken.

Formal Lunch – Sunday 26th September. Please note the date in your diary. Full details in the next newsletter.

Christmas Social – Sunday 5th December. This will be a lunchtime event at the Victory Club, Cheltenham. Full details will be announced at a later date. Make a date in your diary.

Branch Fifty Club. The first draw in the new series took place at the very well attended May meeting. It is pleasing to report that we have now achieved a record number of participants. Thank you all for supporting your branch.

News. George Rimell would like to thank all those who sponsored his daughter Judith and her husband who did a parachute jump to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. They did the jump at South-Cerney Airfield on the 2nd April from 12,000 feet - all went well. In total she collected over £600. *"I reckon you ought to have a go as well George. We will all turn up to cheer you on". Hon Sec.*

Please try and make the next meeting on Thursday 29th July. John Welch a branch Coldstream member is an accomplished speaker on the World War having spoken on the subject on radio on several occasions. John had volunteered to give a presentation at this meeting. During the interval complimentary hot pies will be served. Your Branch, your meeting, to which **all members are most welcome.**

Please everyone keep me informed of any information or stories that I can use in the Newsletters.

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 of any event the mobile telephone number to use is:- **07980 019017**

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