



GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION Gloucestershire Branch

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NEWSLETTER – February 2012

To all members of the Branch.

Issue No. (66)

BRANCH MEETINGS – AT THE VICTORY CLUB

Thursday 15th March 2012 (AGM) Thursday 31st May Thursday 26th July

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

Complimentary hot pies will be served during the interval

****Your branch – your meetings. Make a note of the dates in your diary and come and join us****

Branch Meetings. All meetings for the past few years have been very well attended showing that there is a strong interest in the branch. It is very rewarding to see so many members, which include Associate and Honorary on parade. The complimentary hot pies served during the interval also appear to go down well.

Bereavement. It is with sadness I report the loss of John Knight and Ted (Drummer Bolan) Both men, Grenadiers, have been in this branch for many years. We have also lost Alan Saunders, Life Guards, an associate member of the branch. Our condolences go to their respective families.

Welfare. **David Leighton** our Welfare Officer is always very busy and has made many visits, too many to mention everyone. David Cresswell has had a spell in hospital and is now home recovering.

Christmas Social – Sunday 4th December. The day went well achieving almost the maximum number it is licensed to hold.

Dumbleton. Derek Knott's Christmas Bash at Dumbleton was once again a sell out with all attendees having a very well organised and enjoyable gathering and lunch. As always "Thank you" Derek for your personal effort.

Branch Christmas Lottery Draw. Thank you everyone who purchased and sold tickets. I am pleased to say that sales held up well just falling a little short of last years total. The Fifty Club and the Annual Christmas The Christmas Lottery and the Fifty Club are the main income streams for your branch and without your support, then in order for the branch to survive, subscriptions would have to be considered (Heaven forbid)

Branch Royal Diamond Jubilee Luncheon. Details will be circulated shortly.

Regimental Remembrance Day – Sunday 20th May. The usual format will be used that is stopping at the Guards Club, Windsor for lunch. Do not forget to bring your own packed lunch. The bar will be open and fresh tea and coffee will also be available. On the return we will again stop at the Guards Club for a Fish/Pie and Chip supper.

Grenadier Day – Sunday 8th July. This year it will be held at Lille Barracks, Aldershot. Further details in the next newsletter.

Visit to The National Memorial Arboretum – Sunday 9th September. With lunch at the Branston Golf and Country Club. Dennis Ward, our man who lives very close to the arboretum and club, is making the arrangements on our behalf. Those who attended, when we last visited several years ago, will recall what an excellent top notch meal we had last time at the Club. The normal cost for this meal is £27.50 however Dennis has managed to get the price reduced for us to £17.50. He has been assured that this reduction will not reflect in any way the very high standard that is always maintained at the eatery.

We hope to be joined on the day by members from the Worcester, Reading and Bristol Branches together with other members who will get to hear of our gathering and decide to join us. At the Arboretum we hope to have a parade incorporating all members present. The Bransdon Country Club Restaurant will accommodate some 150 persons and to this end we have reserved the restaurant for our exclusive use. All booking on will receive an individual letter explaining the format for the day.

Facebook. We must continue to thank Yvonne Beasley and Mark Evans for posting many and varied articles. I am sure that in the fullness of time this medium can only but surely grow.

General News. Just to remind everyone that the March Meeting is the Annual General. All posts are up for re-election. If you would like to be put forward for any post that is – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Welfare Officer, Social Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary or to be a member of the Committee, then please can you let me know your interest before the meeting.

Next year there is to be a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the formation of the association one hundred years ago. The first meeting being held on the 14th November 1913 when Officers for the association together with a committee were appointed. As soon as the date is announced members will be informed. In the meantime as soon as the date is announced your committee have approved that I immediately secure 53 bed spaces at the Union Jack Club. Fifty-three is a full coach and to stay over for a night will make the occasion even more enjoyable.

The year 2015, yes a long way off, however this year will be the two hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The branch did a four day trip for the seventy-fifth anniversary which was indeed some spectacle. For the big one in 2015 we can only imagine that hotel accommodation in the area will be at a premium hence the very early warning. John Welch, branch member, who is an authority on the First World War in Europe, has agreed to assist in making the arrangement to ensure that an interesting tour is put into place. At this stage we are thinking about staying over in Brussels which is where we stayed on our last visit. By the way I forecast that the British will win once more

I will be attending the Association Annual General Meeting in London in March. If anyone has any subject that they would like me to address at the meeting then please let me know.

Request. Again a repeat from the last newsletter.

If you are receiving 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. We now have approaching 60% of our membership with electronic facilities.

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

On the day of any event or gathering the mobile telephone number to use is:- 07980 019017

