



GRENADIER GUARDS **ASSOCIATION** **Gloucestershire Branch**

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NEWSLETTER – January 2013

To all members of the Branch.

Issue No. 70)

BRANCH MEETINGS 2013 – ALL AT THE VICTORY CLUB, CHELTENHAM.

**Thursday 31st January: Thursday 28th March (AGM) : Thursday 30th May
Thursday 25th July: Thursday 26th September: Thursday 28th November**

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** We hope to have a guest speaker or a presentation at some of the meetings**

Branch Meetings. Please do consider attending and joining the merry throng. Attendance at the meetings have held up, yet once again, well last year. Let us endeavour to maintain this encouraging trend

Welfare. David Leighton has made many visits, sent cards and flowers to members, too many to mention everyone.

Obituary. It is with sadness that I report the loss of three members since the last newsletter. Les Harrison, Peter Walby and Brian Click. A Guard of Honour was provided on each sad occasion. Our condolences are extended to all families.

New Members. Welcome aboard 24306092 Wayne Renshaw served from 1974 – 1986 now living in Nailsworth. Was a member of the Manchester Branch until moving to this County.

Christmas Social 2012. Since the last Newsletter we concluded the year 2012 with the Branch Christmas Social at the Victory Club. The event, for many years was held on a Sunday Lunch-time, this year it was held on a Saturday lunch-time. Although there was a good attendance it was a little down on previous years. Suffice to say that this year it will be held on a Sunday.

Christmas Lunch at Dumbleton Hall. Yet once more this now annual gathering was a complete sell out. It was indeed, as usual, a lovely occasion enjoyed by all attending. Before the guests left after the conclusion of

festivities Derek asked if the feeling was that "Should he organise one again for Christmas 2013?". At the time of writing Derek informs me that for this year, once again it is a full house as all places have already been taken.

Obviously when members have committed themselves so far in advance there is always the possibility of a cancellation or two. Any member who would like to place his name on a waiting list then please contact Derek (01242 604116). The amazing fact is that Derek received enough applications for places for the luncheon prior to Christmas 2012 for the full house. This year a wonderful achievement Derek and from all the members who attend and enjoy the day, "Well done"

The Year 2012

Grenadier Day – 2013. Due to the celebrations planned to take place at Buckingham Palace Grenadier Day for this year has been cancelled.

Friday 19th April 2013 – Branch Celebration. To celebrate the centenary of the association your branch has decided to make it a special occasion for members. To this end we have secured the attendance of the Regimental Band. The venue will be Lydney Town Hall. Please see separate sheet attached for full details

Tuesday 23rd April - St George's Day Service . Gloucester Cathedral. Please apply for complimentary tickets on the proforma.

Sunday 19th May – Regimental Remembrance Day. 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 box. 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.

Saturday 1st June – Major Generals Review on Horse Guards. If anyone would like tickets, subject to availability, please contact Hon. Sec.

Saturday 8th June – Colonel's Review on Horse Guards. Again tickets, subject to availability, please contact the Hon. Secretary. Sec.

Saturday 15th June. Queens Birthday Parade on Horse Guards. Any bids please to Hon. Sec.

Wednesday 26th June – Garden Party Buckingham Palace. Next year, as you all know, there is to be a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the formation of the association one hundred years ago. As I write I am awaiting the fine print from Regimental Headquarters, as soon as this is received it will be circulated.

All those who have paid a deposit for the two night trip to coincide with the event will be notified on an individual basis.

For those not on this list, then up to date information will be placed in a newsletter.

Sunday 4th August - Branch Garden Party. Colonel John Peek has kindly invited us to his home for a Branch Garden Party on Sunday. Full details will be published in the next newsletter.

September. The Presidents Formal Luncheon will be organised for this month. Details will be circulated later.

Sunday 1st December – Branch Christmas Social. Will take place at the Victory Club, Cheltenham. Full details will be published later.

Miscellaneous Items

Grenadier Gazette. This year's edition of the Gazette comes out in March. You can order and pick them up at a meeting or have a copy posted to you. It is an excellent publication and I appeal to all members to consider purchasing a copy. I am sure that you will not be disappointed.

Chairman's Corner. In sending best wishes to everyone for a happy and peaceful New Year, the thought occurred to me that this may be my last chance as Chairman to write a few words for your delectation (or otherwise). The Annual General Meeting will be upon us before we know it, and I will once again be facing a long and hard campaign for re-election.

In the Rules and Regulations for Branches of our Association there is actually no requirement for a Chairman to be elected at all. Meetings may be chaired by The President or any of the Vice Presidents. However, over many years the Cheltenham and District, now The Gloucestershire Branch has seen fit to have a regular Chairman.

It is my personal opinion that it is beneficial to follow this course; it gives stability to the committee, and, done properly is of no small assistance to our hard working Hon. Sec.

I would dearly like to see some more strong contenders for the post, and can but offer my own services for another year if needed.

Now to operational matters. Although we have a strong nominal role our membership is well spread out geographically and there are many of you that we do not see a lot of. The various events of the last year, although reasonably successful, have sometimes been the result of a three line whip. It may be easy to send e-mails, it is a lot harder to get 'bums on seats.

I say a big thank you and pay tribute to our many Associate and Honorary Members who participate so well and frankly, without whom, we would be hard put to survive at the level we do. Our World is constantly changing, and I sometimes feel that trying to hold on to our time honoured traditions and standards is akin to a drowning man clinging on to a life raft. I sincerely believe that Associations such as ours still have a most important role to play in keeping the 'Great' in Great Britain, and I can assure you that whether it be as Chairman or 'just an ordinary member' as Peter Gwilliam would say, I shall be doing my best for our Branch, and through that for our Regiment, in the year ahead.

A final thank you to all of you who responded so well to our Registered Lottery appeal. Not only did ticket sales hold up well but the Branch received a meaningful number of donations from generous members. Well done, and now onwards and upwards to 2013, another milestone for our Grenadier Guards Association.

Peter T Jones.
Chairman.

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 62% of our membership with e-mail.

If you require further information on any of the items in this Newsletter, please telephone **Alan Holford 01452 534175** or **Colin Knight 01594 530154**. Alternatively e-mail to **grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk** or **Alan Holford al.nonoyes@virginmedia.com** All cheques made payable please to:- **Gren. Gds. Glos. Branch**.

Payments. Repeat message from the last four newsletters'. To move forward with the times we have made an adjustment as to how you may book on and pay for any branch event or function.

Firstly the time honoured method will continue in as much as you complete a proforma and send it with you cheque to Alan Holford.

Alternatively you may post or e-mail your proforma to Alan Holford and pay the amount owing by BACS (Telephone or Internet Banking) Details you will require are. Bank – NatWest. Name of account – For First or Grenadier Guards Comrades Association. Sort Code 60-05-16 Account Number 04205251. Please use your own name as reference. If you pay by this method please endorse your proforma- Paid by BACS. **It is essential that you return your proforma to Alan for ease of administration.**

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

Gloucestershire Branch Grenadier Guards Association

**Join your Branch in celebrating One Hundred Years
since the formation of the Regimental
Association.**

*Arrive at Lydney Town Hall from 16:00 hours mingle with
friends for a Welcome Drink and Substantial Buffet to
include Desert with unlimited tea/coffee/soft drink. At
19:15 hours take your seat for a Band Concert
commencing at 19:30 hours featuring our very own
Regimental Band.*

*To celebrate the event an All Inclusive cost to members of just
£16.00 per person*

*You may bring a couple of friends with you for the All Inclusive
package i.e. Buffet and Concert. Numbers for the buffet will be
limited.*

*Should you prefer to attend the concert only then this is to a cost
of Twelve Pounds Fifty per person.*

I apply for.....tickets for the buffet and concert.

I apply for.....tickets for the concert only.

From.....

Address.....

Telephone.....Mobile.....

Please return to: - Alan Holford. 41, Teddington Gardens, Gloucester GL4 6RL

An Opportunity to join your Brace for a Unique Occasion.