

Grenadier Guards Association Gloucestershire Branch

NEWSLETTER – February 2014

(Issue 75)

To all members of the Branch.

BRANCH MEETINGS – ALL AT THE VICTORY CLUB, CHELTENHAM.

Thursday 27th March 2104 (AGM) Thursday 29th May:

Thursday 31st July: Thursday 25th September: Thursday 27th 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

Welcome everyone to the year 2014. I trust that you all had an enjoyable Festive Season.

Obituary. It is with sadness that I report the loss of Malcolm Addison. As Malcolm lived away from the area in Alcester Major Bob Woodfield attended and represented the branch.

New Members. Welcome aboard Steve Wilson from the Horse Guards; Charles Malet (Coldstream) Steve Hares and Bill Bulled (Honorary).

Welfare. David Leighton, ably assisted by Jeanette continues to be very active with welfare. Many members, too many to mention, have had their individual problems during the past year. Several have had spells in hospital. Any member who is under the weather, due a stay in hospital or for any other reason and would like a visit or assistance then please make contact with the branch – your branch.

Branch Meetings. During the year 2013 attendance at meetings as held well, on a couple of occasions we have been fortunate enough to engage a Guest Speaker. Any member who has any queries, or suggestions that they would like aired, then please let me know in order that they be appended to the Agenda for the next meeting, or any other meeting. A reminder that the next meeting will be the A.G.M. in March. All posts, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer, Social Secretary and Committee are up for re-election. Any member may apply for election to any post. It would be appreciated if any potential nominee would come forward and let us know in advance to the meeting

Christmas Social 2013. Since the last Newsletter we concluded the year 2013 with the Branch Christmas Social at the Victory Club. The attendance was down on previous years which is a great pity as a lot of effort is put into organising this event. Let us hope that this year the response comes forward in plenty of time for us not to have to hold our breath.

At our last Members Meeting Major Tristram Carter, Scots Guards, kindly gave an interesting presentation on Army Welfare.. The ladies were cordially invited to join us for the presentation.

Christmas Lottery. Thank you to all of you who sold and purchased tickets thus ensuring the continuation of your branch from a financial point of view. It was indeed very gratifying to receive many additional donations when the counterfoils were returned. Thank you all for your kindness.

Dates for your Diary. Wednesday 23rd April - St. George's Day Service at Gloucester Cathedral: Sunday 18th May - Regimental Remembrance Day: Sunday 20th July - Grenadier Day – Liile Barracks: Sunday 12th October – Branch Formal Luncheon at the Hatherley Manor. Saturday 25th October – Bristol Branch Luncheon celebrating their one hundredth anniversary. It would be nice if could make up a party from the branch to visit our next door neighbours.

Regimental Remembrance Day – Sunday 18th May. Coach will leave Cheltenham at 09:00 Hours, Gloucester – 09:20 hours - Denmans Car Park. 09:50 hours Cirencester Beeches Car Park. En route we will stop at the Guards Club Windsor. Do not forget to bring your own packed lunch. Bar will be open as will be the availability of tea and coffee. On the return journey we will stop again at the Club for a Fish/Pie/Chicken and Chips Supper. All are invited to the Guards Chapel for the service. Afterwards there will be the traditional march to Horse Guards for the laying of wreaths at the Guards Memorial.

Armed Forces Day Gloucester – Saturday 21st June. Nationwide Armed Forces Day will run for three consecutive weekends in a selection of towns and cities. It is very much hoped that there will be enough branch support for a contingent to march in the Gloucester Parade.

Grenadier Day – Sunday 20th July. Once more this is to be held at Lille Barracks, Aldershot. Last time Grenadier Day was held at the barracks, back in 2012, the take up from the branch on the coach was disappointing. In order to gauge the interest you are invited to indicate if you are interested in coach travel on the day. This will not hold you to attending but is intended to see if there will be enough support to order a coach.

World One One Commemorative Service Gloucester Cathedral – Sunday 3rd August. As I write no further details are known but will be circulated as and when known.

Branch Garden Party. As I write we are still not sure if we are going to receive an invitation from Colonel Peel this year.

Suggestions. If you have any ideas or suggestions that we could consider, say for perhaps a group visit somewhere, day visit or a couple of days visit, please let your views to be known to Alan Holford, any committee member, or the Hon. Sec.

It is your branch to which your committee is always willing to listen or action any ideas from the membership.

Miscellaneous. We have several members now living on foreign shores namely Lee Hillier and Clive Lawrence in France. Mike Booker in Egypt. Last month David Hickman and his wife Lynn, abandoned blighty for a new life in Spain. I am sure members will wish them well. However we will not excuse David from attending branch meetings.

Many members put a lot of effort in maintaining the camaraderie that prevails in the branch, we thank them all and trust that their enthusiasm will remain for many years to come.

Brian Mitchell contacted me the other day with the following. How many of you were aware that one of the first pilots in The Royal Air Corps in the First World War was a Grenadier, Captain Eustice Broke Loraine who at one time was Adjutant. Unfortunately he was the very first fatality in the Corps having crashed near Stonehenge in July 1912.

Nearly forgot. "Thank you Derek" for yet once more for organising a Grenadier and Friends Christmas Lunch at Dumbleton. Another great success.. Looking for stories or news articles for the next newsletter, if anyone has any please let me know.

If you require further information on any of the items in this Newsletter or any other branch business, 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.**

Colin Knight
Honorary Secretary.

