

Grenadier Guards Association Gloucestershire Branch

NEWSLETTER – November 2014

(Issue 78)

To all members of the Branch.

BRANCH MEETINGS – ALL AT THE VICTORY CLUB, CHELTENHAM.

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.

Obituary. It is with sadness that I report the loss of Jimmy Green a staunch branch supporter. A Guard of Honour was formed at the well attended funeral.

New Members. Disappointing to report that there are non since the last newsletter.

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 with spells in hospital. If any member, for whatever reason, would like a welfare visit or assistance, please make contact with the branch – your branch.

Branch Meetings. These continue to be well supported. At the last meeting a presentation was made by the Regimental Casualty Officer. It was a sombre reminder of the casualties that the regiment sustained during their tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. However it was refreshing to hear how monies from the Colonel's Fund is being used to assist those injured.

July Meeting. As many of you are aware this was to have been held at the Military Museum in Gloucester. The day prior to the meeting the museum had to close due to an electrical problem leaving the meeting to be quickly rearranged at the Victory Club. As the ladies had been invited to the original meeting, the meeting was going to be kept short in order to allow time for a presentation by the museum to be followed by a tour. It is hoped that we will be able to arrange a meeting at the museum in the spring on next year.

Formal Luncheon – Sunday 12th October. I am delighted to report that we had the best attendance for many years with 123 guests taking their place for lunch. Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher the new President of the Association attended together with Major General Evelyn Webb-Carter. Both who gave excellent after dinner speeches. Junior musicians from the Gloucester Army Cadets were also with us to play a selection of music during dining as was a bagpiper. Our outgoing Chairman Peter T Jones was given a presentation on behalf of members by the new Chairman John Welch. We were not surprised that Peter gave an eloquent reply. To sum up, all in all, a very successful occasion.

Visit to London. On Sunday 19th October a coach containing branch members, together with a few friends, travelled to London to view the poppies in the moat at the Tower of London. A most impressive sight to say the least and one that will be remembered for a long time. Late afternoon we were entertained to a Fish and Chip meal at the Union Jack Club. Another successful branch venture.

Branch Walk. Thanks to the personal efforts of Derek Knott two separate walks have taken place each time along the Stroudwater Canal. Each walk commenced from Stroud, the first walk towards Stonehouse and the second towards Cirencester. Prior to each walk Derek had taken considerable time to research the area in order to point out the various places of interest, with on many occasions, the history behind it. The first walk took place on a perfect sunny day, the

other, raincoats and protective clothing was the order of the day. After each walk we took a late lunch at Wetherspoons in Stroud. Good food at excellent prices. When and where to is the next one going to be?

Branch Christmas Social – Sunday 7th December 2014. This will take place at the Victory Club, Cheltenham. Please take the opportunity of noting the date in your diary. The format will be changed a little from previous years as we have splashed out to engage the services of a professional entertainer. There will be a two course hot meal on offer together with the Grand Draw, in house raffle and the pound in the envelope for a basket of assorted alcoholic beverages.

There is plenty of parking, use the car park to your left as you look at the club if the club car park is full. Oh by the way if you are able to bring or donate a prize for the raffle this will be greatly appreciated.,

Dumbleton Christmas Lunch Sunday 14th December. Derek has once again arranged his Annual Christmas Lunch at Dumbleton Hall and as always it has been very well responded to. As I write all places have been taken and paid for, however Derek is prepared to take the names of anyone interested in the event of any cancellations. Derek – 01242 604116 or e-mail – patandderek@talktalk.net

Miscellaneous. A reminder that the branch has organised a five day four night trip next June to witness the two-hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. As I write I am still taking names of those interested, we have almost reached a full compliment, when this is reached a firm commitment together with deposits will be requested.

If you wish to purchase any items from the Regimental Shop or to find out what is going on in the Regiment and or Association www.grenGds.com is the method to enter the web site. Always interesting to login and have a look around.

Regimental Christmas Cards. Although I applied for cards at the end of September I have been informed that for this year the application was to late. Unfortunately all those who have ordered cards through the branch will have to be disappointed. Of interest next year (2015) orders for cards will have to be submitted to RHQ by the end of July, yes the end of July.

Branch Christmas Lottery (Raffle) Most of you will have received raffle tickets by now which I trust you will give your support. A few members we have not sent tickets to as for several years tickets, and or counterfoils, have not been returned. If you are one of these may I prick your conscience by asking you to make my day by, sending say four pounds, to the Social Secretary by way of a donation. He will send you tickets for the amount sent with the counterfoils made out in your name. You may be one of the lucky winners of a cash prize to be drawn at the Christmas Social

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, please let your views 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.

If you require further information on any of the items in this Newsletter or any other branch business, please telephone **Alan Holford 01452 534175** - alnonoyes@virginmedia.com or Hon. Sec 01594 530154 - grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk

All cheques made payable please to:- **Gren. Gds. Glos. Branch. BACS Payments** accepted.

Colin Knight (Honorary Secretary)

