

Grenadier Guards Association Gloucestershire Branch

(The Gloucestershire Guards Association)

NEWSLETTER –July 2015

To all members of the Branch.

Issue No. (82)

BRANCH MEETINGS 2015

Thursday 30th July: 19:00 hours at the Gloucester Military Museum. The ladies are cordially invited to join us.

At the Victory Club, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham. **Thursday 24th September: Thursday 26th 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 (Victory Club)

****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**

Welfare. As always David Leighton has been busy out and about in his roll as Branch Welfare Officer. He has visited Ron Hill, who for his age, still is able to get about. Ron is a Grenadier through and through and is one of few remaining WW2 men, he also spent time in captivity as a POW. Have we ever repaid our gratitude to these brave men who went overseas for many months fighting to preserve the freedom that this country still enjoys? Brian Gleed is making steady progress following a recent big operation. Nice to see John Finch who has a variety of ailments, turn up at our last meeting. While serving John used to cut my hair. He reckons that I still owe him a shilling, plus interest, from the last cut he gave me back in 1961. Jan Hares is making a good recovery having been knocked off her pedal cycle. Just been informed that Colin Trinder is also a little unwell. On a sad note, our Chairman, John Welch, sadly lost his wife Diane a week ago. Our condolences are extended to John and his family.

If any member is down on his or her luck and would like a visit or assistance then please do not hesitate to get in touch with David. This offer is and always has been available to all members of the branch be they Grenadiers, any other Household Division man, Honorary or Widow.

Thursday 30th July. The next Branch Members Meeting will be held at the **Military Museum, Gloucester.** There will be a short meeting in the Long Room commencing at **19:00 hours. Please note the earlier start time.** Ladies are most welcome to join us. To ensure that there will be adequate accommodation please can you let the Hon. Sec know if you intend to attend, on your own or with your wife/husband/escort. Letting me know of your possible attendance will place you under no form of obligation to attend.

Sunday 2nd August - Branch Garden Party. Colonel John Peel has kindly invited us to his home for a Branch Garden Party. The day will follow the long established and successful routine. Guests to arrive from 12:00 hours for lunch in the region of 13:00 hours. During the afternoon the Chedworth Brass Band will play for our enjoyment. **Complimentary** Beers, Lagers, Wines and Soft Drinks will be available throughout the day plus of course tea and coffee. There will also be a light tea consisting of sandwiches and cake. Excellent value we believe for the money

Two things to jot down. If you have a portable chair please can you bring it with you as this does assist greatly. If you do not have a chair that you can bring, please do not fret, as we will have plenty on site.

Ladies, and of course you chaps handy in the kitchen. As has been the custom for many years, please see if you can spend a little time in the kitchen and make a cake or cakes as these are used for the tea meal with

any left over being auctioned off to help defray costs.

This is an excellent way to spend a Sunday in a very relaxed and splendid location. Also, as you must agree, it is very exceptional good value for your money.

New Member. We welcome Lord Vesty Scots Guards.

Isle of Wight Trip. Norton Grange Coastal Village 13th - 16th November. As I write forty-four members have paid their respective deposits to attend. There is room on the coach for more however any additional enquiries will have to rely on Warner still having rooms available. Anyone interested are invited to contact the Honorary Secretary in order that he may check on availability.

Cost £223.00 per person to include Coach Travel: Ferry Crossing: Half Board Accommodation for three Nights.: Full Day Excursion: Live Entertainment nightly plus the UK'S Premier Neil Diamond Show: Every Night from 18:00 hours through until midnight £1.00 per drink House Bar.

Branch Formal Luncheon – Sunday 11th October. Venue The Hatherley Manor, Gloucester. Last year we had nigh on a record attendance, let us hope that we can achieve the same result this year. The Lydney RAF Cadets are going to join us to give a display. Those who saw them perform as Lydney Town Hall in 2013 at the Concert given by the Band of the Grenadier Guards, will know how good they were as they received a Standing Ovation. Please find full details and Booking Form on the Proforma.

Christmas Social – Sunday 6th December. Date to append in your diary. Full details will be published nearer to the time.

Recent Events.

Waterloo. An almost full coach travelled to Brussels for a five day break to include watching the spectacle of the re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo which took place in 1815. Everything went to plan from coach travel, hotel timings, visit to a British War Cemetery, visit to Ghent also a day to visit the French and British encampments two days prior to the re-enactment.

However there was disappointment, our group included, as we were one of the many thousands who paid good money for stand seats, only to find ourselves staring at a field as the re-enactment was taking place some quarter of a mile away. Stands were erected to accommodate 60,000 people we were all of the opinion that stand seating viewing should have been restricted to no more than say 40,000.

I was able to broadcast our disappointment on BBC Gloucestershire radio from Belgium and spoke on the breakfast show live the following day as to our disappointment. The BBC must have liked it as it appears that they re broadcast it a further three times during the day. I was going to appear on BBC TV Points West. Unfortunately on that day there was a lot of other national news and there was not enough time left in the broadcast for it to be shown, still that's life. Needless to say that I have now got the bit between my teeth and am following it through with the organisers.

Odds and Sods. It was agreed at a previous meeting that the branch buy a quantity of pens inscribed with the branch name and web site. Pleasing to report that are going well. We have also purchased a quantity, of again inscribed, LSD torches on a key ring. They were delivered the day prior to going to Waterloo. From the sales on the coach it would appear that all on board bought at least one. I will bring both the pens and torches to the next Branch Meeting also the Garden Party.

If anyone who received this newsletter, and for whatever reason are unable to open attachment. Please let me know and I will resend to you in a different format

That's it for now, hopefully, see many of you at the Garden Party and of course the Formal Luncheon.

Just thought. Anyone with any news or stories please let me have them as I am always on the look out for material to write about.

Regards all,

Colin Knight

Honorary Secretary

Proforma

Branch Garden Party – Sunday 2nd August 2015

Lunch will consist of barbecued steak with sausages and burger together with accompanying salad and hot new potatoes. Selection of Sweets will be available.

Entertainment during the afternoon by the Chedworth Brass Band.

A light tea meal will also be provided.

Free bar serving assorted beers, cider, wine and assorted soft drinks.

Complimentary tea and coffee served throughout the afternoon.

Raffle: Auction: Treasure Hunt Board.

Colonel Peel's address for Sat Nav. Dudgrove Farm, Dudgrove, Fairford. **GL7 4DX**

Entrance to the Farm will be signed. Mobile number on the day for the Hon. Sec. **07980 019017**

Cut*****Cut

From.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Mobile.....

Please reserve me places at £17.50 per person.

If you do not wish to have a sirloin steak for your lunch please state alternative meat or salmon choice. Alternative choice

I will be able to bring my own chairs YES { } NO { }

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

Payment by Cheque - Gren Gds Assn Glos Branch or BACS. Code No. 60-05-16 A/C 04205251

Directions

Enter Fairford on the A417

Carry on through the town and out the other side,

Turning on the right (Kempsford/Whelford) Turn right here.

A mile or so down the road on your left you will see a Highways Signpost pointing to Dudgrove.
(Sign hanging below which will read - Grenadier Guards with an arrow)

Turn left here. Long narrow road, about a mile, which will take you to the venue.

