

# **Grenadier Guards Association Gloucestershire Branch**

**(The Gloucestershire Guards Association)**

**NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2015**

**To all members of the Branch.**

***Issue No. (83)***

**BRANCH MEETINGS** - At the Victory Club, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham.

**Thursday 26th November. 2015. Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (AGM)**

**There will be no meeting in January 2016.** (This was agreed to at the September Members Meeting)

**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. At our next Meeting, November John Welch is to give a presentation -**

**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 has made a good recovery having been knocked off her pedal cycle. We have been informed that Colin Trinder is also a little unwell and is now back home after a spell in hospital,. On a sad note, our Chairman, John Welch, sadly lost his wife Diane . Our condolences are extended to John and his family. Don Whyte is now back home after many months in hospital following a series of operations. Don is now confined to a wheelchair; however it was nice to see him at the Formal Luncheon.

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 Leighton 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.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August - Branch Garden Party.** We were indeed very fortunate with the weather which proved to be a very sunny and hot day. A good attendance with music provided by the Chedworth Brass Band. Ivor Jones together with Derek Dean slaved over the barbecue and were seen afterwards enjoying a swim in the pool. Peter and Pam Jones ran the bar without a break throughout the entire proceedings. Our thanks must surely go to these very willing volunteers. We must not forget Alan Holford for arranging the raffle and last but not least John and Yvonne Finch who ran the Treasure Hunt. Also a big “Thank you” to everyone who took the trouble to make a cake or cakes which were used for the tea meal with the surplus being auctioned off to help defray expenses. The final “Thank you” is to Colonel John Peel for extending to us the privilege of being able to use his house and garden.

**July Meeting.** This was held in the evening at the Gloucester Military Museum. An excellent turn out surpassing expectations we were also treated to an exclusive tour after the very short Members Meeting.

**New Members.** The branch continues to grow and we welcome on board Evan Williams Grenadier Guards - served 1960 – 1962: Captain Piers Ormerod Irish Guards served 1998 – 2008: General Sir John Kiszely KCB MC DL Scots Guards: John Rogers Grenadier Guards: Major General Peter William CMG OBE Coldstream Guards.

**Isle of Wight Trip. Norton Grange Coastal Village 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> November.** As I write this trip is now fully subscribed.

**Branch Formal Luncheon – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October.** Venue The Hatherley Manor, Gloucester. An excellent attendance enjoyed a fine meal. The Lydney Squadron RAF Cadets Corps of Drums joined us to give a display. They excelled and their performance was enjoyed by all those in attendance. The attendance of the Corps meant we had to change format in as much as after the meal guests were invited outside to watch the display, fortunately the weather was warm and dry, Afterwards it was back to the tables for the customary speeches and Loyal Toasts.

**Dumbleton Christmas Luncheon – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December.** Full with a waiting list.

**Branch Christmas Social – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December.** This will take place at the Victory Club, Cheltenham. Please take the opportunity of noting the date in your diary. The format will be similar to previous years. 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.

**Doors from 12:00 hours. Lunch in the region of 13:15 hours**

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.

***Sing for Heroes***

The celebrated Cotswold Male Voice Choir regularly wows audiences at the Town Hall with their concerts of popular music but this year they'll also be helping others to Sing for Heroes.

Challenged to support the Help for Heroes charity, the men of GE Aviation in Bishops Cleeve formed a choir and, with a little help from their friends in the Cotswolds, will be on stage for the first time. They'll also be joined by the Innsworth Military Wives Choir to make it a most memorable concert for this worthy charity.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015 At Cheltenham Town Hall 7.30pm

Tickets £10 each

VIP packages – entry to VIP area (pre-order your own refreshments) 10 tickets - £150

Sponsorship packages available

Apply online email Anne Norman at [anne.norman@h4hcounty.org.uk](mailto:anne.norman@h4hcounty.org.uk)

All funds raised to Help for Heroes

**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 Branch Meeting. Norman Mitchell our man resident in the Royal Hospital Chelsea keeps in touch and sends everyone his warm regards. Dave and Lyn Hickman who have moved permanently to Spain keep regularly in touch and have asked me to send all their friends in the branch their best wishes. This includes George Rimell with whom he served with many, many years ago.

**Dates.** Regimental Remembrance Day – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Grenadier Day – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016

That's it for now, hopefully, see many of you at the Christmas Function.

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

***Colin Knight*** (Honorary Secretary)

# Proforma

## Branch Christmas Social – Sunday 6th December 2015

Please reserve me ..... places for the Christmas Social at a cost of £11.00 per person. Children under 17 - £5.50.

I enclose my cheque to the value of £.....

Alternatively - I have paid by BACS. Please indicate if you have paid by this method. [ ] Tick box

My choice of menu is:-

**Beef Stew: Chicken** in Wine Sauce. (Served with Potatoes and Vegetables) Chicken **Curry** with Rice. Desserts: **Trifle: Cheesecake.**: Apple **Crumble** with Custard or Ice Cream: **Ice Cream.**  
(Indicate selection by using the bold type)

Name .....

Name .....

Main Course.....

Main Course .....

Dessert.....

Dessert .....

Name.....

Name.....

Main Course.....

Main Course .....

Dessert.....

Dessert .....

Please return to: -

**Alan Holford. 41, Teddington Gardens, Gloucester GL4 6RL**

**Telephone:- 01452 534175**

**Just a very polite reminder.** All members should have by now received an allocation of Raffle Tickets for the Branch Christmas Draw. As you will observe, that for a small branch raffle, the prize money on offer is quite substantial.

At the very least, can I ask each and everyone to purchase a book of tickets. Your branch has never ever asked for any subscriptions. Consider all that is achieved from welfare to the running of the branch plus all the associated events at a very reasonable cost. This is, as I am sure you must agree, a quite a remarkable achievement.

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