

# Grenadier Guards Association - Gloucestershire Branch

(The Gloucestershire Guards Association)

## Newsletter – January 2016

To all members of the Branch.

Issue (84)

*First and foremost a Happy New Year to each and everyone.*

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

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

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (AGM)**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**Plenty of parking.** *If the car park is full you may use the large car park to the left as you view the club.*

**Your branch – your meetings. Make a note of the dates in your diary and come and join us.**

**Welfare.** As always David Leighton has been busy out and about in his roll as Branch Welfare Officer. Don Whyte has been visited, after many months in hospital and a care home Don is now back home and considering his ailment is remarkably cheerful. Dennis Ward is now in recovery from a health problem and sends his regards to everyone. 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. Below is a copy of letter recently sent to David Leighton our Welfare Officer sent by Ron Hill's daughter.

*Dear David,*

*As you know, Dad went to live in a Care Home in Evesham yesterday as he is becoming increasingly confused. I really want to take this opportunity to say that the support he and I have had from the Cheltenham Grenadier Guards Association has been tremendous, particularly from yourself, Ivor Jones and Gerry Brinsford. Of course I include Jeanette, Teresa and Shirley too! You have all gone beyond the call of duty!*

*You may all be interested to hear that when I visited him this morning to see how his first night had gone, I asked him if there was anything I'd forgotten for his room. He immediately asked me for his ties. I asked him which one and he said, "my regimental one of course as I need to wear it when my friends come". Also, he told me that yesterday a singer came who asked him to join him at the microphone to sing some of the old songs. I confirmed this with the Manager and she said it was true and he is an absolute delight to have in the home. So, even at nearly 96 his love of entertaining has not gone!*

*My very best wishes to you all*

*Rosemary (Daughter)*

**Note.**

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.

**New Member.** We welcome on board 22955154 Bernard William Horne (Grenadier Guards)

**Bereavement.** It is regret I report the passing of Mabel Price the widow of the late Sid Price (Founder Branch Member). For the past few years she has been living with her son and daughter in law in Oxfordshire. She always kept in touch and had a wicked sense of humour. We also lost Pearl Jefferies the beloved wife of Tony who is also a founder member of the branch

**Isle of Wight Trip. Norton Grange Coastal Village 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> November.** The trip went well with no major hiccup and was enjoyed by all in spite of the weather being not that kind on one of the days. Unfortunately three of our members had to make late cancellation due to poor health.

**Branch Christmas Social.** Yet once more held at the Victory Club, Cheltenham. Although numbers were down this year a most enjoyable time was had by all. Numbers for this event have now gone down year by year for three years now. Your committee will have to have a hard think as to if an event should be arranged for 2016. Any views or comments are invited.

**Dumbleton Friends and Family Christmas Luncheon.** This was the tenth year that Derek Knott has arranged this event. Yet once more a full house, that makes it a full house for ten in a row. The management at Dumbleton with of course a little nudge and guidance from Derek excelled this year in all aspects.

Musician from the Winchcombe Town Band attended after lunch and entertained us with a Carol Concert.

Derek informed the gathering, that due to ongoing personal family problems this would be the last Christmas Luncheon that he would be organising at Dumbleton. However on this special day Pat, his wife, was able to attend with support from carers for the Carol Concert together with his close family.

On behalf of everyone present Derek was thanked for his very personal effort over the years for making the arrangements.

**Note from Honorary Secretary.** If there appears to be sufficient support, then I am prepared to organise a lunch for Christmas 2016. Please let me know, without any form of obligation at this stage, if you would be interested, if so, how many in your party.

**Christmas Gifts.** Your branch took pleasure in sending a Christmas cheque to twenty of our more senior members together with those a little down on their luck

**Odds and Sods.** It was agreed at a previous meeting that the branch buy a quantity of pens inscribed Grenadier Guards Association Gloucestershire Branch [www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk) This was followed by purchasing, again inscribed as previous, key rings with a LED Torch.

Three hundred pens were purchased and have now all been sold. Torches were purchased with just a few remaining in stock for future sale

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

**Regimental Remembrance Day.** Many years ago the coach was always full for this occasion with entrance to the Guards Chapel by ticket only. Unfortunately time is slowly taking its toll with numbers in attendance falling year on year. Nationwide the attendance is still impressive, to attend a service in the chapel with the Regimental Band present, afterwards to form up and march along Birdcage Walk to Horse Guards with the Band playing accompanied by the Association Corps of Drums is a stirring experience. We hope to run a coach again this year providing there is sufficient support. Coach will leave Cheltenham at 09:00 hours and travel via Gloucester and Cirencester. On the outwards journey we will stop at the Guards Club, Windsor to consume our packed lunches, bar will be open. On the return we will again call into the club for a Fish and Chip supper.

**Year 2016.** This year will see a very special birthday for our Sovereign and Colonel in Chief. As a branch we should do something to celebrate the occasion and with this in mind your President and Committee will work on a few ideas. Again any suggestions are welcome.

That's it for now, hopefully we will see many of you in the near future.

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)



