



GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION Gloucestershire Branch (The Gloucestershire Guards Association)



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Newsletter – February 2016

To all members of the Branch.

Issue (85)

Please note the heading of the Branch with The Gloucestershire Guards Association added to our title.

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

Thursday 31st March 2016 (AGM)

Thursday 25th May: Thursday 28th July: Thursday 29th September: Thursday 24th 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, as usual, has been busy out and about in his roll as Branch Welfare Officer.

We have quite a large number of members under the weather at present. Dennis Ward is now in recovery from a health problem and sends his regards to everyone. Eddie and Joan King found themselves together in the same ward at Gloucester Hospital. Joan had a fall and was admitted with a fractured hip, within a day Eddie also tripped and broke a hip. I rotten coincidence I would say. Joan is now back home but is to frail to care for Eddie, who unfortunately, may have to go into a care home.

Bereavement. It is with sadness that I report the passing of Major John Blakesley MBE.

Dumbleton Friends and Family Christmas Luncheon. As most of you know that after years of a very successful sell out on each occasion, Derek Knott whose idea it was and the organiser, has decided, for personal reasons, not volunteer to organise any further events for the Festive Season. To summarise – retiring while at the top of his game.

From Honorary Secretary. If there appears to be sufficient support, then the committee are 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, would like a change of venue and how many in your party. Please can you make your views known soonest as if a function is to be arranged then the venue will have to be reserved sooner rather than later.

Dates. Regimental Remembrance Day – Sunday 15th May 2016 Grenadier Day – Sunday 17th July 2016- Sunday 23rd October Branch Annual Formal Luncheon. This year we had hoped that the Gloucester Coldstream would have joined us on a joint venture as both branches use the Hatherley Manor with the luncheons just a few weeks apart. Your branch were of the opinion that this would have been a positive move forward for both branches. Sad to report that they, the Coldstreams, have declined the offer. It is a pity as together we could have promoted a different and

appealing luncheon for all members. Our attendance has held well for many years now, exceeding one hundred on every occasion, a conjoined gathering could have proved a success for both branches.

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 to 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. To ensure we secure coach travel, if you intend to join us, please can you complete the proforma at your earliest.

Grenadier Day Sunday 17th July. The feeling of the committee that due to the fact that Lille Barracks is not a popular venue, and yet again, it coincides with the last day of the Farnborough Air Show (Traffic and noise) as Lille Barracks is almost next door that the branch will not be running a coach. If any member intends making their own way there and have a couple of seats to spare, if you let me know, I may be able to find a member to join you and obviously to share the cost.

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.

Branch Fifty Club. Please find attached self explanatory letter together with Application Form for your renewal or, if not already a member, consideration of joining our Fifty Club.

Branch Annual General Meeting. We would like to see a good attendance at the meeting. All posts Chairman; Secretary: Treasurer: Welfare Officer: Social Secretary plus all members of your committee are up for re-election. If you would like to volunteer your services for any of these posts, please can you make contact with the Chairman and inform him accordingly.

Odds and Sods. Branch Nominal Roll. For your interest here is a list of our current membership, which fortunately still holds well:-

Grenadiers (161) Coldstream (12) Welch (3) Scots (3) Irish (1) Life Guards (1) Horse Guards (5) RAPC (1) Gloucesters (1) Gurkha (1) RAMC (1) French Army (1) RAF (1) Royal Navy (2) RMP (1) REME (1) HAC (1) Widows (19) Honorary (16) **Total membership 232. 161 Grenadiers: 25 Associate: 28 Honorary 19 Widows.**

Coldstream Guards. Coldstream Day - Saturday 7th May at Victoria Barracks, Windsor. Coldstream Black Sunday - Sunday 8th May

The Welsh Guards will now be Light Mechanised Infantry battalion as the British Army takes on major reform. Picked this up from a Facebook entry.

Beating Retreat. Horse Guards Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th June. Many branch members have attended this event in the past however I do not feel there would be enough support to warrant a coach. Tickets are from £15.00 all tickets and information can be found on line. Just type in Beating Retreat on Horse Guards

London Branch Newsletter. Have just received a copy of the London Branch Newsletter. Thirty, yes thirty pages, it is a most informative read although my opinion is that it is perhaps a little too long. It would appear that the branch is considering stopping paper copies of the Newsletter being sent via the postal system, relying that all members will receive a copy on line either on their own computer, or if not on line, receive a copy on a family, friends or neighbours computer. Oh how times are changing. Is it all for the better??

All Household Division Regiments have a presence on the web. Unfortunately the Welch, Irish and Scots are sparse with up to date information.

For all our increasing number of members who are not Grenadiers. How about forwarding me news, stories etc. to do with your regiment or Corps. Let us try to make this an informative newsletters for all members. A funny or amusing occurrence is always welcome together with any interesting or informative article.

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

Colin J Knight

(Honorary Secretary)

