



GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

Gloucestershire Branch

(The Gloucestershire Guards Association)



President: Colonel L. C. A. Ranson TD

Vice-Presidents: Captain G. L. Banks, Sir Henry Elwes KCVO. W. J. Eykyn Esq. Captain J. A. Fergusson-Cunninghame MC, D. A. E. George Esq, Captain E. C. Gordon Lennox, P. D. Gwilliam Esq, Lt. Gen. Sir John Kiszely KCB MC DL, Captain M. J. Mackinlay-Macleod, Major S. Marcham MBE, Lt. Col. J. G. Peel TD DL, Captain J. G. L. Pugh, Lt. Col C J E Seymour LVO, N. J. Simms Esq, Colonel G. W. Tufnell CVO DL, The Lord Vestey KCVO DL, Maj. Gen. Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL, Lt. Col. The Lord Wigram MC DL, Major The Hon. Andrew Wigram MVO

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Newsletter – May 2016

To all members of the Branch.

Issue (86)

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

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.

Branch AGM At the March AGM David Errington was elected Chairman. Gordon Willis stepped down from the committee after some twenty years service. Elected as a committee member was Roy Dowle. All other posts remain unchanged. Members were informed that financially their branch was in good shape, membership still holds firm as does attendances at meeting together with gatherings and functions organised.

From our new Chairman.

Dear Members,

I am pleased to announce that at the Branch AGM on Thursday 29th of March I was elected to be your new Chairman. I am deeply honoured to know that my fellow members felt me worthy of such an important responsibility, I just hope I can live up to your expectations. I realise I have stepped into the shoes of some great past Chairmen, a hard act to follow. We have a great branch and, hopefully, with your support, it will remain so.

I do not think I will be changing much, however for those of you that can, I would like to see you using our Face Book page as this is where the young Guardsmen are. If we want them to show an interest in our branch, we need to be showing them what we have been doing and what we plan to do in the future. A good way to start that, would be through social media.

For my part, I will do my very best for you.

David Errington

Appreciation. At the AGM unfortunately John Welch was unable to be present due to a prior commitment in London. In his absence the President read out John's prepared address in which he thanked members for their trust in him as Chairman, it was also to be a privilege to have been chairman of such a fine branch to which he looked forward to a good continued relationship.

Welfare. As always, David Leighton has been busy out and about in his roll as Branch Welfare Officer. There have been numerous casualties over the past few months, if David knows of anyone who is in hospital, or at home unwell. He will, if possible, make a visit or contact.

As many of you will know we lost Ron Hill last month to the higher Parade Ground. It was pleasing for the family to see a Guard of Honour comprising of 22 members from the branch. We were fortunate in getting a serving Drummer from the regiment to sound Last Post. Ron was a branch stalwart and his presence at meetings and gatherings will be sadly missed. How many of you can recall him on a return coach journey going to the front of the coach and delivering a verse or two of "Mammy."

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, also the organiser, has decided for personal reasons not volunteer to organise a further event for the Festive Season. As I write it is now sad to report that there will be no festivities for us this year at Dumbleton.

Dates. Regimental Remembrance Day – Sunday 15th May 2016 Grenadier Day – Sunday 17th July 2016-Sunday 23rd October Branch Annual Formal Luncheon.

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 are running a coach again this year. Coach will leave Cheltenham at 09:00 hours and travel via Gloucester (Brockworth) 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/Chicken/Pie and Chip Supper. Why not make it this year, the year to join us. For anyone who has never attended, then this is your chance, before you are too old to get on parade, pull your shoulders back and march to the hallowed parade ground Horse Guards Parade. Also a chance that you may see an old acquaintance or two. If you have yet to "Book on" then it is still not too late to join us. (See Proforma)

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.

Gurkha Meal. A few weeks ago a full attendance gathered at the Roadmaker Inn for a group Gurkha Meal. Many thanks to David for organising this.

Proposed Branch Outing Wednesday 10th August. Through the good offices of our President Colonel Lance Ranson we have received an invitation to visit the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst to witness the rehearsal of the Passing Our Parade. At a previous Members Meeting the suggestion of a visit was made, from the initial response made on the night an invite was sought to which we have subsequently been invited.

As I write we are awaiting full details in order that I may prepare an itinerary for the day. At this stage we envisage that the invite will be for up to fifty guests. We have to be seated by 10:40 hours, therefore I suggest a start from Cheltenham in the region of 09:00 hours. Obviously we will pick up re-route Gloucester, Cirencester and Calcot. Following the visit, a late lunch will be arranged at either a Beefeater or a Harvester of which there are premises not that far from Sandhurst.

Cost of coach £16.00 per person. Cost of meal – Pay yourself to what you select from the menu. All interested, please can you e-mail me (Hon. Sec) or alternatively telephone me on 01594 530154 to register

your interest. As soon as full details are known you will be advised and from there a firm commitment can be made, if it is your desire to attend.

Grenadier Day Sunday 17th July. As reported in the previous Newsletter; the branch will not be running a coach to Lille Barracks this year. However I am aware that there may be several who intended to make their own way there by car. Any member travelling by car, who has a spare seat, and would like to share it with another member, please let me know.

Branch Member Business Venture. Ex Grenadier and Branch member Mick Beasley has started a new family business called MMY Auction and Clearances. There are three parts to the business a clearance service, removal service and a monthly general auction.

If you have a house, attic, garden or shed that either needs to be de-cluttered or cleared for personal reasons then we can be of help. Should you have a house that needs to be cleared then we will also clean your property so any stress or worry is taken away from your circumstances

If you are moving house then we also provide a removals service.

For more details and a free no obligation quote please call Mick on 01386 841502 or 07548 258686

We also have a Face book page MMY Auction and Clearances and advertise on yell.com under MMY Clearances.

Birthday Card. Alan and Alice Holford, on behalf of all members of the branch, sent Her Majesty the Queen a card for her 90th Birthday. "God save the Queen".

While on the subject of Birthday Cards, our thanks must go to Peter and Pamela Jones who continue to send a card to all those members for which we have a date of birth, the majority. Sending cards was started by John and Gill Carter several years ago now. From the feedback the idea has proved very popular. Long may it continue.

Social Media. David Errington is liaising with Yvonne Beasley and Mark Evans to see how they can further the interest in the association through social media.

Royal Garden Party. Tony Jefferies ,together with his son Andrew, Andrew was is also a Grenadier, are in receipt of an invitation to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Make sure your shoes are highly polished for the occasion Tony!

Branch Garden Party. Hopefully we intend to hold a Garden Party in which we can perhaps incorporate a feature to celebrate Her Majesty's special birthday. If and when details are known they will be circulated.

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

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

Colin Knight

(Honorary Secretary)

If any member receiving this News Letter as a hard copy and is now on line, would you be kind enough to forward your e-mail address. As you appreciate, e-mail is a most cost effective and efficient way of circulation information.

*This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle:
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars:
This other Eden. Demi-paradise:
This fortress built by nature for herself:
Against infection and the hand of war:
This happy breed of men, this little world:
This precious stone set in the silver sea:
Which serves it in the office of the wall:
Or as a moat defensive to a house:
Against the envy of less happier lands:
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.*
William Shakespeare (Richard11)

Proforma

Regimental Remembrance Day – Sunday 15th May 2016

Please reserve me places for the trip at a cost of £18.00 per person.

Please pick me up from Cheltenham [] Gloucester [] Cirencester []

I would like the following supper on the return journey at the Guards Club Windsor:-

Fish/Chicken/Pie and Chips. Tea/Coffee and a Bread Roll will come with the order. Cost £6.75 per person.

Please indicate clearly Fish [] Chicken [] Pie []

Name.....Telephone Number.....

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

BACS details Account Number 04205251 Sort Code 60-05-16

Payment my cheque. Gren Gds Assn Glos Branch

Grenadier Gazette

We still have a few copies left. Cost £ per copy plus postage of

Please send mecopies. 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

BACS details Account Number 04205251 Sort Code 60-05-16

Please return to: -

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

Telephone:- 01452 534175

Branch Trip to the Royal Academy Sandhurst – Wednesday 10th August

To register your interest please e-mail or telephone the Honorary Secretary **Colin Knight**.

When full details are known you will be informed, together with a Booking Form, for you to make a reservation should you wish to join us.

Branch Fifty Club. The first Draw in the new series will take place at the next Members Meeting at the Victory Club, Cheltenham on Thursday 25th May. Still time to join us if you have yet to do so. Please contact Honorary Secretary to register. **SUPPORT YOUR BRANCH**

