



GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION Gloucestershire Branch (The Gloucestershire Guards Association)



President: Colonel L. C. A. Ranson TD

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Welfare Officer: Vacant

Social Secretary: Peter T Jones. Tel: 01452 863398 E-mail: peterjtjones1@outlook.com

Newsletter – June 2018

Issue (96)

Dear all.

Members Meetings: Thursday 26th July Thursday 27th Sept Thursday 29th November

All commence at 19:30 hours at the Victory Club, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham.

The Victory Club, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham is the venue. Ample parking excellent room for the meeting, fair priced bar, and yes, an assortment of **complimentary quality hot pies** available during the interval. All members, Associate: Honorary and of course the ladies are most welcome.

Your Branch – Your support to ensure its long-term survival

Bereavement. It is my sad duty to report, it would appear, that we have lost Audrey Gamble wife of the late Fred Gamble. We had not been notified and the occurrence took place some eighteen months ago.

Welfare. Little to report on welfare, however that is not to say we are all fighting fit. Those I mentioned in my last newsletter are much the same and are still receiving the full support of branch members in better health. Janet Leighton who gave so much of her time supporting David had a bit of a shock, however she now appears to be fine I am given to understand with no ill effects.

Gloucester Branch Coldstream Guards. The Gloucester Coldstream Guards Branch sadly has now closed its doors. The upside is that their membership has been invited to join our branch, as I write, quite a few have done so. Malcolm Waters was not only the branch Chairman but also Secretary and Treasurer. At our recent Annual General Meeting Malcolm attended and was voted on as a member of the committee. Malcolm will keep us informed of all things Coldstream. As I write we now have 23 Coldstream in our ranks.

Branch Annual General Meeting -Thursday 29th March 2018. The meeting was well attended with several of the ladies' present. The following were re-elected Chairman David Errington: Secretary Colin Knight: Social Secretary and Vice Chairman Peter T Jones: Treasurer Elaine Knight. The Committee were also re-elected enblock with the addition of Malcolm Waters. Colonel Lance Ranson remains at the helm as our President.

It was reported that the year 2017 had been quite a good year for the branch taking everything into account. Many acts of kindness were administered under welfare. Funds are in good shape for now and the foreseeable future.

Members Meeting May. At this meeting, which achieved a good attendance, it was pleasing to see several of our Coldstream members in attendance. To conclude the evening one of our Honorary Members, Peter Kilbey a retired police Firearms Officer gave an interesting talk on Police and Firearms. I had been a Police Officer for some 28 years and I was able to learn a thing or two. Thank you Peter.

Regimental Remembrance Day- Sunday 20th May. Sadly, as the years pass by the numbers attending steadily decrease. As long as there is support, we hope to continue to run a coach. This year we had to subsidise the coach in the region of £200.00. As usual we stopped at the Guards Club at Windsor on the outwards journey and again on the return for a Fish and Chips Supper. The club always makes us most welcome and it is a most convenient stop being only just over a mile from the motorway. The parade went well on a glorious sunny day. Our new Colonel HRH The Duke of York was on parade with us and took the salute at the Cenotaph. Afterwards he addressed the parade in Wellington Barracks and gave a good account of his duties and responsibilities, all unscripted. Before the Church Service the ashes of the late Norman Mitchell were buried in the Rose Garden adjacent to the Chapel. A short service was conducted by the Regimental Chaplain, in attendance was the Regimental Sergeant Major together with a Warrant Officer. If Norman was looking down, he would have been well pleased I am sure with the dignity of the occasion.

Branch Walk: Derek Knott volunteered, yet once more, to organise a branch walk. This time a walk with a difference. We met at 11:00 hours at Hopewell Colliery in the Forest of Dean and assembled over tea/coffee.

We then left for a tour underground in the drift mine, a very interesting experience for those who have not had this experience before. On leaving the mine you found yourself right in the forest where we then ambled back to the starting point for a pre-ordered lunch. It was certainly a different experience and pleasing to report well attended. A day with a difference

Gurkha Lunch. Back in May a good number of members met at The Roadmaker, a Gurkha restaurant to enjoy the delights of a Nepalese meal. Thank you, Graham Barton, for making the arrangements.

Sunday 5th August 2018 – Branch Garden Party by kind invitation of Colonel John Peel. A lovely venue to which we have been granted an invitation for now well in excess of thirty-three years. Guests may arrive from 12:00 hours, to ease our work load please bring a folding chair(s) with you if you have one or more. A substantial barbecue lunch followed by a desert will be served in the region of 13:15 hours. During the afternoon the Chedworth Silver Band will entertain us with a varied selection of music. Later in the afternoon a light tea meal will be provided.

Throughout the day complimentary tea, coffee, soft drinks, beer, ciders and wines will be available. How many more years Colonel Peel will continue to invite us is unknown. Come on everyone, this year record the date in your diary and join us for a day out, I do not believe that you will be disappointed.

Do not forget ladies, also you chaps handy in the kitchen. As has been the request from the very early days. Please, if you can, make a cake, sponge etc. These are used in conjunction with the tea meal. Any left overs are always auctioned. This provides a bit of fun. Also assists to help defray costs.

Tuesday 9th October 2018 William Edgar Holmes VC. William Edgar Holmes was a Grenadier who came from Stanway, near Winchcombe. On this day 100 years ago, he was awarded the VC for his bravery. The government have given local authorities a small grant in

order that they may celebrate the occasion. In this case the local authority is Tewkesbury District Council, who are liaising with us to be able to put a suitable occasion in place. Again, note the date in your diary. Details will be circulated once known.

Sunday 14th October 2018. President's Formal Luncheon. The Hatherley Manor has once more been reserved for the occasion. This year we will be joined by members of the Coldstream Guards Association; to this end we are going to endeavour to see if we can make it a joint affair; could prove to be interesting. At this stage, please make a note of the date in your diary. Further detailed information will be forwarded nearer the time. Malcolm Waters will be contacting the Coldstream contingent by separate letter.

Let us endeavour to make this a bumper year with a good attendance.

Sunday 11th November 2018 - Cheltenham Town Hall Festival of Remembrance.

Unfortunately, all our supply of tickets was taken for last year. This year, I will endeavour to see if I can increase our allocation. Tickets are all complimentary courtesy of Cheltenham Borough Council.

Sunday 2nd December – Christmas Social at the Victory Club Cheltenham. Doors at 12:00 Hours. Notice for your diary.

Pensions. Any member, who knows of a Grenadier who he feels could do with a little support from regimental funds then please get in touch. Of course, there is nothing to stop anyone applying themselves. I am always on hand to take your calls. I will take advice as I am sure that this would apply to all seven regiments of the Household Division.

Miscellaneous. Each year we endeavour to arrange a variety of events and gatherings, hopefully, to suit most tastes. Keep a look out for any future outing and or events. On this subject, due to the battalion being abroad, unfortunately there will be no Grenadier Day this year 2018.

Branch Fifty Club. Thanks to the sterling effort of our Social Secretary Peter T Jones we managed to gain a good increase in membership. "Thank you" to all who have shown their support by joining.

Recruiting. Any member knowing, or having details, of any local former Household Division man, who is not a member of this branch, please would you be kind enough to forward details in order that we may contact him to see if he would like to join our ranks.

Troop 2018. Have received several telephone calls and e-mails relating to the Coldstreamer on parade wearing a turban. I am sure that many of you will have varied views on this!!

Troop 2019. We always manage to obtain a small allocation of tickets for the actual Troop. Also a few tickets for the first and second rehearsal. All interested please contact me with your request.

I am always on the lookout for articles to publish, come on chaps, and the ladies, forward me some articles or stories please. Especially welcome is an input from our Coldstream Members, I need a few stories and or up to date news. Functions etc appertaining to your regiment and association

Kind regards to one and all,

Colin J Knight

Honorary Secretary

Proforma

Branch Garden Party – Sunday 5th August 2018

From.Telephone.....

Please reserve me places at £18.00 per person.

Menu: Please select – Steak [] Pork [] Chicken [] Salmon [] Please indicate
All served with Sausages: Burgers: New Potatoes: Side Salad: Come back later for your desert.
Vegetarian option []

Please can you indicate if you are bringing a chair. We will have chairs on site, however every chair brought greatly assists. I can bring chairs Yes [] No []

If you can, make and bring a cake/sponge or similar if you are able. All donations in this field will be most welcome

Please indicate if you are paying by BACS [] Tick box

BACS details Account Number 04205251 Sort Code 60-05-16 (Preferred)

Payment my cheque. Gren Gds Assn Glos Branch

Please return Proforma and cheques to: - Peter T Jones, "Maybury", 5, Shurdington Road, Brockworth, Gloucester. GL3 4PS

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