



# GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION Gloucestershire Branch (The Gloucestershire Guards Association)



**President:** Colonel L. C. A. Ranson TD

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**Hon. Secretary:** Colin J. Knight, Ridgeway, Bream Road, St Briavels, Glos. GL15 6TL Tel: 01594 530154 E-mail:

[grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk)

**Welfare Officer:** Vacant

**Social Secretary:** Peter T Jones. Tel: 01452 863398 E-mail: peterjones1@outlook.com

## Newsletter – August 2018

Issue (97)

Dear all.

**Members Meetings:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November which concludes the year

*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 to include Associate: Honorary and of course the ladies are most welcome.

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

**Obituary.** It is my sad duty to report the passing, on Tuesday of this week, of Roy Turner (Coldstream Guards) Roy was secretary of the Gloucester Branch for some 30 years until he relinquished the reins when Malcolm Waters took over. Funeral arrangements will be circulated when known. Our condolences are extended to his family.

**Welfare.** Unfortunately, the branch still does not have a dedicated Welfare Officer. Some of those who would have volunteered in the past, now need a Welfare Officer of their own. Members are reminded however that any committee member may be approached on these matters. It does not all have to go to the Honorary Secretary, always up to my eyes in work but I will always find time for branch business and affairs.

It is also true that the branch being so geographically spread out, many of our members have a limited knowledge of who else is a member. No names are published under welfare without the express permission of the person concerned. In truth, we could almost just publish the Nominal Roll, and append current problems thereto; but hey, we do have a few still standing, so well done lads and lassies.

George Nourse of Bishops Cleeve (3<sup>rd</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> Bn) has had a pretty rotten year or so and is still undergoing investigations and treatment but says “I am getting on with it like a good Grenadier”. Well done George.

John Finch (Or Uncle John as he is known to many of us) has been in and out of hospital so many times over the past couple of years that he knows most of the NHS Staff by name. Despite all this, John, greatly supported by his wife Yvonne, plods ever forward. He runs “An Old Sweats

Club” at Bourton on the Water British Legion every Monday morning. If you are interested, please get in touch with John. I have his contact details if required.

Our Social Secretary, Peter T Jones, although (In his own words) a fine figure of a man, is suffering from Fibrosis, a lung condition which affects breathing and physical stamina however as many of us know, it does not stop him talking!

Keep in touch, we cannot know or assist with welfare if we are not informed.

As one can expect with an aging branch we continue to have a list of members not quite in good form. Any member who would like a visit or believes that we might be able to assist in any way, then please do not hesitate to make contact. In other words, keep in touch. While writing I am aware of several members who are suffering a little with the hot weather that we are experiencing. Will we British ever stop talking about the weather?

**Members Meeting July.** At this meeting, which achieved a good attendance. It was pleasing to see several of our Coldstream members in attendance plus two Welsh Guards. To conclude the evening one of our Associate Members, Mark Evans a serving Police Officer, gave an interesting talk on current policing together with his long-term involvement with the Army Cadets. What ever happened to Dixon of Dock Green?

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Branch Walk.** Derek Knott has volunteered, yet once more, to organise a branch walk. Meet at 11:00 hours at Hopewell Colliery in the Forest of Dean and assemble over tea/coffee. There is ample space for us to leave our cars while we take a walk, all on the level, around Cannop Ponds just under four miles. On returning to the colliery we can then tuck into a pre-ordered cooked lunch at a very reasonable cost. Our past visit to the colliery restaurant can verify this. Please contact Derek to book on and order a meal. **01242 604116 e-mail patandderek@talktalk.net**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – Branch Garden Party** was by kind invitation of Colonel John Peel. Well, after a very slow start, when at one time we were considering cancelling the event, we finally achieved an incredible attendance of 103, the highest number for many years. What a scorching hot day it turned out to be with temperatures in the mid-eighties. All went smoothly without any hiccups except with Pam Jones tumbling over a wall and badly bruising herself. A big “Thank You” to Derek Dean together with Ivor Jones who slaved over the barbecue in the blazing sun. Also, Pam and Peter Jones for running the raffle, and cooking the chickens. Roy Dowle and Jenny for the smooth running of the bar, also John Finch and Yvonne or the Treasure Hunt. Not forgetting all those, who without being asked, assisted in clearing up afterwards. All in all, a good day.

A little surprise for Derek Dean on the day. Derek has been assisting Ivor on the barbecue now for so many years we have forgotten when he first started. At that time Ivor was a Prison Officer and by fair means or foul he managed to purloin various utensils for our use on the day, we still have them. It has always been a bit of a joke that Derek is Ivor’s trainee assistance. On Sunday he was presented with a Barbecue Culinary Set to take home as he was now considered to be a “Fully competent barbecue chef”. It has taken him some 25 years to achieve this honour.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 make it a joint affair; could prove to be interesting. . Malcolm Waters will be contacting the Coldstream contingent by separate letter.

At the time of writing, our Guest of Honour will be Major General Peter Williams CMG OBE (Late Coldstream Guards) We are still awaiting confirmation as to who will be attending from the Grenadier Regiment.

This is our one formal event of the year and we ask you all to please consider attending. A good turnout ensures a good atmosphere, which is essential, if you want a successful occasion. Once you have finished reading this letter, check your diary, if free, ask the good lady for the chequebook in order that you may send in your payment to secure your place. Of course, payment by BACS is preferred. ` For those of you who have never joined us before, then make this the year to "Break your duck", we are sure that you will not be disappointed

There will be a raffle, however the good news is that no one will pester you to buy tickets, envelopes containing tickets will be on the tables in multiples of one pound. As usual, if you have an item that you would like to bring and donate for the draw, then this will be appreciated.

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

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Please send me an e-mail if you are interested in attending this year.

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

**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 was no Grenadier Day this year 2018, however it has just been announced that there will be a Grenadier Day next year at Lille Barracks. Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> is the date for your diary.



**Macmillan Cancer Support.** Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Sarah Errington, wife of our Chairman David, is hosting a **Coffee Morning** in aid of a charity that most of us are only too familiar with. This has to be the charity that we should support as we never know who might be next amongst us to have to call on their voluntary services.

Times 10:00 – 14:30 Hours. 2, Bullfinch Way, Innsworth, Gloucester. If free, please consider supporting Sarah in her very worthwhile cause.

**Poem.** From Stuart Sutton Coldstream who sent me this to which I am sure that many of you will be able to recall the sentiments raised. Rather clever poem I thought hence the circulation.

I remember the cheese of my childhood,  
And the bread that we cut with a knife,  
When the children helped with the housework,  
And the men went to work, not the wife.

The cheese never needed a fridge,  
And the bread was so crusty and hot,

The children were seldom unhappy  
And the wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from the bottle,  
With the yummy cream on the top,  
Our dinner came hot from the oven,  
And not from the fridge in the shop.

The kids were a lot more contented,  
They didn't need money for kicks,  
Just a game with their mates in the road,  
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner  
Where a pen'orth of sweets was sold  
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic?  
Or is it....I'm just getting old?

I remember the 'loo' was the lav,  
And the bogey man came in the night,  
It wasn't the least bit funny  
Going "out back" with no light.

The interesting items we perused,  
From the newspapers cut into squares,  
And hung on a peg in the lav,  
It took little to keep us amused.

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The clothes were boiled in the copper,  
With plenty of rich foamy suds  
But the ironing seemed never ending  
As Mum pressed everyone's 'duds'.

I remember the slap on my backside,  
I remember the slap on the backside  
And the taste of soap if I swore.  
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of  
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do think that bruised our ego?  
Or our initiative was destroyed?  
We ate what was put on the table  
And I think that life was better enjoyed.

But a huge fact not hereto mentioned  
In this mushy tale of nostalgic rejoice  
Is the reason we all enjoyed our lot  
Because there was **NO BLOODY CHOICE**

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**New Blazers/Clothing.** Coldstream member Ray Sallis attended the July meeting in his new blazer. For just £51.25 he purchased a lovely blazer with the Coldstream **Badge Embroidered** on. I have visited the site [www.jointservicesclothing.com](http://www.jointservicesclothing.com) and had a browse around. To purchase there is a chart for your measurements, almost made to measure you could say. The finished product, from what we could see, was first class at a price which takes some believing. Well worth a visit to the site I would suggest.

**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 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 Associated 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

## **Coldstream Footnote**

All Coldsreamers' intending to attend the **Formal Luncheon**. Please wait for a letter you will receive from Malcolm Waters before completing and sending in your Proforma. Letter by Snail Mail.

# Proforma

**President's Formal Luncheon at the Hatherley Manor**  
*Sunday 14th October – 11:45 Hours for 13:00 Hours*

## *Menu*

\*\*\***Starters**\*\*\*

*Carrot & Coriander Soup, freshly prepared and garnished accordingly:*

*Prawns Marie Rose Melba Toast. Mixed Salad*

*Truffle Goats Cheese Mousse Sun Dried Tomatoes. Toasted Bread*

\*\*\***Main Course**\*\*\*

*Roast Breast of Gloucester Turkey with seasoning, Roast Potatoes, Chipolatas and Pan Gravy*

*: Baked Fillet of Salmon with Sweet Peppers New Potatoes, White Wine Cream Sauce:*

*Roast Woodland Pork Loin, Roast Potatoes, Apple and Cider Sauce.*

*Spinach and Tomato Gnocchi Basil Oil, Parmesan Cheese (V)*

*All served with seasonable vegetables.*

\*\*\***Dessert**\*\*\*

*Sticky Toffee Pudding, Toffee Sauce, Vanilla Ice Cream*

*Crème Brule, Shortbread Biscuit*

*Selection of Cheese Biscuits. Chutney, Celery*

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*Tea/coffee with mints.*

My choice of menu is:- Please append the underlined item in each box. Cost £22.50 per person.  
 (Branch subsidised) Please tick if you are a Coldstream { }

NAME (As per Place Setting Card)	STARTER	MAIN COURSE	DESSERT

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

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

Payment by cheque. - - Gren Gds Assn Glos Branch

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**Please return Proforma and cheques to:** - Peter T Jones, "Maybury", 5, Shurdington Road,  
 Brockworth, Gloucester. GL3 4PS Telephone 01452 863398 e-mail – petertjones1@outlook.com

