



GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION



EAST KENT BRANCH

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Newsletter for Autumn 2008

Once more the winter approaches, and I can let you know all the things that we have been doing since the spring. It was disappointing that from my last newsletter there was very little response and I would appreciate it if members would make contact, even if it is only to say "I am still here and I wish to retain a contact with the East Kent Branch." Please bear in mind that there is now a yearly subscription fee of ten pounds per year for all members. Meetings are still held at the Conservative Club in Hythe on the Third Sunday of the month at 11.00am. The meeting will last for two hours and lunch can be provided. Ladies are invited, taking coffee in the bar and enjoy a get together while the meeting is in progress

Events On 18th May many of our members travelled to London for Regimental Remembrance day and on the 31st May the trip to Horseguards was well attended for the trooping the colour rehearsal which is free, so apply for tickets early if you wish to attend next year. The 29th June found us at Aldershot for Grenadier Day. We had a branch stall which helped the funds and the weather was excellent. Our July event was the usual Church Parade and Service at Ickham Village Church. This is such a quiet village where we honour the grave of Capt Dashwood Swann, and lay a wreath. He was awarded the Waterloo Medal for saving the standard during the battle. The lunch in the village pub was excellent. In August the Regimental Band came to Hythe, marching to the Town Hall and playing for an hour. In the evening the band performed a concert at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone. The collections at both of these events were in aid of The Colonels Fund. This fund is set up to support the families of those killed or seriously wounded in the current actions, and our Colonel Prince Phillip is giving his full support to it. Donations to this should be sent to our treasurer, **MR RC. GOODSON 36 MARTINS WAY HYTHE KENT CT21 6QU.**

On Saturday 10th October we hold our **Annual Dinner at the Hythe Conservative Club.** It will be another great event with music and dancing after the meal. To end the year we have the **Christmas Party and Draw** with loads of prizes and a musical evening. This is on **Saturday 13th December at 7pm.** Please donate prizes to Bill and Bev Marshall as soon as possible as they have lots to do arranging the items. We now look forward to 2009 and are already looking at things to do and places to go, plus some of the trips from this year repeated. Let us know if you have any preferences or ideas so that we can plan ahead. We need to know what you would like the branch events to be and need your ideas.

Grenadier Gazettes 2009 These are sent out in March and must be ordered from the secretary before 31st of January at a branch meeting, or by phone or post. The price will be £4.75 plus postage or collected at the March Meeting. Or orders may be sent direct to Regimental H.Q. Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ.

The Battalion You will be pleased to know that the Battalion is now back at Wellington Barracks and feeling that they are now back home after being at Aldershot when they returned from Afghanistan.

P.T.O.

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They are now, of course, as well as Buckingham Palace Guards etc, in training to return to Afghanistan about the middle of next year. They also attended Regimental Remembrance Day and marched with us to Horseguards Parade and the wreath laying ceremony.

Grenadiers at Littlecote I know that many of our members have attended events at Littlecote over the past years and I have received details of a pre Christmas Event especially for Grenadiers. The events will be over 3 days and 2 night's Bed and Breakfast with evening meal. Plus a Sunday lunch before leaving. The dates are 19th, 20th, 21st December 2008. The total price is £175 per person. A deposit of £35 per Person on booking. Contact for a booking form or further information. The Regimental band will also be there as well as plenty of entertainments and events.

Secretaries Post By now most members will know that as secretary I am looking to retire at the Annual General Meeting in March next year, after completing eleven years. I have enjoyed the post and it has been most interesting, but age has crept up and by then I will be eighty two. By the time you receive this newsletter I trust that the name of the new secretary will be known. Regimental Headquarters require the details in September, so that they can be published in the Grenadier Gazette. Without this, many communications will be lost by the branch. The ideal situation is to know who the new secretary will be now, so that I can pass over to him as much information as possible in small amounts before he takes up the post in March 2009. I am also prepared to accompany him to the secretaries meeting at Regimental Headquarters for the meeting of all Branch Secretaries in March 2009. The time we need a new secretary is **Now!!!** I intend to make this an easy handover to my successor and am prepared to help with any difficulties that may arrive. Contact me if you would like to take on this post and I will be pleased to let you know more details.

Membership at Meetings. With a membership of more than a hundred we find it difficult raise more than 20 members to attend. Please note that our meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month at the Conservative Club in Hythe at 11:00am. The meetings only last for an hour and our wives enjoy coffee and a chat during that time. Most of us enjoy lunch afterwards either at the Conservative Club or at the Bowls Club in Folkestone. Our membership covers a large area of the county and with a membership containing many members who have distances to travel our numbers will decrease, not increase. Bearing in mind that there were six battalions of Grenadiers in the past, we now have only one, and we are not in a recruiting area, so there will be fewer members coming through to us in future. We need some bright ideas!!!!

Regimental Christmas Cards. Members wishing to purchase these must send to RHQ on the form provided before the 1st November.

The Colonels Fund

Members would like to know that Our Colonel, Prince Phillip, has set up a fund to take care of Grenadiers and their families, killed or wounded in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. The whole of the proceeds from our concert at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone were donated to this. A very worthy cause.

Best wishes to all and I look forward to hearing from you

Harry.