

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION SUMMER NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2023

ISSUE 92

Welsh Guards Regimental Headquarters

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Welcome to the 92nd Association Summer Newsletter. Since the last edition the Association has been busy and fortunately free of Covid restrictions, allowing face to face meetings to resume and of course normality back in our lives. As we are all aware it has been a very busy period for the Regiment as a whole, and aside from various operational commitments, including the training of Ukrainian troops, the Regiment has been front and centre in the funeral for our late Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Coronation of King Charles III and the first Kings Birthday parade in over 70 years – all these events will be covered in the regimental magazine.

DARTS AND SHOOT COMPETITION

This year's competition is being held on Saturday 16th September in the Sergeants Mess Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. No surprises in the format, the same as always. This is an excellent day and is open to all members of the Association as well as Associate members.

Please contact your local Branch Secretary for further information and to put your name into a team.

BRANCH REPORTS

Sadly only two branches have submitted reports for this year's summer newsletter, but make very interesting reading.

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

We have an exceptionally good Regimental Magazine but if we are to maintain this high standard we need quality input, both copy and photographs from all the branches. The normal annual Guidelines have been issued to all Branch Secretaries with the cut off date for inclusion being 12 Oct 23.

Entries should be around 2 x A4 pages or 1000 words and a maximum of 8 photographs with captions. Do not embed the photographs in your text just send them as a separate file and please do not format your word document with columns as these simply have to be removed (which is time consuming) to use the article.

As always photographs to support your entries are really important, any digital photographs you submit must be at least 1MB in size otherwise they will not print. If you only have printed pictures you can send them to either the Secretary General or Deputy Secretary General who will scan them and return the originals.

ST DAVIDS DAY FRIDAY 1st MARCH 2024

We still await confirmation of St Davids day 2024, as soon as we are made aware word will be passed via branch secretaries and social media, coaches will be laid on by the Association from North & South Wales, once full they are full.

KING'S BIRTHDAY PARADE 2023

A very succesful parade and rehearsals, but I am sad to report that there was a hiccup with ticket ordering, where indivisuals ordered tickets for different events through different branches. This caused several major issues for Sgt Bishop at RHQ causing him a mountain of extra work. Bearing in mind he was busy with the admin for the Coronation, the Kings Birthday parade on top of his daily military duties, he managed to sell on many of the tickets, but sadly not them all and this has resulted in individuals having to pay for tickets they asked for but did not use.

There must not be a repeat of this next year and so to avoid this problem arising, tickets are only to be ordered through individuals main branch.

CENOTAPH REMEMBERENCE PARADE, LONDON 12th NOVEMBER 2023

Over the last few years the Welsh Guards Association has been very well represented at the Cenotaph in London, which is followed by a buffet lunch at the WO's & Sgts Mess in Wellington Barracks, prior to attending the Regimental Black Sunday at the Guards chapel and a short march to the Household Division memorial.

If you wish to attend please email the Secretary General, we are normally allocated 20 places by the Royal British Legion, however spare places are released during August.

LLANELLI BRANCH RENAMING

Llanelli Branch, will now be known as **Llanelli and West Wales Branch**

WGA Biennial Lunch

The 2024 biennial lunch will take place in Cardiff. Date & location TBC

BRANCH NOTES

Llanelli & West Wales Branch

After a very enjoyable St David's Day celebration with the Battalion, next up is our BBQ on Saturday 1st July at 1300 hrs at The Royal Navy Club Llanelli - all are welcome, tickets are £5.00 each.

The branch remains reasonably strong, although we have lost quite a few members in the last few months. Although honoured locally our Secretary Placed wreaths in Hechtel and Ypres, whilst on a visit as a guest of the Swansea Branch WGA.

We now look forward to The Darts and shoot and the Rugby dinner to meet up with fellow comrades.

The branch would like to extend an invitation to all those that have lapsed or not joined any branch, to come and join us. We meet Bi-Monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the Month. Meetings take place at the Royal Naval Club, 26 Swansea Road, Llanelli SA15 3YT – Timings 19:15 for 19:30. Dates for 2024 are: 8th Feb, 11th April, 13th June, 8th August, 10th October, 12th December.

Finally, an open invitation to all to join the Llanelli Branch for their Annual Christmas Lunch at 1300hrs on Saturday 25th November 2023 to be held at the Diplomat Hotel Llanelli SA15 3PJ.

Ogmore Branch

The King's Coronation Clay Shooting Cup was held Saturday 20th May 2023 at Dragon clay Sports. A great morning was had by all Branch Members enjoying the sunshine and Breakfast on the ranges and reminiscing from all who participated and brushing up the skills at shooting some clays.

The Winners of the King's Coronation Cup 2023 were Team Mont Pincon comprising of Bob Chambers, Mel Williams and Curtis Williams with a Team score of 46.

The winner of the Best Shot with a score of 24 was Stuart Kennor of Team Hechtel.

The winner of the Wooden Spoon for participation and effort was won by Rhia Molino of Team Pilckem.

The Branch raised £570 from the event entrance fees, £165 was raised for the Raffle and the selling of the Branch Stickers and Shotgun event cloth badges made £44.

FORECAST OF EVENTS

October 2023

Sat 14th – WG Rugby Reunion Club Dinner

Due to issues with the usual venue please be aware of the following.

Date changed to: Saturday 14th October 2023

Location changed to: The Towers Hotel & Spa. Swansea Bay. SA10 6JL

Speakers - no change: Lee Byrne and James Hook.

Cost: No change - heavily subsidised by WGRRC funds - £25

Email: darrelljones73@aol.com

Mobile: 07920 060809

November 2023

Tuesday 2nd - 11:00 hrs Secretaries meeting, United Services Mess, Cardiff

Sunday 12th – Remembrance Sunday (local timings)

March 2024

Friday 1st – Regimental St Davids Day, Combermere Barracks, Windsor tbc

May 2024

TBC - Association AGM date and location TBC

TBC - Association Race Day Ludlow

JUNE 2024

Saturday 22nd – Wrexham Falklands Reunion

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARD 2023

This year's Regimental Christmas card is available as usual either via the online PRI shop on the Welsh Guards Charity website here; <https://www.welshguardscharity.co.uk/pri-shop> or through the PRI shop – a revised PRI order form is attached. You are reminded that the shop is no longer situated in Maindy barracks, Cardiff, but is now run from Regimental Headquarters in London.

The card, depicts the Hyde Park Magazine Guard returning to Barracks c 1936 from an original painting by Sean Bolan:



ASSOCIATION BRANCH DETAILS

Cardiff

Terry O'Shea (24047142)

43 Pwll-Evan-Ddu

Coity

Bridgend CF35 6AY

Tel: 07973-255527

terenceoshea8@gmail.com

First Monday of each month 1930 hrs

[United Services Mess Wharton Street](#), Cardiff

East Glamorgan

John Hooper (24364279)

38 Porcher Avenue

Glyncoch

Pontypridd CF37 3DB

Tel: 07733 234140

john4279hoope@gmail.com

2nd Wednesday of month 1930 hrs

Gelliswastad Club, Gelliwastad Road, Pontypridd

Llanelli & West Wales

Alan Cunningham (24125105)

9 Alden Drive

Cockett

Swansea SA2 0FY

Tel: 07971-229465

alan.powcoy@outlook.com

2nd Wednesday of every 2nd month, 1930 hrs

[The Royal Navy Association Club](#), 26 Swansea Road, Llanelli SA15 3YT

London

Allan Miller (24185069)

125 Benhurst Avenue

Elm Park

Hornchurch

Essex RM12 4QN

Tel: 07885 736566

londonbranchsecretary.wga@gmail.com

Merthyr Tydfil & Aberdare

Errold Jones (24581438)

18 Marshall Crescent

Penydarren

Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9JA

errold438@yahoo.co.uk

1st Monday of month

[Ex Servicemen's Club](#), Merthyr Tydfil

Monmouthshire

Steve Liversage BEM (24141822)

7 Shaw Close

Hill Top

Ebbw Vale

Gwent NP23 6QQ

Tel: 07968-643371

vicar54@outlook.com

2nd Thursday month 2000 hrs

Alternating between the [Abergavenny Angel Hotel](#) and Constitutional Club, Pengam

Montgomeryshire, Shropshire & Midlands

John Williams (23860183)

83 Balmoral Crescent

Oswestry

Shropshire SY11 2XH

Tel: 07860-829206

j83williams.wga@gmail.com

Meetings every 3 months at the [Shrewsbury Beaconfield Club](#)

North England

Bryan Matthews (24578738)

3 Sandymount Drive

New Brighton

Merseyside CH45 0LJ

Tel: 0750 884 4911

bryanmatthews64@gmail.com

Branch meet at [The Old Quay](#), Station Road, Parkgate, Neston CH64 6QJ usually the first week of each month. Phone Branch Secretary for time/date of meeting.

North Wales

John Burns (24823395)

45 Bangor Road

Johnstown

Wrexham LL14 2SR

Tel: 07758 074189

north.wales.secretary@gmail.com

Bangor - 3rd Monday of the month, 1900 hrs

[Waverley Hotel](#), Station Rd, Bangor LL57 1LZ

Wrexham – 1st Thursday of the month

The Wrexham Memorial Club

Ogmore

Bob Chambers (24645750)

Brynteg Bungalow

Brynteg

Llantrisant

Pontyclun CF72 8LR

Telephone : 07501191917

bobchambers50@live.co.uk

2nd Monday of the month, 1930 hrs

[Hunters Lodge Public House](#), Brackla ,Bridgend CF31 2JT

Swansea & West Glamorgan

Steve Radford (24607282)

69 Oakridge

Sketty

Swansea SA2 8NZ

Tel: 07966 375310

wgaswansea@gmail.com

3rd Monday of the month at 1900 hrs

The Cwmfelin Social Club, Courtney Street, Manselton, Swansea SA1 9NR

Welsh Guards Reunited

Dennis "Knocker" Knowles (24122474)

69 Bryntiron

Mountain Ash

Mid Glamorgan CF45 4EX

Tel: 01443-477510

knowles781@btinternet.com

<http://www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk>