

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION SUMMER NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2022

ISSUE 91

Welsh Guards Regimental Headquarters

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Welcome to 91st Welsh Guards Association Summer Newsletter. Since the last edition the Association has been particularly busy and active as Covid restrictions have gradually lifted, allowing functions to resume and a bit of normality back in to our lives. At the time of writing that situation remains the same, but as we are all aware from watching the News and, in many cases from our own experiences, Covid cases and hospital admissions are increasing and there is much media speculation around restrictions being introduced again – we wait and see?

Having resumed business “as usual”, with WGA Golf, WGA Raceday at Ludlow, the [delayed] Biennial Lunch, St David’s Day, the Battlefield Tour, many Falklands 40th Commemorative events and branch activities, we have a busy 12 months to look forward to.

DARTS AND SHOOT COMPETITION

This years competition is being held on Saturday 17th 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. As a reminder, the existing holders of trophies, from the 2019 Darts & Shooting Competition (the 2020 and 2021 competitions having been cancelled) are:

Darts	Shooting
Winners (Welsh Guards Association Cup) – Monmouthshire Branch	Winners (Leatham Trophy) – Swansea Branch
Runners Up (Abertawe Shield)	Runners Up – Welsh Guards Reunited “A”

Darts	Shooting
– East Glamorgan Branch Highest Individual Score – Tony Davies	Best Shot (Aberdare Cup) – Gareth Liversage (Monmouthshire Branch) Winner of the Gerry Greenstock Cup (Best shot over 70 years of age) – Jim Price 65

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

BRANCH MEETINGS

Branch secretaries have reported a steady increase in younger members attending their monthly meetings and applying to join their branches which is excellent news and hopefully this will continue and spread to all branches. Congratulations must go to Bob Chambers who has recently taken up the role as Secretary of the Ogmere Branch, along with Capt Peter Robinson as the Branch President, Mike Smith 19 as Branch Chairman and Andrew Evans 86 as Treasurer. They have completely reinvigorated the branch, given it direction and it is now extremely active, simply down to hard work, grit and determination.

A big thank you also to Steve Radford who has recently taken up the mantle of Secretary Swansea Branch, who also are a very active branch with a very proactive committee organising some wonderful events for their members.

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

The Regimental Magazine is growing year on year and this year will hopefully be the same as last and with many Branches being very busy, Branch magazine reports should be particularly interesting, full and packed with photographs. As always we are looking for interesting Welsh Guards specific articles from yesteryear and from feedback we understand that readers enjoy to reminisce on their time with the regiment. If you have an 'interesting' tale you wish to recount or even a long held confession (we are sure there must be many!) and you wish to share your story, please feel free to submit, with photographs, to the editor Major Martin Browne at; welshguardsara@gmail.com. All photographs submitted should not be embedded into the word document, but should be sent separately as higher quality as is possible. If you do not have access to a scanner, or you are unsure, please contact the Secretary General (Maldwyn Jones) for advice. ALL SUBMISSIONS to be submitted by no later than **Wednesday 12th October 2022**.

For 2022 it is hoped to keep the Regimental Magazine cost at £6 per magazine plus £3 postage and the WGA will once again fund 20 magazines per branch (12 branches x 20 magazines = 240 x £9 = £2,160). This is not an insignificant amount and all branches are asked to be meticulous in deciding who should receive their branches 20 free copies when names and addresses are called for and don't simply use lists from previous years – we have had instances of magazines being returned to RHQ undelivered as addresses have been incomplete or people moved away.

If you require a Regimental Magazine then please contact your local Branch Secretary (there will be a charge to post overseas). They will also be available to purchase from the online PRI shop; <https://www.welshguardscharity.co.uk/pri-shop>

ST DAVIDS DAY TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2023

Though several months away, the day will soon be upon us and at present it has been agreed to hold the day with the Battalion in Combermere Barracks once again. This year we received a particularly warm welcome, in what was a very new and less formal format. The WGA funded and hosted an Italian themed Menu in the Sergeants' Mess the evening before, which was very well received by all who attended. The format for the day saw us forming up in one of the large REME LAD Hangers, where the parade and service was held, followed by all ranks gathering in the Gymnasium marquee for drinks and lunch. This was very well received by many, it gave us the opportunity to meet up with serving members and old friends under the one roof, rather than all disappearing into the various messes and we were also entertained by what is to be an annual Rugby match between Lance Corporals and Guardsmen. It was very enthusiastically played and many of us there to spectate lost count of the score! Captain Tommy Macdonald-Milner, a Regimental Trustee refereed to ensure impartiality!

Further details for 2023 will forthcoming nearer the date.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY PARADE 2023

The date has not yet been set, but will be either Saturday 10th or 17th June 2023 with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Trooping their Colour. Already enquiries are being made regarding tickets, but the "public" application process will not open until around February 2023 and when it does it is accessed online here;

<https://qbp.army.mod.uk>

The Regimental demand for tickets is, as always, expected to be extremely high and demand will always outstrip supply as it does every year. The Regimental allocation of tickets has to stretch between family members of serving personnel (those on parade have priority), the WG Club, the WGA and Friends of the Regiment and so naturally, and unfortunately not everyone who asks for tickets for the QBP will be allocated what they ask for so please consider applying for tickets for the Major Generals or Colonels Review, to avoid disappointment for the main event, which will attract a higher demand.

To apply you need to go through your Branch Secretary, but please only apply through your primary branch and do not apply to multiple branches, also please only apply for the minimum amount of tickets, two is the norm and anything above is highly unlikely to be granted.

FALKLAND COMMEMORATIONS 2022

With 2022 marking 40 years since the Falklands War, it evoked memories for many and of course we all remembered in our own way. There were many commemorative services held across Wales all supported by Welsh Guards veterans and families and it would be remiss of me not to mention the following three events:

Wrexham – 25 Jun 22. Once again the Regiments main annual Falklands event superbly organised by Capt Chris Hopkins, with the Regimental Band, a marching detachment from 1WG and around 350 veterans marching to the Welsh Guards Memorial in Bodhyfyrd for a wreath laying ceremony followed by a reception in the War Memorial Club. A superb weekend as always.

The date for Wrexham 2023 has been set as Saturday 17th June and it will follow the traditional format. **Remember the day is not about those who went, it is about those who did not return and is open to all generations of Welsh Guardsmen and their families.**

Walk of Respect - 11 – 21 Jun 22. A shortened version of the 2013 Walk on Wales, this commemorative walk was held on the Anglesey Coastal path and was completed in the memory of those that perished in the Falklands. It was well attended each day by various groups and individuals and superbly organised by Capt Jan Koops and Keith Lewis (80).

Ride of Respect - 21 – 24 Jun 22. Following 14 months of meticulous hard work by the organisation team, this event was a complete success. Thankfully Geraint Hughes 31 had prebooked the weather and the ride ran like clockwork. We had the opportunity to meet with several family members of those lost in 1982, who were very appreciative of the event and a huge vote of thanks to Colonel Hugh Boddington who ensured he met each and every one and reassured them they had not been forgotten.

PRIMARY BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

With an increase of Branches having an online social media presence, more and more people are becoming members of more than one Branch, which is to be encouraged, but is not without its problems. For example, *ex Gdsm Jones lives in Swansea and is a member of Swansea Branch, he is also a member of the Welsh Guards Reunited (WGR) Online Branch and visits the website, but is also a member of London Branch on Social media (to keep in touch with friends) – when applying for tickets for anything (QBP, St David’s Day etc) or a free copy of the Regimental Magazine, he must only do so through his “primary Branch” – in this example, it is Swansea and not all three branches.*

PEMBROKESHIRE BRANCH

This will probably be the last call to get Pembrokeshire Branch up and running again. Mark William Morgan 84 (Mogsy) had stepped forward and shown interest in becoming Branch Secretary, however, being self employed, he has been extremely busy with work and has not been able to dedicate any time to the Branch and so a willing volunteer is sought to try and reinvigorate Pembrokeshire Branch - if you feel you are able to help, please contact the Secretary General to discuss.

FORECAST OF EVENTS

November

Tuesday 1st - 11:00 hrs Secretaries meeting, United Services Mess, Cardiff

Sunday 13th - Remembrance Sunday (Local timings)

March 2023

Tuesday 1st – Regimental St Davids Day, Combermere Barracks, Windsor

May 2023

TBC - Association AGM date and location TBC

TBC - Association Race Day Ludlow

Saturday 27st - Trooping The Colour First Rehearsal - Major Generals Review

JUNE 2023

Saturday 3rd – Trooping The Colour Second rehearsal - Colonels Review

Saturday 10th – HM The Queen's Birthday parade

Saturday 17th – Wrexham Falklands Reunion

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARD 2022

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, measuring 150mm x 150mm, depicts a *Christmas Gathering* 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, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire

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

Stephen Ollerhead (23929723)

10 Penfold Way

Dodleston

Chester CH4 9NL

Tel: 01244 661091

Branch meet at [the Green Oak Farm Public House](#), Rossmore Road E, Ellesmere Port CH65 3BR once a 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>