



# Irish Guards Association Newsletter

*(London Branch)*

Dear Members,

Herewith, your second newsletter of the year. It's been another busy six months for the Branch and it continues to flourish but we can always do with new members.

**The Committee is formed as follows:**

Major The Lord Bruntisfield of Boroughmuir  
Captain H Buckmaster  
Captain R Wilmont MBE  
Mr A Beggs  
Mr D Cleary MBE  
Mr W Green  
Mr W Jenkins  
Mr S Knox  
Mr G Shone  
Mr P Parkins  
Mr S Orr  
Mr D Abel  
RQMS J Chaney

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Honorary Treasurer  
Honorary Secretary  
Membership  
Welfare  
  
Website Administrator  
  
Associate Member  
Serving Member

In April 2018 we said goodbye to the Regimental Adjutant, Colonel Tim Purdon OBE. Colonel Purdon had been a great supporter of the Regimental Association and we wish him all the best for the future.

Colonel Tim's replacement and the new Regimental Adjutant is Captain Niall Hall, who has kindly written the following introduction note. Welcome Sir!

I am delighted to have an opportunity to introduce myself as your new Regimental Adjutant having formally taken over from Colonel Tim Purdon in April of this year. His boots are certainly large one's to fill but I am delighted to be back with the Micks again after a gap of nearly thirty years.

I joined the Army in January 1980 at the Guards Depot in Pirbright before going onto the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and commissioned into the Irish Guards in April 1981. At Sandhurst I was lucky enough to have a pair of 'Mick Guardian Angels' in the form of Academy Sergeant Major Denis Cleary and Company Sergeant Major Mervyn Collier (RIP) to keep an eye on things.

I joined No. 4 Company in Chelsea Barracks in April 1981 with Colonel Brian O'Gorman and Company Sergeant Major Hovis Browne at the helm for a season of public duties before we moved to Munster early the following year to join 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade.

From there I was posted to the Guards Depot as a platoon commander of trainee junior Guardsmen. In those days there was a strong Mick contingent with Colonel Sir William Mahon as Commandant and Captain (later Major General) Sebastian Roberts as Adjutant not to mention a fine cohort of Warrant and non-commissioned officers.

I returned to the battalion in 1984 as Mortar officer for two years which included exercises in BATUS and Wainwright, Canada and an attachment to the Swiss Army. When the Micks returned to Chelsea in 1986 I was appointed Equerry to Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother at Clarence House. It was a fascinating two years which included a tour to Canada. She also went to Italy on private visits each spring and my job was to make sure her cars arrived there in one piece. One year, on the morning of departure, I could not find my passport. There was no option but to set off. Luckily the Buckingham Palace switchboard was able to make some well-placed calls and smooth border crossings ensued all the way there.

During my Clarence House time I also worked at Regimental Headquarters as Deputy Assistant Regimental Adjutant managing the path of potential officers into the Regiment. I am glad to see that today our selection process is still as thorough and the Micks remain a very popular choice.

I left the Army to pursue a career in business which included time in Healthcare management and working as a Management Consultant in communication coaching. Last year the opportunity to return to Regimental Headquarters came up and the chance was too good to miss. It's great to be back working at our 'Spiritual Home' and with an excellent support team there as well. I look forward to meeting you all soon and swapping some stories.

## PAST EVENTS

### St Patrick's Day 2018

We celebrated St Patrick's Day with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Cavalry Barracks Hounslow. The 'Beast from the East' had blown in and we woke up on the 17<sup>th</sup> to snow and freezing winds blowing across the Parade square. I can honestly say it's the coldest St Patrick's Day I can ever remember.

It was great to see both the Colonel of the Regiment and HRH The Duchess of Cambridge on parade. The Duchess was heavily pregnant at the time and we were very pleased to see her come and present the Shamrock to us.

The Battalion marched past with the Quis Club and the Association following. We had excellent comments from numerous people that the marching of the Association contingent was excellent – well done lads!

Following the parade, we headed for a warm cup of tea or something stronger followed by an excellent lunch in the Gymnasium. The various bars throughout the Barracks did an excellent trade for the rest of the day and we headed home with more great memories to cherish. If you haven't been to St Patrick's Day for a while, do make the effort as it is a great day.

### Derby Draw and Ladies Lunch

Unfortunately, the Derby lunch was cancelled due to the Royal Wedding having a knock-on effect in the Garrison Sgts Mess and the movement of troops to and from Windsor. The Garrison Sergeant Major tried very hard to find an alternative venue for us but to no avail. It was due to have been one of our better lunches as numbers attending were around 75. Let's make up for it with an excellent Christmas Lunch and Draw on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

We held the Derby draw on First Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June. 12 horses were drawn and the winners are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place £200	MR R TUFFNELL	Masar
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place £150	MRS C KENNEDY	Dee Ex Bee
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place £100	MR J CARLETON-PAGET	Roaring Lion
4 <sup>th</sup> Place £50	MR G TEMPLE	Saxon Warrior

Thank you to all who bought tickets and supported our branch.

## INVITATIONS

We again received an Invitation for some of our eligible members to attend the Not Forgotten Association Garden Party, in Buckingham Palace in June. If you know of any of our members who have a disability and would like to be considered for attending next year, please let the Honorary Secretary know.

## FOUNDERS DAY ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA



Associate Member Arthur Curry with his hands full but still able to ‘bend the knee’

## FUTURE EVENTS 2018

### **Westminster Garden of Remembrance**

The Garden of Remembrance will be opened on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November. If you would like to attend please let me know. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

### **Annual Dinner**

Our Annual Dinner will be held in the Garrison Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks on **Saturday 17 November**. Please complete the attached application form and return by the closing date of **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**.

### **March to the Guards Memorial**

We will march to the Guards Memorial on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. Please complete the attached application form and return to me by the closing date of **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**.

### **Christmas Draw and Ladies Lunch**

Will be held on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December** in the Garrison Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks commencing at 1300. Please complete the attached application form and return to me by the closing date of **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**.

### **First Fridays**



Always a good Craic! Great to see that numbers attending First Fridays are increasing. Do come along and join us in the cheapest pub in town! 1230 onwards.

### **2019 No1 Company Reunion**

Trevor Thompson is organising a 'Shiny' One Company Reunion in June 2019, hopefully sometime around the Queen's Birthday Parade. At the moment Trevor has over 100 hoping to attend. All ex No 1 Company are invited and if you haven't already put your name down or know someone who might be interested in going please contact Trevor on [procomms@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:procomms@hotmail.co.uk)

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Our Branch cannot survive without EVERYONE paying their annual subscriptions. Subscriptions are still only £5.00 per head and without them, we would not be able to send mailings such as this newsletter. The easiest way to pay your subscription is by direct debit but if you prefer we do still

take cheques, postal orders and cash. Do help us to survive and keep those payments coming in. Direct debit form is attached. Please note: Annual Subscriptions do not include the Journal.

### **2018 JOURNAL**

Attached is the order form for the 2018 Journal (due out 2019) Please complete the enclosed order form and return to the Honorary Secretary.

Journal costs (including postage)

£7.00 UK

£15.00 overseas

### **CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS (enclosed)**

One of our main sources of income in the branch! Please support your Branch and purchase a couple of books – You never know you might be lucky!

### **SERVICE RECORDS**

All service records, including those of Irish Guardsmen, are now held centrally in Glasgow. Therefore, from now on all enquiries should be directed to the following address:

Army Personnel Centre  
MS Support Division, Historical Disclosures  
Mail Point 555  
Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street  
Glasgow, G2 8EX

### **LONDON BRANCH OFFICE CONTACT**

The office is normally manned Tuesdays and Thursdays. Email is by far the easiest and quickest form of contact for those who use email – [igalondonbranch@gmail.com](mailto:igalondonbranch@gmail.com)

Tel 0207 414 3254.

### **LONDON BRANCH WEBSITE**

Please have a look at our new updated web site <http://www.iga-london.co.uk/> Here you will be able to see details on all of our events and download application forms etc. Thanks to our new Committee member and web site Administrator, Peter Parkins for taking on this work on behalf of the branch.

Quis Separabit.

*Alan Beggs*

Honorary Secretary IGA London Branch

020 7414 3254

[igalondonbranch@gmail.com](mailto:igalondonbranch@gmail.com)

# IRISH GUARDS JOURNAL 2018

## ORDER FORM

### IRISH GUARDS JOURNAL 2018 TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2019

**FROM:** .....

**ADDRESS:**.....  
.....  
.....

**POST CODE**.....

**E-MAIL** .....

**TELEPHONE**.....

<b>JOURNAL</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTION</b>
Irish Guards Journal 2018		<b>£7.00 UK Members</b>
		<b>£15.00 Overseas Members</b>

Please note that your contribution towards the overall cost of the Journal includes Postage & Packaging. Please make cheques payable to: **“IGA London Branch”**.

**Alan Beggs**  
**Honorary Secretary**



**IRISH GUARDS ASSOCIATION  
LONDON BRANCH  
BANKERS ORDER FORM**

To The Manager

From: *(IGA-London Branch Member)*

.....**Bank**      Mr .....

.....

.....

.....

Sir, please pay to: Child & Co Bankers, 1 Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 1BD

(Bank Sort Code 15 80 00)

The sum of Five Pounds (£5.00) on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January ..... And on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January thereafter, for the credit of the Irish Guards Association, London Branch Current Account, Account Number 63314113.

Account Number to be debited is: .....

Signed.....

Dated.....

**Note: When completed, this form should be returned to “The Honorary Secretary, Irish Guards Association (London Branch), Regimental Headquarters Irish Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ.**

# IRISH GUARDS ASSOCIATION LONDON BRANCH

## ANNUAL DINNER

The London Branch Annual Dinner will be held in the London District Garrison Sergeants Mess, Wellington Barracks on **Saturday 17th November 2018** commencing at 1900hrs for 1930hrs. Members wishing to attend the Dinner should complete this letter and return it to the Honorary Secretary. The cost for the Dinner is £35.00 per person. Returns together with payment are to be with the Honorary Secretary no later than Friday **2nd November 2018**. **No payments accepted on the night!**

**Please note that there can be no exceptions to this cut-off date.**

### **COMPLETE AND RETURN:**

Mr Alan Beggs Honorary Secretary  
Irish Guards Association London Branch  
RHQ Irish Guards  
Wellington Barracks  
Birdcage Walk  
London SW1E 6HQ

### **Annual Dinner**

From.....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Tele No: .....E-Mail.....

I wish to bring the following guests; (Block Capitals Please)

.....

.....

I enclose my cheque for £        made payable to: **IRISH GUARDS ASSOCIATION**

### **LONDON BRANCH**

Please state overleaf if you require a vegetarian meal or wish to be seated at a table with particular friends or comrades.

# MARCH TO THE GUARDS MEMORIAL

Sunday 18th November 2018

To all Association Members:

Please complete this proforma and return it to your Branch Secretary by Friday 2nd November 2018

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Lunch Arrangements**

Lunch will be provided in the Hub Restaurant (All Ranks Mess room) under the new system for soldiers of Pay as you Dine. The cost will be approximately £3.00 per head depending on your choice of meal. If you wish to avail of a meal under this system please indicate on the proforma so that I can inform the Master Chef of the numbers attending. **Send no money as you will pay at the Hub Restaurant when you collect your meal.**

**I / We will be dining in the Hub Restaurant: Yes / No**

My Guests are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Parking**

Parking can only be provided for those in possession of a Disabled Badge:

Car Pass: YES/NO Car Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Colour: \_\_\_\_\_

**IRISH GUARDS ASSOCIATION LONDON BRANCH  
CHRISTMAS DRAW AND LADIES LUNCH**

The above event will be held in the London\_District Garrison Sergeants Mess on **Saturday 1st December 2018** commencing at 1300. Members wishing to attend this event should complete this Performa and return it to the Honorary Secretary. Entertainment will be provided by New Counties (Irish Country&Western) The cost for the function is **£35.00 per person**. Returns together with payment are to be with the Hon Sec no later than **Friday 2nd November 2018**. (Please note the Caterer requires numbers by 2<sup>nd</sup> November.)

**Please note that there can be no exceptions to this cut-off date.**

**COMPLETE AND RETURN:**

Hon Secretary  
Irish Guards Association London Branch  
RHQ Irish Guards  
Wellington Barracks  
Birdcage Walk  
London SW1E 6HQ

**From.....**

Address .....  
.....  
.....  
.....Post Code.....

Tel. Home.....Mobile.....

E-Mail.....

I wish to bring the following guests: (Block Capitals Please)  
.....  
.....

**Please make cheque payable to - Irish Guards Association London Branch**

**Please let me know if you require a special meal.**

**Signature..... Date.....**