

# THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB

## 127 Newsletter

March 2009

### CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Despite the economic downturn and the worst winter for some years, Members have continued to use the Club's Dining Rooms and Bedrooms and, for the first two months of the year, I am pleased to report that we were ahead of budget. The Committee believes that this is because we have concentrated on providing value for money to our Members in these particularly difficult times.

The main activity since the New Year has been the project to completely refurbish the 3rd floor where all the bedrooms will have en suite WC and shower facilities. Members will also be delighted to know that three of the old Edwardian baths are to be refurbished and will also be available for those who prefer a bath to a shower! The fourth of these Edwardian baths is to be moved down to the basement where it will replace one of the existing modern baths. In addition, all the rooms on the 3rd floor will have air conditioning, TV and Wi-Fi facilities. The project is due to be completed in the first week of May in time for Cavalry Memorial Weekend and the busy summer season thereafter.

The social highlights of the first quarter have been the annual visit to Sandown Park for the Grand Military Race Meeting and the Speaker Dinner where Major General Barney White-Spunner charmed and amused over 90

Members and their guests with his witty and informative speech. This year, instead of our usual tent at Sandown we were offered one of the suites in the grandstand with its own bar and much improved catering. The 120 or so Members and their guests voted the move to be a huge improvement and it is hoped that we can use this facility again next year.

Finally, as a result of excellent work by the Vice Chairman and outstanding support from our Secretary, the book "Cavalry & Guards, A London Home", celebrating the centenary of 127 Piccadilly as the home of the Cavalry Club and, more recently, of the Cavalry and Guards Club, has been put to bed on schedule. The book which is now with the printer promises to be an enjoyable read, and is beautifully presented. It is to be launched at the AGM on June 3rd when I hope as many Members as possible will be present. Further information about the launch is enclosed within the newsletter.

**David Rosier**  
*Chairman*



### WEBSITE

We have recently added a new facility to the Club website whereby Members can make their own online bedroom reservations, up to 9 months ahead. There is also the facility to review and amend your own Membership details and make secure account payments. We encourage Members to please check and modify their details as appropriate. This area of the website is password protected and can be reached at any time from the 'Members' tab on the Club's home page at [www.cavgds.co.uk](http://www.cavgds.co.uk).

To access the Members secure area of the web site you will need your email address and your password, which is initially set as your membership number. Your membership number can be found on your annual Club Membership invoice. You will be invited to change this to a password of your own choice when you initially log-in. Please contact Frances Watt (Membership Secretary) at the Club on 020 7659 0906 or at [frances.watt@cavgdsclub.co.uk](mailto:frances.watt@cavgdsclub.co.uk) if you

experience difficulty or require us to send you your initial log-in details.

We hope to further extend this facility in the future by allowing Members to also make on-line Dining Room reservations and appointments with Philip, the Club Hairdresser.

## THIRD FLOOR REFURBISHMENT

The Committee thanks Members for their understanding during the refurbishment works on the Third floor – and is sure that the end result will most certainly be worth any noise or dust!

As previously advised – the completely upgraded and rearranged accommodations on this floor, available to both Gentlemen and Lady Members, will now comprise 18 bedrooms (in place of the previous 15) – and each room will have air-conditioning / heating, en-suite shower, WC and washbasins, flat screen televisions, Wifi compatibility, trouser presses and a desk.

Two fully restored 'Edwardian' bathrooms will be available for those that prefer to bathe.

Rooms will be available at the following rates (inclusive of tax and Continental Breakfast) –

### **Weekdays (Monday to Thursday incl.)**

Doubles - £125 (or £105 for single occupancy)

Singles - £70

### **Weekends (Friday to Sunday incl.)**

Doubles - £65 (or £55 for single occupancy)

Singles - £35

## THE CLUB LIBRARY

The Chairman and Committee wish to take this opportunity to thank all those Members who have already taken the opportunity to generously donate a book – or books – to the Library.

The increasing number of books is slowly filling the shelves – but more are very welcome.

Each book is catalogued and an attractive faceplate records the name of the donor – providing a lasting memory for books donated from former Members libraries. At the same time the Committee is undertaking a small purchasing policy of military books – and although at the moment we are happy to receive hardback books on any topic, in time the non-military books will be located elsewhere in the Club and the Library will become primarily a Military and Sporting library – representing the ethos and membership of the Club.

## BOOK

The splendid book on the Club is now finished – and will be available following its Launch in the Club on June 3rd (priced at £35.00).

Comprising over 190 pages, the book tells the story of The Guards Club from 1810, The Cavalry Club from 1890 – and the history of the combined Club since 1975.



Gloriously illustrated with archive and contemporary photographs, together with Members anecdotal tales and profiles of Club Members, the book provides both an historical account and a record of Club life – and is a 'must-have' for any past or present Club Member!

Members that have subscribed to the Book are invited to the launch on June 3rd and other Members wishing to attend may take advantage of the special price of £40 – to include a copy of the book (to be collected on the evening). Tickets for the launch only are available at £10.

## ROYAL ASCOT

As for the past two years, the Club once again has its Marquee at Royal Ascot in the Royal Enclosure Garden – an increasingly popular venue adjacent to the Racecourse and No1. Car Park.

All Members using the Marquee will require a badge for themselves and their guests, and we hope that even if you do not plan to have lunch in the Marquee, you will take the opportunity to use the Marquee and its attractive garden space for drinks and Afternoon Tea.

The number of Members lunching with us each year continues to grow (not least because we continue to offer the best 'value' lunch on the Racecourse!) – and the popular Enclosure area with the Marquees for White's, Turf, Buck's and Garrick Clubs together with the Royal Ascot Racing Club and the Diplomatic Tent – makes for a veritable haven from the crowds that each year gather for this increasingly popular race meeting.

## HIGHLAND DRESS

Occasionally we think it appropriate to publicise an activity of another London Club when we know it might offer our own Members some assistance.

Since the demise of the Scotch House in Knightsbridge as an outlet for tartan and Highland wear, our Scottish Members based in London might have struggled to find a suitable supplier. Struggle no more.

On the first Thursday of every month (between 11.30am and 4.30pm) a Kinloch Anderson representative (Foremost experts in Highland Dress since 1868) is based at the Caledonian Club in order to give advice on Highland Dress or respond to Members' Highland Dress requirements – and the Secretary of the Caledonian Club has very kindly extended the offer of this service to Members of our Club. We trust some of you will find it useful.



## CIGAR AND PORT DINNER

For the second year running, the Club will be arranging a Cigar and Port Dinner on the Terrace - on the anniversary of the banning of smoking in public places - Wednesday 1st July.

For cigar aficionados, this dinner provides a convivial environment for the enjoyment of their cigars and together with a delicious dinner provided by the Clubs kitchens, good wine and port from our growing cellars, and - with



luck - good weather, this is a hugely enjoyable evening.

As places are very limited, Members are advised to book early with our Membership Secretary, Frances Watt. Details can also be found on the website [www.cavgds.co.uk](http://www.cavgds.co.uk)

## THE ABANDONED SOLDIER

The sculpture of "The Abandoned Soldier" has been created to honour those who have fought valiantly for their country and was temporarily erected in Trafalgar Square in January 2007 to draw the public's attention and rally support for soldiers and veterans who have served in the Armed Forces. The sculpture was modelled on Lance Corporal Daniel Twiddy, who was wounded in Basra by friendly fire in 2003 and sustained many injuries including facial wounds from shrapnel.

It is hoped that enough money can be raised for a bronze version of The Abandoned Soldier and a place of public prominence in London can be found, so that the public are reminded of the soldiers that struggle to cope, once they return. This is a situation that undoubtedly touches us all, as we

probably all know someone, or of someone, that has been, or could be, affected physically or emotionally by war, at some point in their lives. The statue has been created to commemorate all soldiers who put themselves in perilous situations for their country and it allows the public to show their gratitude for their bravery and selflessness.

Once The Abandoned Soldier Fund reaches its target figure for the installation, it will then be devoted solely, on a case-by-case basis, to providing grants to individual ex-Servicemen and women in need, and in particular, for those who have chronic ailments, or who are living in poverty.

*'The willingness with which our young people serve in any war, no matter how*

*justified, will be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation'.*

George Washington

Members may be interested to know that a copy of the bronze statue is currently on show in the Club and further details are available on the website-

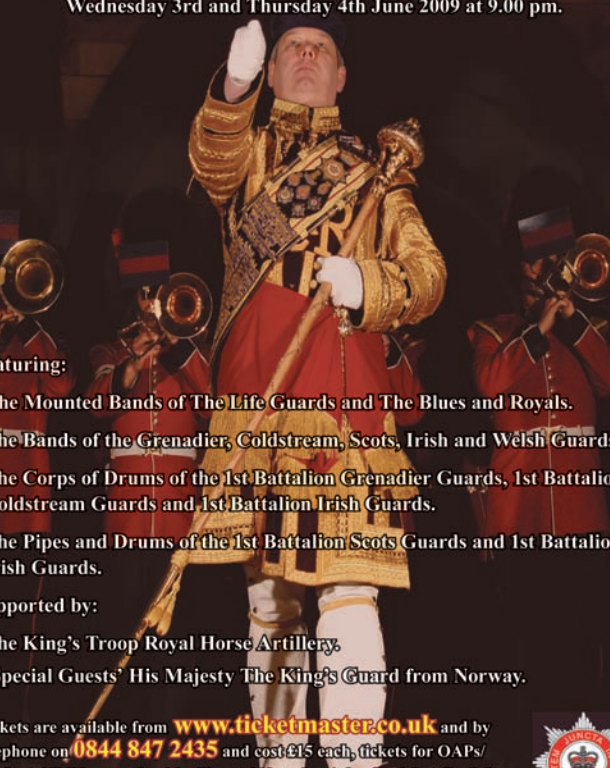


[www.theabandonedsoldier.com](http://www.theabandonedsoldier.com)

## Beating Retreat 2009

### A Floodlit Military Music Spectacular

The Massed Bands of the Household Division present an evening of military music on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, Central London on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th June 2009 at 9.00 pm.




**Featuring:**

- The Mounted Bands of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals.
- The Bands of the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards.
- The Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and 1st Battalion Irish Guards.
- The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards and 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

**Supported by:**

- The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.
- 'Special Guests' His Majesty The King's Guard from Norway.

Tickets are available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) and by telephone on **0844 847 2435** and cost £15 each, tickets for OAPs/Students/Children under 16 will cost £10 each. A family ticket (2 adults and 2 children under 16) is available for £40. Wheelchair access is available at a cost of £15 allowing free entry for a carer.




## Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo

13th - 16th May 2009



Some of the great displays and acts on offer in 2009 include the Royal Life Guards' of Denmark drill routine and marching band, and the mounted Danish Guard Hussars, who will be demonstrating their skills and finery in a spectacular display. All proceeds will go to The Royal British Legion going towards the work that it undertakes in supporting soldiers and their families.

We also welcome back the Musical Drive of the King's Troop RHA and The Household Cavalry's Musical Drive, plus an extended operational capabilities display, where all the latest military equipment will be used to demonstrate the skills of today's forces.



Tattoo ticket holders can get into the Royal Windsor Horse Show from 3pm, so come early to enjoy this great event.

Why not book an evening meal in the member's restaurant? This will also entitle you to access to the member's enclosure. A 3 course meal with coffee is £34.00 and two course is £27.50. To book, please call **01869 322152**

Cavalry & Guards Club Members are entitled to a 35% discount on tickets on the Wednesday (13th May) and Thursday (14th May) of the Tattoo. To redeem the offer please quote 'GUARDS' when calling the ticket hotline on: 0871 230 5570, or enter 'GUARDS' into the special offer code box when booking online: [www.windsortattoo.com](http://www.windsortattoo.com)

## CLUB EVENTS 2009

### April

- 10th Easter weekend
- 23rd Annual Lady Members' Luncheon
- 27th Visit to the Gardens at Highgrove

### May

- 6th Bridge afternoon
- 10th Cavalry Memorial Sunday
- 12th Theatre visit - 'War Horse'

### June

- 3rd AGM
- 3rd Club Cocktail Reception & Book Launch
- 13th Trooping the Colour Luncheon
- 16th Royal Ascot - Club Tent
- to 20th
- 23rd Theatre visit - 'Oliver'

### July

- 1st Cigar & Port Dinner
- Summer on the Terrace

### September

- 16th Grouse Dinner

### October

- Autumn Speaker Dinner
- 14th Theatre visit - 'Sister Act'
- Ladies Afternoon Tea - 'Genuine Bling'

### November

- Theatre visit

### December

- 2nd Club Charity Luncheon
- 10th Sons & Daughters Dinner
- 17th Members' Christmas Lunch
- 23rd Christmas Closing