

THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB

127 Newsletter

March 2008

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Over the past few weeks, members who have visited the Club will have seen the construction of the new glass canopy over part of the Terrace which will provide our "smoking" members with shelter during inclement weather. In designing this canopy, we have incorporated the Edwardian metal-work of the original canopy from the lower Terrace. The canopy will complete the refurbishment of the Terrace which is now the envy of many other London Clubs.

The year has got off to a good start with bedroom occupancy at pleasingly high levels and both the Coffee Room at lunch and the Dining Room in the evening showing increased usage over last year. The changes to lunch in the Coffee Room, where we now have a daily Table d'Hote menu in addition to the normal à la Carte menu, have generally been welcomed by members who recognize that the Table d'Hote provides a delicious lunch for extremely good value.

As you will see from the following piece by the Vice President, work has begun, led by the Vice Chairman, on the production of a book to celebrate the centenary in 2009 of 127 Piccadilly. Good progress has been made, but I encourage members to contribute stories or anecdotes about the Club for inclusion in the book.

The Committee has been working on the plans for the refurbishment of the 3rd floor which

will include putting an en suite shower and lavatory in each room. Once all the permissions have been obtained, it is planned to carry out the work in the first quarter of 2009.

The Committee has also been reviewing the usage of the different rooms on the ground floor of '127'. The new library, with its computer facilities, has proved to be a huge success, so much so that it has often been bursting at the seams, while at the same time, other rooms are empty. As 'phase 1' of a potentially larger reorganization, it has therefore been decided, after consultation with the Advisory Council, to turn the Balaclava Room back into a library where we will be able to house the Club's growing collection of books and where members may use their lap top computers. However, this room will be a quiet room unlike the current member's library where members will still be able to talk on their mobile phones and hold impromptu meetings. The Balaclava Room will continue to remain open for functions after 6:00 p.m. We are in the early stages of the new design for the Balaclava Room but it is hoped that the changes will be made in what is generally the quiet month of August.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM on the 4th June and at the Waterloo Ball in the Club on the 12th June.

David Rosier - Chairman

'Cavalry & Guards – A London Home'

The amalgamation of the original Guards Club (1810-1976) with the Cavalry Club (1890-1976) fused two great traditions and more than a quarter of a century later, the Club flourishes as never before combining a strong sense of its military pedigree with a relaxed family atmosphere in the contemporary world. Next year, 2009, marks the centenary of the construction of the building at '127' Piccadilly, which gave us the classic interiors that sum up everything a London club should be, while recent cleaning has revealed the full glories of our beautiful façade.

To celebrate that centenary and to show the vigorous range of the Club's activities and services to its membership, the Club has commissioned Third Millennium Publishing to create a richly illustrated and beautifully designed portrait of the Club's past and present - featuring rare archive images and specially commissioned contemporary photography. Along with history, architecture and treasures, the Book will also show the varied life of the Club throughout the year, ranging from events such as lunches, dinners and dances to racing, golf, polo and sailing in the appropriate seasons.

The ethos of any club is created by its Members and its staff, and the Club has been fortunate in both: thus the book will

also feature a richly assorted cast of personalities from every era up to the present day.

Most importantly, there is a way in which you too can be part of the Book. If you have any special mementoes, stories or anecdotes, which to you sum up the essence of the Club, then please send them to the Editor, c/o Third Millennium Publishing, 2-5 Benjamin Street, London EC1M 5QL or email- cavalry&guardsclub@tmiltd.com. The flyer enclosed with this Newsletter provides some more details on how to do this.

'Cavalry & Guards – A London Home' will be published in June 2009 at £39.50, but Members wishing to subscribe in advance can take advantage of a special early price of £27.00 (excl p&p) and can also enjoy the opportunity of having their names listed in the Book as an enduring record of their links with the Club. A special Subscription flyer will be mailed to you at the beginning of July.

I very much hope you will support this splendid project.

Colonel Tom Hall CVO OBE - Vice President

Colonel Kenneth Savill CVO DSO

Club Members were saddened to learn of the death in late December of past Chairman, 'Kate' Savill. He will be remembered by many Members for his work in preparing the ground for the eventual merger of the two Clubs in 1976 and until recent years was always a regular attender at Club events, offering advice and support where necessary. In his latter years he earned the distinction of being the oldest living Member of the Club dying at the age of 101. Below are excerpts from his obituary in 'The Times'.

Kenneth Savill, known as "Kate" since his schooldays, was commissioned into the 12th Royal Lancers in 1926 when the regiment was still horsed. These were years of peace and polo, leading him to become a stickler for cavalry correctness. It was therefore ironic that seven months of his wartime command found the regiment in the infantry role, fighting in the cold and mud of the last autumn of the Italian campaign.

In the final months of 1944 the Eighth Army was facing a second winter in Italy. The 12th Lancers had already served a four-week spell in the line as infantry in May, in front of the German Gustav Line. They had then returned to their armoured reconnaissance role and saw plenty of action west of the Tiber in June, with the 8th Indian Division along Highway 3 to Foligno and then in pursuit of German rearguards into the hills around San Severino in July. Savill was in his element, and in the autumn offensive on the Adriatic coast his regiment was diverted to take over right-flank protection of V Corps.

It was for the 12th Lancers' part in the hard fighting in November round Forli, just west of the Highway 9 crossing over the Ronco river, that he was awarded the DSO for his skill and gallantry in commanding his regiment. In the sometimes confused struggle for control of the approaches to the valley of the Po, the 12th Lancers were dismounted for a second time and deployed in the infantry role guarding various river lines from November until the end of the following March.

Kenneth Edward Savill was educated at Winchester and the RMC Sandhurst. He showed early promise with his regiment in Hounslow, then served as adjutant from 1930 to 1934 while the 12th Lancers were in Egypt. He transferred to the 1st King's Dragoon Guards in 1936, joining his new regiment in Secunderabad.

On leave in England on the outbreak of war, he went to France as an intelligence officer with GHQ British Expeditionary Force. When GHQ was in danger of being surrounded at Arras during the German May 1940 offensive, the extent of the "paper war" of the time was indicated by his having to supervise the burning of about 13,000 files before leaving to board the destroyer taking the GHQ rearguard to Dover.

During the period of the invasion scare of 1940-42, he attended the wartime staff course at Camberley, took part in raising the 27th Lancers and then took over command of 161st Regiment RAC - a wartime armoured reconnaissance unit formed by a battalion of the Green Howards - before returning to the 12th Lancers as commanding officer in November 1943. He continued in command until the end of hostilities in Italy, although he was exceptionally lucky not to be killed during the final advance to the Po when a German sniper shot the driver of his jeep as he sat beside him.

He was briefly chief of staff of 6th Armoured Division at the end of the war in Italy before returning to England for a staff post at the War Office.

In 1947 he was appointed to command his third armoured regiment, the Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards), in the Egyptian canal zone and, subsequently, in England and finally in 7th Armoured Brigade in the Army of the Rhine. His final military appointment was as a colonel on the staff of the British headquarters in Trieste, 1953-54.

On leaving the Army, he ran Chilton Manor, served as High Sheriff of Hampshire in 1961 and was a Deputy Lieutenant for the county from 1963. He was also a member of Hampshire County Council, 1963-75. He was Colonel of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, the regiment formed from the amalgamation of the 1st King's Dragoon Guards and the Queen's Bays, 1964-68, a Member of the HM Bodyguard of Gentleman at Arms, 1955-76, and was appointed CVO in 1976.



Membership – new members

It has oft been reported in these Newsletters that the Club continues to go from strength to strength – and for this we are all grateful.

A busy and active Club, well supported by its Members, results in an achievement of which all Members can be proud.

However, it is also important to recognise that success can breed complacency and the Committee are always ever mindful of this 'curse' of Club land!

Send out too strong a message of success, and Members think the Club no longer needs or values their individual contributions – and nothing could be further from the truth. Not only do we need to retain the support and participation of all our current Members, but we also need to continue to recruit

new Members who would find the atmosphere and ethos of '127' – an enjoyable and pleasurable Club experience.

Going forward, with a shrinking Army, it is likely that more members of the Club will not have undertaken any military service. Therefore, the Committee are keen to encourage, for example, sons and daughters of existing Members to join the Club as they will know and understand the Club's traditions and ethos.

It goes without saying that new Members can only be proposed by current Members – so we ask your support again in seeking out any suitable applicants you may know and who would value the opportunity to join the esteemed company at '127'.

Thank you for this support.

Terrace

Work to the Terrace is almost complete with the installation of the new canopy and the purchase of some excellent furniture, and we hope Members will find this smart addition to the facilities at the Club both a useful refuge (if one is a smoker!) and an attractive place to take a 'snack' luncheon during those balmy summer days.

The 'Bar Menu' is available in Geoffrey's Bar, the Ladies Drawing Room and on the Terrace from 12 noon to 9pm – and includes such Club favourites as – Lamb burgers, Fishcakes, Omelettes and sandwiches, as well as a full Afternoon Tea selection.

New Computer system, website and email

One of the challenges facing the Club is to continually manage the balance between the heritage and ethos of the Club, the expectations and requirements of an ever-changing membership and the operational needs of the Club's management and staff.

With developments in technology almost outpacing time itself, it is hardly surprising to find that the Club's computer system, installed some ten years ago, is woefully outdated and not capable of fulfilling the expectations of either Members or staff.

The Committee, therefore, has given the authority to introduce a new system during the coming months which will better serve the membership and offer a seamless ability for the Club's staff to look after Members' requirements.

At the same time we have the opportunity to upgrade our existing Wifi capabilities and offer Members the opportunity of a more interactive Club website – providing the ability to book bedroom accommodation 'online'. More details of these exciting developments will be included in future Newsletters.

Summer Events

As the evenings lengthen and the sun arrives (we hope!), the Club is once again planning a full programme of events for the next six months.

Highlights this year will include the lecture by renowned speaker, Rob Caskie on May 28th, the Waterloo Ball on June 12th and the Marquee at Royal Ascot June 17th to 21st – and you will find booking forms for each of these events enclosed with the Newsletter.

Members may also be amused to know that the Club aims to 'cock- a-snook' at the Government of the day by holding a 'Cigar and Port Dinner' on the anniversary of the banning of smoking from public places – July 1st!

Utilising the new Terrace 'Conservatory', we think this dinner will be unique in Club land – and Members who wish to attend are requested to book early to avoid disappointment!

The Club is also happy to support several other events over the coming months – and details of these are as set out below.

Further information on these – or any of the other Club events – is available from the Secretary's Office – or Frances Watt on 0207 659 0906

Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo

In recognition of the selfless service of soldiers on hazardous operations and the support of their families, the Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo will take place on the evenings of 8 – 10 May 2008.

This not-for-profit event has been devised with the aim of

raising public awareness of the wide contribution to security that the Army delivers and the value and standards that it maintains. It will also raise funds to support individual soldiers, and their dependants, who have served and are serving on demanding current operations, such as in Iraq and Afghanistan. It has the endorsement of the Army and is to be held in the private grounds of Windsor Castle, by kind permission of Her Majesty, The Queen.

The Tattoo will welcome 20,000 visitors in total and will be a spectacular military event, ending with a grand finale set against the floodlit background of Windsor Castle. The Show is entitled 'A Heroes Welcome' and the audience will see values of self discipline and team work embodied in the Scarlet and Gold of the Household Troops, two State Bands, the élan of the Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and the discipline and precision of the spectacular Musical Drive of the Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. This will carry through to current operations with re-enactments and video footage of current operations and together with Pipes and Drums and other thrilling displays will provide an exciting Tattoo programme.

The event is the initiative of Club Committee member, Colonel Simon Brooks-Ward and the Royal Windsor Horse Show Organisers, who have agreed to underwrite the costs and to provide the infrastructure and production for the Tattoo and, in addition to the experienced production team delivering the event, Club Member Brigadier Mel Jameson has joined the team as Producer having been producer of the Edinburgh Tattoo for the 12 years until 2006.

The Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo takes place from 8.30pm to 10.30pm on the evenings of Thursday 8th, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th May 2008 – and the Club is planning visits on the Thursday and the Saturday evening. For more information visit www.windsortattoo.co.uk.

'All The Queen's Horses'

**An exhibition of British Military Equestrian Art
By Jeremy Houghton**

**At The Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London.
15th – 22nd May 2008**

This is not the first time artist Jeremy Houghton has put his hand to some military paintings. Whilst he was the art master at the International School of Cape Town he spent time with David Rattray at Rorke's Drift which inspired him to do an Anglo-Zulu war series of pictures which received critical acclaim.

Now that he is living back in the UK Jeremy has spent some time with the Household Cavalry, the Kings Troop, the HAC and at the Royal Mews, building up a selection of work portraying these horses in their full ceremonial glory, as well as capturing their daily routines behind the public eye.

Jeremy grew up in a hunting family from Broadway and is still a keen supporter of the North Cotswold, so it is no surprise that he has been eager to research and paint these age-old equestrian scenes. He trained at Eton and The Slade, and has recently been elected into the illustrious BWS. He works predominantly in watercolours although there will also be some drawings and oil paintings at this exciting solo exhibition. For more information about the artist and this exhibition please go to www.houghtonart.co.uk or call the Secretary at the Club.

For Cavalry and Guards Club members there will be drinks and a private viewing on Monday 19th May from 6pm to 8.30pm.

THE CHELSEA PAGEANT 2008

On Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June 2008, the Royal Hospital Chelsea will present The Chelsea Pageant, an historical, fundraising event in aid of the Chelsea Pensioners' Appeal, which is being staged in Figure Court at the Royal Hospital in front of an audience of 3,500 on each night.

It will be a hundred years almost to the day since an historical Pageant was staged at the Royal Hospital and as in 1908, the event will feature the founding of the Royal Hospital by King Charles II and then cover the events that followed it, up to the arrival of the first pensioners shortly after the "Glorious Revolution". The Earl Cadogan, whose great-grandfather was President of the 1908 Chelsea Pageant, has agreed to be President of the 2008 Pageant.

To illustrate the early years of the Royal Hospital, the Pageant will feature Dame Judi Dench, Rory Bremner, Joanna Lumley and Timothy Spall, who are providing the voices of King

Charles II, Sir Christopher Wren, Nell Gwyn and a host of other historical characters. The former Kensington & Chelsea MP, Michael Portillo, will be the commentator. The military will be very much "on parade" with a squadron of Life Guards and the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company. The Pageant will also feature period music provided by the Household Cavalry's State Trumpeters, the Band of The Life Guards and the Choir of the Royal Hospital.

As it takes place at a weekend the Club is not arranging a visit to this event but tickets are available from Ticketmaster (Tel: 0844 847 2309) Website: www.ticketmaster.co.uk. Ticket holders will be able to picnic in the grounds of the Royal Hospital before the start of the Pageant and this promises to be a memorable evening in a glorious setting, which is hoped, will make a significant contribution to the Chelsea Pensioners' Appeal.

CLUB EVENTS 2008

April

9th Spring Speaker Dinner – Robert Fox MBE
 23rd Annual Lady Members' Luncheon
 24th ABF Big Curry Lunch

May

8th & 10th Windsor Military Tattoo
 11th Cavalry Memorial Sunday
 19th 'All the Queen's Horses'
 Preview & Reception
 20th Theatre visit – 'Gone with the Wind'
 28th Club Lecture – Rob Caskie

June

4th AGM
 2th Waterloo Ball
 14th Trooping the Colour Luncheon
 17th to 21st Royal Ascot – Club Tent

July

1st Cigar & Port Dinner
 16th Theatre visit to The Globe (matinee) & luncheon

September

1st Evening Tour – Buckingham Palace
 17th Grouse Dinner

October

16th Autumn Speaker Dinner
 Theatre visit
 Templer Prize Winner Lecture

November

13th Theatre visit

December

10th Sons & Daughters Dinner
 18th Members Christmas Lunch
 23rd Christmas Closing



Photos taken at The Grand Military Meeting - Sandown Park 2008