

NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2006

EDITORIAL

At last, it's that time of year again, when we all find ourselves pulling our coats and caps out of the wardrobe and checking them over one last time for repairs and cleaning. This year will be an interesting one for many reasons, the most important being the changes that have taken place within the unit over the past few months. As you all no doubt know, John stepped down as CO in December, and left the unit in Milo's capable hands. We have a revised constitution and several of the duties formerly undertaken by John alone (including the preparation of the newsletter!) have now been distributed among unit members.

Three ringing 'huzzahs' are certainly in order for John and Debbie, who have done so much for the regiment.

As the newsletter's new editor, I have mostly decided to keep to the old formula established by John (on the principle of 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'). With any luck the newsletters will, therefore, continue to be as informative and useful as they have been in the past.

Changes in the regiment aside, we have an exciting year ahead of us, starting with Painshill and Willesley Park this month. So get polishing, and see you soon!

Jacqui

EQUIPMENT

One of the tasks tackled by the AGM was how to deal with transporting the unit's kit now that John has stepped down as CO. It was agreed that much of the equipment would be handed over to David at the next event, who would then look into further options for transport. Buying a trailer, or a truck, was also discussed. It was generally agreed that a trailer was a more realistic short-term option. Anne volunteered to organise the future production of kit.

EVENT REPORTS

AGM

The AGM in Oxford on 28 January was very well attended. Seventeen of us crammed into a rather neat, wood-panelled room to discuss the future of the unit. It was a long afternoon, but we had a lot to cover.

The bulk of the afternoon was devoted to the new constitution, sorting out equipment and kit, logistics, and deciding the events for the following year. Military ranks were also decided.

Following the AGM, the members adjourned to the Squire and Basset Pub for dinner and then spent the night at the scout barracks in Kidlington.

ARTICLES, LETTERS, NOTES AND QUERIES

Since we are so naturally photogenic, I have decided to include a short review of the best pictures of us in action over the course of 2005.



Stamford, May 2005: the Coldstream Guards (1815) leave the parade ground



Willesley Park, March 2005. The regiment showing its better side.



They say a watched kettle never boils... The regiment relaxes, Fort Nelson, May 2005.



Waterloo, June 2005: hard to believe how hot it was when it's snowing outside (which it currently is).



Waterloo, June 2005: where we discovered, for the first time, just how many Coldstreamers could fit into a Land Rover (14).



Paying respect to the fallen at Waterloo, June 2005

C.O.'S LAST WORD

We seem to have had a successful AGM, with much eager volunteering to undertake the various roles that will keep the regiment operating effectively. As might be expected, the transition to a new system after so many years operating one way will not happen overnight, and there are still a few things in progress or undecided. These are at least, one might say, 'known unknowns'. There are a few events, mostly battle proms, that we have not committed to attend. I'll be chasing people up about those later in the year. Also, the event at Holkham Hall is not yet confirmed, although I'll bet that the moment this text gets distributed in the newsletter then I'll hear for certain. Jonathan has acquired a server that could host sites with our own domain names for a reasonable cost, and I intend to set this up as soon as my work gives me a moment to do so. This should give us a proper mailing list with archives – a most useful thing.

So far, the events we have committed to look good, and thanks to David's work the Sutton Valence School event looks potentially very promising. Although there seems not to be much promise from the NA there will be several opportunities to work with our friends the 33rd, 68th and 2/95th during the year. Please make sure that you keep in touch about attending these events, and I hope to see you all at Willesley in a couple of weeks, or perhaps (if you are very keen) at Painshill before that.

Milo