



**The Parachute Regimental Association**  
**Aldershot Branch**  
**Newsletter**



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**06/2018**

**Charity Number 1125551**

**June 2018**

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**Monthly Meeting**

The **June Meeting** will be held at **8pm** on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018** in the Conservative Club, Aldershot. The meeting after this will be the July meeting which will be held on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. This is a week early due to the Airborne Forces weekend in the Trafalgar Inn.

**Jan Chambers**

Chris, Sean and Kelly would like to thank the membership for your support at the funeral. Jan would have been touched that you were there to offer your support and would have been especially pleased with those of you who sang Flower of Scotland! Remember to live your Dash well.

**New Members**

There was one new member who joined at the last meeting. Duncan (Duke) Allan who served in 2 Para and lives in Aldershot joined the Branch. Duke, welcome to the Branch.

**Branch Subscriptions**

Please note that Branch subscriptions are now due. The subs are £15 a year. You can pay your subs by Standing Order. Should you wish to pay this way please contact me and I will send you the form that you will need to fill in and return to your bank. You can cancel the Standing Order at any time. Members are given 3 months to pay their subs and if we have not received them after this time you will cease to receive the newsletter. Cheques should be made payable to **"Aldershot Branch PRA"**.

**Welfare Member**

If you are not well, or you know of another member who is ill, can you let me know so that I can inform the Welfare member, Chris Rogers.

**Talk in the Princes Hall Theatre**

I have been sent the information below. If you would like to attend please contact the Princes Hall.

Mark 'Billy' Billingham (9 years Para Reg & 18 years Hereford) from Channel 4's SAS Who Dares Wins TV show is doing a talk in Aldershot on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June at the Princes Hall Theatre, Aldershot. We are looking to spread the word to the Parachute Regiment and other people in the area.

**Date**

Friday 29 June  
7:30pm

**Running Time**

140 mins  
Tickets: £29

Join TV's most experienced, highest ranking, most decorated SAS leader and sniper Mark 'Billy' Billingham for an exciting evening of inspirational stories.

This evening will include a Q & A with a chance to meet Billy himself.

Billy was awarded an MBE by the Queen for leading a hostage rescue mission, received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery and has lead countless successful missions.

## **10 Para Reunion in London**

Boris Buddle has sent me the information about the 10 Para Reunion in London. If you would like to attend please contact Boris.

### **10 PARA REUNION**

The next 10 Para reunion will be held on the evening of Saturday 13th October 2018 in a central London pub which has been hired solely for the reunion.

It is open to all ex members of 10 Para and their partners, also former attached regulars etc. Like minded Para Reg guys are welcome but as it's a 10 Para reunion they "must" be accompanied by one of the above. The whole venue is for the reunion only as long as we purchase a buffet, pay for security and pay a service charge. The cost is £20 per person (This covers the buffet, security and service charge) Judging by previous years it is expected that between 135 and 200 people will attend.

If you are interested in attending you can either apply to join the 10 Para reunion club on Facebook (a closed group) or contact the Secretary.

## **Regimental Day and PRA AGM at the National Arboretum**

This is the final call for the Regimental Day and PRA AGM which is taking place at the National Arboretum on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The cost is £20 for the trip and £10 of the cost is for your meal. The names and payment have to be with PRA HQ by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May so that the meals can be booked. No meals will be able to be booked after this date. If you would like to attend please contact the secretary.

## **Dorset Walk**

The Dorset walk has had to be rescheduled and will now take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July till Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July. We travel down to Dorset on the Wednesday afternoon and have a curry dinner in the Bunkhouse in the evening. The Thursday is taken up with a 12 mile walk along the Dorset coast, stopping half way in the Elm Tree Inn for lunch. The Thursday evening is in the Pulpit Inn where we will have an evening meal. The Pulpit Inn is a ten minute walk from the Bunkhouse. We drive along the coast on Friday morning to our final location and complete a 6 mile walk before travelling home. If you would like to join us please contact the secretary for further details.

## **Army v Navy Rugby**

After the long and cold winter it was nice to leave Aldershot on the morning of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May to warm sunshine for the 101<sup>st</sup> Army v Navy rugby match. The match sold out within 24 hours last November and 82,000 people turned up on the day. After a few beers in the Shack Pub we made our way to the stadium. The roads were closed to traffic for the day which was just as well as there was no room for cars. Once again we managed to get tickets on the first tier and on the half way line. The only problem was that we were on the sunny side of the stadium. By this time the sun was baking and after the few beers earlier on some of them were wilting. It was great to see all three tiers of the stadium full. The Navy were the better side in the first half until they got a player sent off for punching an opponent. The Army went on to win by 22-14. See page 4 for photos.

## **Pen-Y-Fan Weekend**

The Fan Dance took place towards the end of May. A full report and photos will be in the next newsletter.

## Airborne Statue

I am delighted to inform you that the money has been coming in to pay for the Airborne Statue that is going into the Royal Garrison Church. The Branch has donated £1,000 and the members so far have donated £825. It would be nice if we could get the members donations to equal the amount that the Branch is donating. If you haven't donated and would like to give some money please contact the secretary or send a cheque made payable to the "Aldershot Branch PRA". The Branch will send one cheque to cover both amounts to the Statue fund.

## Aldershot Branch Tabbers Walking Group

Please bring waterproofs in a small back pack and a change of shoes/trainers at the end of the walk as we don't want to walk into the pub with muddy boots. This also helps when getting into the car for the ride home. The group will be meeting in the Garrison Church Car Park from 9am - 9.15am next to the Wellington Statue. It is proposed that we car share to save taking empty cars. Peter Richens has now organised the following walks for March. The walks are 5/7 miles and we are now getting a regular 10 – 13 walkers.

The next walks will take place on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The first walk in July will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July.**

If you would like to attend any of the walks please turn up on the day or if you require further information please contact the Secretary.

The walk on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May started at the Deers Hut pub in Griggs Green, near Liphook. The Deer's Hut is itself a truly historic building, having been built as a hunting lodge back in the 1600's and the close by village of Liphook dates back to Norman times and was for many years a coach stop on the route between London and the naval port of Portsmouth. Queen Anne visited the pub in 1703 to review the deer and the deer herders had the 500 deer run past her as she sat outside the Deer Hut.

On the walk we came across the statue of Lord Strathnairn on his horse. The statue was unveiled in 1895 on the Brompton Road in London. It was taken down in 1931 and kept in storage until 1964. Westminster Council gave it to the owner of Foley Manor, Liphook on condition that it would have reasonable public access.



The statue of Lord Strathnairn



A view inside the Deers Hut Pub

## The Army v Navy Rugby



The roads are packed on the way to the stadium



The Army and Navy Flags and the band march on



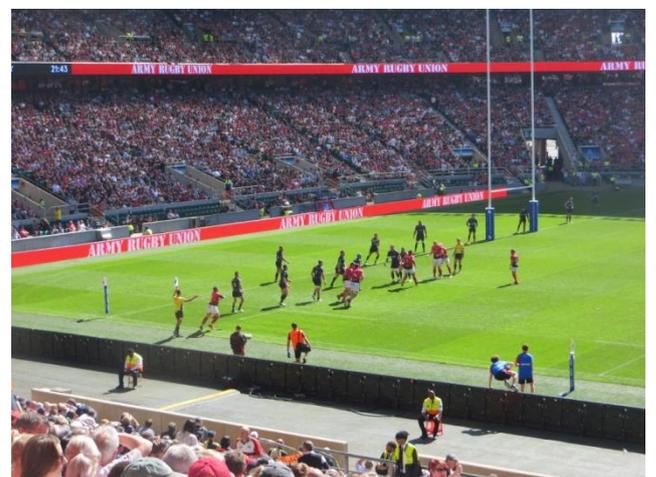
Members of the Branch enjoying the game



The score is 19-9 to the Army, the stadium is full



The action on the half way line



The Army are pushing for a try