

The Northern Mick

Spring 2008
Edition

Special points of interest:

- Liverpool's Culture Year
- Support Our Soldiers Website
- Big Seb becomes Colonel of the Regiment.



Sponsored by Bill McNaughton

Irish Guards Exercise Freedom of the City

On the 2nd February 2008 the Irish Guards returned to Liverpool in force. A service was held in the Anglican Cathedral, conducted by Canon Hawley and assisted by the Dean; Father John Thompson and Father Nick. The Queens and Regimental Colours were marched into the Cathedral at 10:00 hours in front of the Lord & Lady Mayor of Liverpool, Cllr Paul & Mrs Hillary Clark; The High Sheriff of Merseyside, Prof Philip & Mrs Love; The Under Secretary for Defence & Minister for Veterans, Derek Twigg MP; Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts KCVO OBE; Lieutenant Colonels Robin Bullock Webster OBE and Michael O'Dwyer MBE; Lady Kirsty Pilkington; Mrs Rosemary Hawley; Eddie O'Hara MP; Colin Hilton and Paul Gibson represented the Chief Fire Officer. The Regimental Band and Irish Guards Singers provided musical accompaniment. After the service No 1 Company; The Regimental Band; Corps of Drums; Pipe Band; Association members and

Cadets formed up and marched to St John's Gardens with an escort from Merseyside Mounted Police. The Lord Mayor and Regimental Lieutenant Colonel took the salute as the parade passed St George's Hall, with the Civic guests joining them. At St John's Garden the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel inspected the Guard and he joined the Lord Mayor in unveiling a memorial stone after a dedication by Canon Hawley "In memory of Fallen Comrades who served in the Irish Guards". There followed a group photograph on St George's Hall steps and inside for a Civic Reception hosted by the Lord and Lady Mayor, Cllr Paul & Mrs Hillary Clark and Cllr Frank Doran representing the Leader of Liverpool Council. The Lord Mayor and Councillor Frank Doran addressed the guests and welcomed the Regiment to Liverpool, The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel replied on behalf of the Regiment. HMS Eaglet provided bar facilities later. The branch appreciates the invaluable help of

Ian Jones (Lord Mayors Office) and PC Paul Mulchay in the organization of this event..



The RLC with The Lord Mayor.

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LIVERPOOL'S CULTURE YEAR

In case you did not know, Liverpool is the European City of Culture for 2008.

Events are continuing through the City and have seen Ringo started the Culture year with an outdoor concert followed by the 1st concert in Liverpool's new ECHO ARENA which also incorporate's the BT CONFERENCE CENTRE.

On 15th March also saw the opening of Liverpool's new Olympic training pool in Wavertree, offering 1st class facilities for sportsmen and women.

29th May sees the opening of the new Grosvenor Shopping Centre LIVERPOOL ONE. This centre will be the largest retail development in Europe and hopefully will see KITCH N'SYNC opening a store there, if suitable premises are available.

24th August sees the World Fire fighter games taking place, see page 3 for details.

RON SCOTT

Ron has decided to step down from the Committee after many years of loyal service. He has recently acted as the PR Officer for the Branch and was instrumental in organising the Irish Guards Memorial Stone. Ron's presence on the Committee will be missed. Thank you for your contribution.

Annual Dinner—17th May 2008 Liverpool

This years annual dinner will take place on Saturday 17th May at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. Timings are 7:00 for 7:30 pm. Tickets are available from John Roche @ £25.00 per ticket. Amongst the guests attending will be The Deputy Lord & Lady Mayor of Liverpool; The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna & Ronald Muirhead; Canon Anthony & Rosemary Hawley; The Under Secretary for Defence & Minister for Veterans Derek Twigg MP; The Leader of Liverpool Council, Cllr Warren &

Pauline Bradley. Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts KCVO OBE has been invited as the new Colonel of the Regiment.

Rooms are available from the Adelphi at reduced rates, mention the Irish Guards Dinner. The Adelphi can be contacted on 0151 709 7200.

Applications to John Roche must be received by 4th May 2008. Tickets cannot be paid for on the night. John's Address is 11 Southgate Close, Croxteth Park, Liverpool, L12 0JN. SAE with applications

please.

Major Robbie Kelly will be organizing the seating plan, so let John Roche know on booking who you wish to sit with.

The RLC with last years Lord Mayor, Cllr Joan Lang and her son Graham. Joan passed away shortly after her year of office expired, a great Ambassador for Liverpool.



Arthur Dooley

On the 4th February, the Liverpool Academy of Art had the official opening of Arthur Dooley's archives. Arthur served in the Irish Guards between 1945 and 1953 before going on to be a highly successful sculpturer. Many of his works are on public display. Members of the Corps of Drums and Pipe Band attended the opening and enter-

tained the visitors. The Academy Director, June spent time of the following Wednesday telling listeners of Roger Phillips's phone in programme on BBC Merseyside 'What great ambassadors those young men were' There is planned a permanent exhibition of Arthur's work later this year in Liverpool.

The picture below is of the Drums & Pipes at the Liverpool Academy of Art.



Presentation to Peter Kilfoyle MP

Peter Kilfoyle, MP for the Walton area of Liverpool recently completed a trek across Nicaragua. Peter decided to undergo the arduous task after recent heart surgery to raise funds for both the British Heart Foundation and a Nicaraguan Charity. The North of England Branch decided to

make a donation to the BHF in respect of the continued support Peter has given the branch over many years. At the Civic Reception on 2nd February The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Michael O'Dwyer MBE presented Peter with the Cheque on behalf of the Irish Guards Association.

Peter Kilfoyle, John Roche and Lt Col Michael O'Dwyer .



YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman—Arthur French

Vice Chairman—Major RAD Kelly MBE

Secretary—Ken Owen 0151 292 2405

Treasurer— John Roche 0151 283 7786

Welfare— Peter Lee 0151 480 4170

Standard Bearer— Mick Molphy

Eric Roberts; Tim Fitzgerald & Gerry O'Neill.

Serving member-Sgt Paul Patterson

The Branch contact address is:-

2 Ardennes Road, Huyton, Merseyside,

L36 7UF

Www.northernmicks.co.uk

Email: northernmicks@blueyonder.co.uk

Whilst the Irish Guards were visiting Liverpool, the Re-

cruiting Team were busy conducting a major KAPE tour of the Midlands, the North West and Northern Ireland, during their visit to the NW Sgt Paul Patterson arranged for the team to visit Anfield.

The 2008 AGM of the



branch was held on 19th March, once again attracting a very low turn out.

The Fallen Comrades Service at St Francis De Sales this year will be held on Saturday November 8th. We would encourage all to attend to remember their Fallen Comrades, unfortunately the attendance over the last few years has diminished. The Irish Guards Singers and Cadets will be on parade.

Alex Fenton with the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead on 15th March. Alex is the Branches oldest member.



World Fire Fighter Games—Liverpool 2008

The World Fire Fighter Games will take place in Liverpool in August, starting on 24th until 2nd Sep. The games should be well organized as I have heard that a certain Senior Fire Officer involved is Paul Gibbon. Gibbo represented the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service when the Regiment exercised their right to March

through the City of Liverpool. He is negotiating with the Regiment for the Regimental Band to lead the procession when the games start.

The games are due to be held in the Liverpool Echo Arena and St George's Hall and will provide a world wide audience for both Liverpool and the Irish Guards. Further infor-

mation can be obtained from www.wfg08.com

The event organizers require volunteers to assist in various ways, log onto the above site for an application form or ring 08708881888 and register your availability.

We wish Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service a successful games.

corn, who has handed over the role of Colonel of the Regiment to Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts .

RETIREMENT

On a local level, we have to announce the retirement as Welfare Officer of Eric Roberts, due to personal reasons. Eric has made an outstanding contribution to the branch over many years ensuring that ill members receive visits and the funerals of Fallen Comrades receive the assistance that their families want.



SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS.

CO.UK

Members of support our soldiers attended the Civic Reception on 2nd February. SOS is run by Wives, Mothers, Sisters and supporters of serving soldiers and arrange for parcels and support to be sent to soldiers around the globe. Further details can be found on their website. www.supportoursoldiers.co.uk

Eric will continue to serve on the Committee and has handed over the reins of Welfare to Peter Lee.

We wish Eric and Helen the thoughts and prayers of all members of the Micks. Quis Separabit.

PROMOTIONS—IRISH GUARDS

We send the congratulations of the Branch to the following: Frankie Howell has been promoted from WO 1 and has been Commissioned and is expected to take over from Captain Simon Nicholls as the Recruiting Officer. RQMS Les Mc Naughton will be promoted to WO 1 to take over as RSM of New College RMAS. CSgt 'Picky' Pickford becomes a WO 2 and Colin 'Lex' Luther Davis has been promoted to LCpl.

Lt Col O'Dwyer will soon hand over the reins as Commanding Officer to Lt Col O'Farrell.

We wish a happy retirement to Lt Col Robin Bullock Webster who has stepped down as Regimental Adjutant and hands over to Lt Col Brian O'Gorman. Col Robin will serve on the Regimental Council.

We also wish a happy retirement to the Duke of Aber-

Inside Story Headline