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Chairman, The Light Infantry Club



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Light Infantry Club Members

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NEWSLETTER 2018

However hard I try, I inevitably fail to allow myself sufficient time to compose this newsletter which is why it looks pretty much the same each year, but its main purpose of course is to communicate the correct dates for our Club events and to encourage attendance. Belated New Year's greetings of course, although it will be closer to Easter by the time you get around to reading this, and I trust that those of you who were persuaded to try a dry January have managed a safe transition back to normal life.

This is of course a special year for the Light Infantry family marking 50 years since Vesting Day and I hope you have registered that the main celebration is taking place at the Association reunion on 15/16 June. The reunion has settled well into the Greenhouse Stadium in Shrewsbury and was very well attended last year with battalion gatherings on the Friday evening in town priming the pumps for the Saturday. Numbers were strong, inter-battalion rivalry friendly and we were even blessed with good weather. The detailed programme for this year is still subject to some final detailed work but the dates are firm. I encourage Club members to come to Shrewsbury this year for this once in a lifetime celebration: there will be further communications on the detail in the near future, but booking accommodation now would be sensible!

The 2017 Salisbury lunch at The Wardrobe was again well supported by 100 members who dined and wined in the unique setting of the Close garden. This was the last such event facilitated by Tim Lerwill who was the lynchpin for several years given the proximity of the Rifles Office. The office has now moved to Winchester so planning the lunch requires a new approach for which Chris Topham is now responsible after working on it with Tim last year. Chris is keen not to be left holding the baby and if anyone is happy to help him with a view to relief in the line in due course please get in touch – or volunteer someone who is too shy to nominate himself! We offer our sincere thanks to Tim of course for all that he did for the Club which helped to settle us in to the Wardrobe in the first place.

The Club Dinner was not preceded by a period of uncertainty for the Secretary in 2017 because members actually planned ahead and committed early – thank you! There were more diners than usual and the Cavalry and Guards Club standards were as high as ever. Under the chairmanship of Edward Chamberlain it provides an unequalled opportunity to catch up with friends whose life is more London-focused or who are not drawn down to a summer lunch. I hope that the very modest increase in cost (the first for 10 years) will not deter members and am sure that the 50th anniversary will provide an incentive for table leaders to encourage friends to join them to mark the milestone.

As usual I am hugely grateful to all those who spend time and energy organising these events and I hope that you will feel able to support one or all of them again this year – especially if you have not been for a while.

The comprehensive programme of former regimental and Rifles events in the counties will compete increasingly for our support, but this year's Club dates are:

Saturday 16 June – LI Regimental Association Weekend, Shrewsbury.

Sunday 15 July - LI Club Lunch, The Wardrobe, Salisbury.

Thursday 11 October - LI Club Dinner, The Cavalry & Guards Club, London.

I emphasise that the success of each event is largely determined by members arranging tables of friends and those of shared experience across our Regiment so don't feel that you have to wait to be invited – pick up the phone or send an e-mail and arrange a table yourself.

The Light Infantry Website (www.lightinfantry.co.uk) includes a Club page and I hope that many of you will read this newsletter there. Ian Foster continues to deserve special mention with his sterling work keeping our administration costs down. Reducing the postage bill with internet posting is the most effective way; so if you have received a hard copy of this letter and have an email address please consider registering the latter with us at liclub@lightinfantry.co.uk and help us to reduce costs further.

With my best wishes to you all for a peaceful and healthy 2018.

Mark Elcomb