

Brigadier CMG Elcomb OBE  
Chairman, The Light Infantry Club



C/O RHQ The Rifles  
Peninsula Barracks  
Romsey Road  
WINCHESTER  
Hants  
SO23 8TS  
Tel: DFTS (9)4271 Extn 5130  
Civil (01962) 828530  
Fax: DFTS (9)4271 Extn 5134  
Civil (01962) 828534

Light Infantry Club Members

30 March 2021

## NEWSLETTER 2021

What does a chairman write after a year such as that just passed? No reflections on the activities of the Club in the last twelvemonth and no news of members' achievements but the upside of this lack of information is that this will be a mercifully brief note! Having said that there were no achievements, I should take advantage of my position to record the Club's congratulations to I think our oldest member – Michael Elcomb reached his centenary in early December and celebrated in modest style (due to lockdown of course) at home, with a card from Her Majesty sharing pride of place with a magnificent bouquet of white roses. His service with the KOYLI and LI from 1939 to 1975 saw a dramatic change to the Army so he is not really surprised by the latest reduction proposals! I will mark another achievement with a personal plug for a lockdown book by a former 2LI officer: 'The Name Beneath the Stone' by Robert (Herb) Newcombe is a cleverly constructed and well researched novel focused on the body now lying in Westminster Abbey and I recommend it without reservation!

You will understand I am sure why we could not host the lunch and dinner last year: whilst there were some doughty souls who were more confident, the organisers were particularly conscious of the average age of our membership and the risks presented by gathering in close proximity at tables for 6! We are more confident this year however, and expecting that all will have had their vaccinations (at least one) the lunch will take place at The Wardrobe on Sunday 18 July. Further details below, but at present normal process applies. We hope that a third lockdown will not be imposed. As I said last year the unique setting is a significant attraction but it does require a generous subsidy from Club funds to keep tickets at an affordable level which we will continue to do as long as the numbers make it worthwhile. Chris Topham is still 'carrying' the Wardrobe lunch but will not do so for ever so if anyone can help him with a view to relief in the line please get in touch – or volunteer someone else! Geographical proximity is not essential.

The dinner is programmed for 14 October and Edward Chamberlain is in charge for which I am hugely grateful. Of course both events are critically dependent on the coord and finance role played by Ian Foster who also deserves a public thank you. The Club structure is not broken, but it will not last in its current form for ever and it is unrealistic to think that The Rifles programme will inherit and continue our modest activities, so some change is inevitable at some stage.

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

**Sunday 18 July** - LI Club Lunch, The Wardrobe, Salisbury.

**Thursday 14 October** - LI Club Dinner, The Cavalry & Guards Club, London.

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 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](http://www.lightinfantry.co.uk)) includes a Club page and I hope that many of you will read this newsletter there. If you have received a hard copy of this letter and have an email address, please register the latter with us at [liclub@lightinfantry.co.uk](mailto:liclub@lightinfantry.co.uk) and help us to reduce costs further.

With my very belated best wishes to you all for a healthy 2021!

*Mark Elcomb*