

## **THE COLONEL'S FUND GRENADIER GUARDS**

### **'TAKING ON THE TALIBAN' DINNER 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008-02-12**

Three retired Grenadier Officers, Major Steve Marcham, Major Ben Hancock and Lt Col Steve Tuck, who served together and now all work in close proximity to each other in the City met up one day last November to discuss what, if anything, could be done to raise some money for The Colonel's Fund.

Being the general manager of the Vintner's Company, Steve Marcham thought the Vintner's Company would be supportive and would allow him the use of the magnificent Vintner's Hall to stage an event. After much discussion the idea of a fund-raising dinner was agreed upon. Lt Col Carew Hatherley, Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, was approached and when he readily agreed to support the event planning got under way to stage an event on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008. It was agreed that Steve Marcham would be responsible for all logistical matters, Steve Tuck would look after administration and the Auction and Ben Hancock's main focus would be on ticket sales. The format would be a champagne reception, a presentation by Carew Hatherley, a 3 course dinner and an auction followed by a final talk from Carew.

The maximum number that can comfortably sit down to dine in Vintner's Hall is 120. We all set about contacting our former Grenadier friends and associates in the City to sell 120 tickets for the event at £100 per head and let them know that a donation on top of this would be expected. We were magnificently supported by former Grenadiers (and a former Coldstream Officer!) now working in the City, and after some hard selling, all 120 tickets were sold.

The Dinner proved to be an enormous success. Carew Hatherley's presentation touched all those present and we have received many letters and messages thanking us for a wonderful evening. Much goodwill was created and those present were extremely generous. Steve Tuck auctioned off 8 items which raised £14,000. The overall amount raised on the night was £45,000, which will all go to The Colonel's Fund.

The evening would not have been the success it was without the benevolence of the Vintner's Company, Carew Hatherley and his team from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, those who donated items for the auction, John Southern and Colin Knight of the Association who assisted on the night and of course all those present whose generosity raised such a grand sum for The Colonel's Fund.