IRISH GUARDS NORTH OF ENGLAND

Annual Dinner 2026

Menu & Welcome Pack

Saturday 19th September
The Shankly Hotel
Liverpool

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Introduction

Each year, the Annual Dinner remains the centrepiece of the Irish Guards North of England Branch calendar – an evening built on comradeship, remembrance, regimental pride and celebration.

For 2026, we are proud to announce a new chapter as the dinner moves to the iconic Shankly Hotel in Liverpool city centre, following the extensive relocation of our annual events programme from the Adelphi Hotel after many years of valued service there.

Taking place on **Saturday 19th September 2026**, the evening will bring together serving personnel, veterans, families and friends of the Regiment from across the North of England and beyond. Guests can expect a memorable evening of tradition, reflection and socialising in one of Liverpool's most recognised venues.

The Annual Dinner is more than simply a formal event. It is an opportunity to:

- Reconnect with fellow Micks from across the Regiment and wider military family
- Celebrate the history, service and spirit of the Irish Guards
- Meet members of the Branch committee and hear about future plans and events
- Enjoy a premium dining experience within The Shankly Hotel's renowned hospitality setting
- Continue supporting the welfare, remembrance and community work of the Branch Association

Whether you are a long-standing member or attending for the first time, the Annual Dinner offers a warm welcome and an opportunity to be part of the continuing story of the Irish Guards North of England Branch.

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Order of Proceedings

Time	Activity
18:30	Reception begins
19:00	Imperial Corps of Drums
20:00	Dinner is served
21:45	Imperial Corps of Drums
22:00	Speeches & Toast
22:45	Entertainment begins
Late	Late bar opens
Close	Carriages at closing time

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Menu

Starter

Pork & Apricot Terrine
Served with toasted artisan bread, house pickles and caramelised onion chutney.

(Vegan) Torched Watermelon & Feta
Charred watermelon with vegan feta, pickled red onion, balsamic glaze and micro herbs.

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Menu

Main

Roasted Sirloin of Beef

Served with a fondant potato, seasonal vegetables, Yorkshire pudding and rich red wine gravy.

(Vegan) Pearl Barley Risotto

Pearl barley risotto with roasted butternut squash, crispy kale, pumpkin seeds and vegan parmesan.

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Menu

Dessert

Raspberry & White Chocolate Cheesecake
Finished with raspberry coulis, white chocolate crumb and fresh micro herbs.

(Vegan) Chocolate Brownie
Warm vegan chocolate brownie served with vanilla-style vegan ice cream and vegan chocolate sauce.

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Poetry

'Tommy' by Rudyard Kipling

I went into a public-'ouse to get a pint o' beer,
The publican 'e up an' sez, "We serve no red-coats here."
The girls be'ind the bar they laughed an' giggled fit to die,
I outs into the street again an' to myself sez I:
O it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, go away";
But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins", when the band begins to play,
The band begins to play, my boys, the band begins to play,
O it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins", when the band begins to play.

I went into a theatre as sober as could be,
They gave a drunk civilian room, but 'adn't none for me;
They sent me to the gallery or round the music-'alls,
But when it comes to fightin', Lord! they'll shove me in the stalls!
For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, wait outside";
But it's "Special train for Atkins" when the trooper's on the tide,
The troopship's on the tide, my boys, the troopship's on the tide,
O it's "Special train for Atkins" when the trooper's on the tide.

Yes, makin' mock o' uniforms that guard you while you sleep
Is cheaper than them uniforms, an' they're starvation cheap;
An' hustlin' drunken soldiers when they're goin' large a bit
Is five times better business than paradin' in full kit.
Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, 'ow's yer soul?"
But it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll,
The drums begin to roll, my boys, the drums begin to roll,
O it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll.

We aren't no thin red 'eroes, nor we aren't no blackguards too,
But single men in barricks, most remarkable like you;
An' if sometimes our conduck isn't all your fancy paints,
Why, single men in barricks don't grow into plaster saints;
While it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, fall be'ind",
But it's "Please to walk in front, sir", when there's trouble in the wind,
There's trouble in the wind, my boys, there's trouble in the wind,
O it's "Please to walk in front, sir", when there's trouble in the wind.

You talk o' better food for us, an' schools, an' fires, an' all:
We'll wait for extry rations if you treat us rational.
Don't mess about the cook-room slops, but prove it to our face
The Widow's Uniform is not the soldier-man's disgrace.
For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the brute!"
But it's "Saviour of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot;
An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' anything you please;
An' Tommy ain't a bloomin' fool -- you bet that Tommy sees!

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Booking & Attendance

Tickets are priced at **£49.50 per head**.

You can book for yourself and up to 9 guests using the online payment system via our website.

Payment confirms your place and allows us to collect your food choices in advance.

For questions about the dinner or room bookings, please contact:
David Ellis – iganoeevents@gmail.com / +447947 427915

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A Note About the Venue

For 2026, we are proud to begin a new chapter for the Branch as we relocate our Annual Dinner and wider events calendar to The Shankly Hotel in Liverpool.

Situated in the heart of the city, The Shankly Hotel offers a modern and high-quality setting that reflects the continued growth and ambition of the Branch. Following positive discussions with the hotel team, we are confident the venue will provide an excellent experience for members, guests and the wider Regimental family.

This move represents an exciting step forward whilst maintaining the traditions and camaraderie that make our events so special. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our new home for what promises to be another memorable evening for the Irish Guards North of England Branch.

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Reflecting on the Irish Guards through the Generations

As we gather for our 2026 Annual Dinner, we do so not only as members of a Branch Association, but as custodians of a Regimental story that now spans more than a century of service, sacrifice and brotherhood.

Following last year's landmark celebration of 125 years of the Irish Guards, 2026 gives us an opportunity to look beyond a single milestone and reflect on the generations of Micks who have carried the Colours, worn the Shamrock with pride, and upheld the spirit of the Regiment across every era.

From the trenches of the First World War to the streets of Belfast, from Normandy to Afghanistan, the Irish Guards have remained defined by courage, professionalism and unwavering loyalty to one another. Through war and peace, ceremonial duties and operational tours, the Regiment has continued to adapt whilst never losing sight of the values that make it unique.

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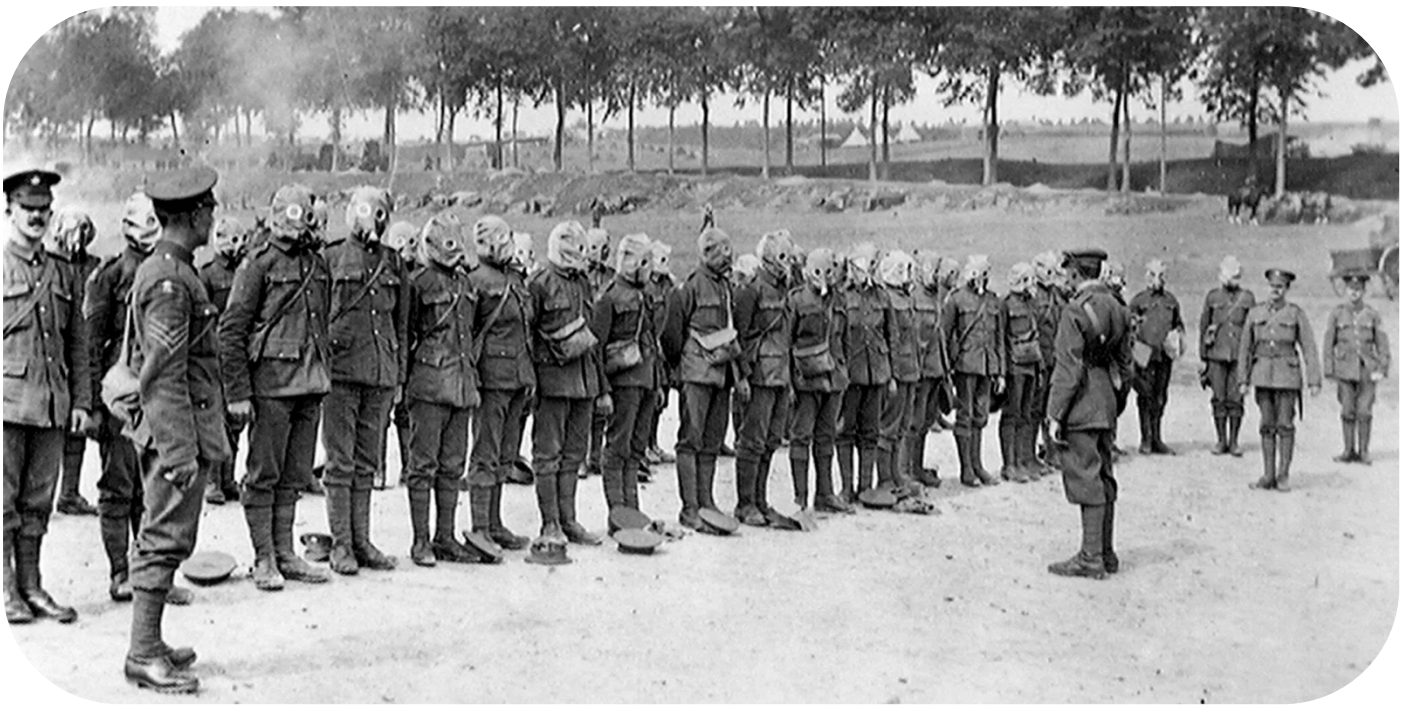

Irish Guards lined up for respirator drill on the Somme, September 1916

This year also marks 110 years since the Battle of the Somme in 1916, one of the most defining and devastating chapters in British and Irish military history. Irish Guardsmen stood amongst those who answered the call during that campaign, and we remember not only their sacrifice, but the enduring resilience of all those who served alongside them.

Here in the North of England Branch, that legacy lives on through friendship, remembrance and continued support for the wider Regimental family. Our Annual Dinner remains one of the most important moments in our calendar; an evening where veterans, serving members, families and friends come together to reconnect, reflect and look ahead.

While uniforms may change and generations move forward, the spirit of the Irish Guards remains unmistakably the same.

Quis Separabit – Who shall separate us?

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Quis Separabit