

# SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER



**That some no longer serve with the colours does not matter,  
What does matter is that we are all of us Scots Guardsmen.  
Bound together in the Queen's service until we die by a chain,  
the links of which are invisible but which are as strong as steel:  
Constantly striving, in all that we do, to maintain the high traditions  
of loyalty and devotion to duty upon which the Scots Guards are founded**

**General Sir Michael Gow GCB**

**Palace of Holyrood 1965**

**Neil Crockett  
Secretary & Editor**

**August 2025  
Volume 26  
Issue 7**

**Email: [sga@scotsguards.org](mailto:sga@scotsguards.org)**

**Tel: 01383 – 721530**

## Front Page Photograph:

### SERGEANT MAJOR MATTHEW CLAY ~ A REGIMENTAL HERO AT THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO

You can read more about him here <https://scotsguards.org/?soldier=matthew-clay>

His grave in Bedford is in poor condition and needs restoration. The Clay family has set up a Just Giving page at: [Mathews Life, by Bob Ricketts, Foster Hill Road Cemetery](<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfun.../clayfamily-societv...>)

Matthew Clay is well known among followers of Waterloo history. His bravery at the walled farm of Château Hougomont, a key strategic site during the battle.

Clay's personal pocketbook account of the battle, later published in 1853, provides a rare and vivid first-hand soldier's perspective of the intense combat, including brutal hand-to-hand fighting and the psychological toll of war.

If you can make a donation that would be great.

## WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING AUGUST IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

### Afghanistan

1 August 2010 25081839 LSgt Dale McCallum age 31. B Company 1st Bn Scots Guards, Killed Checkpoint Said Abdul.

### Northern Ireland

11 August 1978 24312328 LCpl Alan Swift age 25. Killed Bogside, Londonderry.

2 August 1990 24782295 Dmr Paul Brown age 21. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards. Killed Strand Road, Londonderry.

2 August 1992 24754493 Gdsm Damian Shackleton age 24 Right Flank 1st Battalion Scots Guards,; Killed New Lodge, Belfast.



LSgt Dale McCallum



LCpl Alan Swift



Gdsm Damian Shackleton

## DEATHS

### ASSOCIATION

#### SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Branch

24141208 LSgt Donald Munro. Died 13 July 2025. Lived Gainsbrough, Lincolnshire, Served 2SG & 1SG 1969 – 1989. Served in TQM Dept. Widely known and respected as "Bullets".

Donald's Funeral Friday 8 August 1500hrs at the Orchard Burial Ground, Stainton Lane, Stainton Lane, Lincoln, LN3 5BW. Thereafter to Rowena's Black Hill Farm, Laughton Lane, Morton, DN21 3ET. If you can attend names for numbers required please.

### NON ASSOCIATION

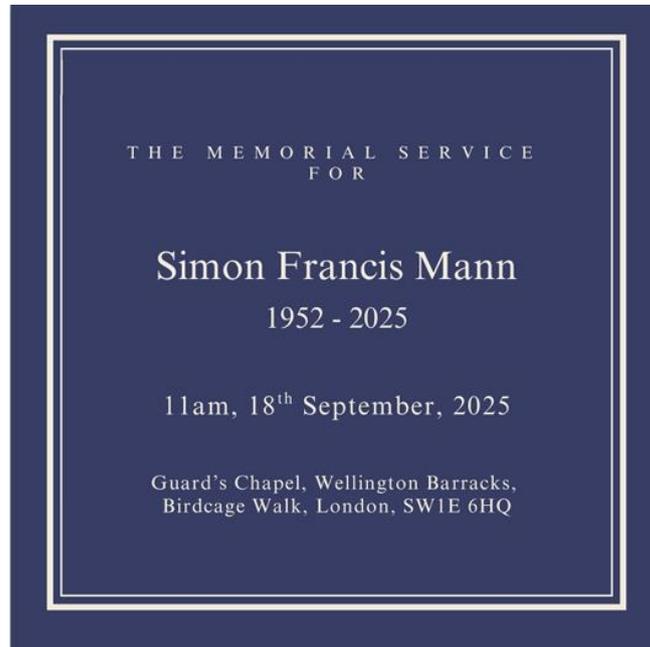
23969041 LSgt James Clayton Died 6 July 2025. Age 78. Lived Great Yarmouth. Served 1SG 1967 – 1977 C Coy & LF.

LSgt Brian Clough Died 7 July 2025. Age 62, Lived Doncaster. Served 2SG including Falkland Islands 1982.

23517733 Michael Wilson Died 11 July 2025. Lived Birmingham. Served 1SG 1958 – 1967 including Windsor, BAOR, Malaya & Borneo, Edinburgh. Funeral 15 August 2025 1345hrs, Sutton Coldfield Crematorium, Tamworth Road, B75 6LG then on to Sutton Coldfield Cemetery, Linridge Road, B75 7HX.

WO2 Hudson 'Spud' Died 11 July 2025. Served 2SG.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE ~ CAPTAIN SIMON MANN



### ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### SGA Highlands & Islands

On the 5 July members had an afternoon of fun at Bowhunter Archery Club, Ardersier with axe throwing & archery on the agenda.



Who gave our tame Sapper “Best Shot of the Day” Willie McPherson control of an axe? Murray Notman (kneeling), Roddy Davidson, Cammy Proudfoot, Willie McPherson (enthroned), Roddy Cantwell, John Maclennan.



Right: Highlands & Islands President ~ Major Cammy Proudfoot struggles to remember “The Marksmanship Principles”

Secretary: Rod Davidson

Email: [roderick.davidson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roderick.davidson@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: 07752 089535

## SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon



The weather was “Hot ~ Hot” at the Branch Picnic at the Guards Polo Club, Windsor  
L-R: Colin Paterson, Trevor Elliot, Jim Simmonds, Dave Reekie and ladies.

Saturday 9 August ~ have you booked your place for the SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon BBQ @ Datchet Golf Club 1300 – 1630hrs.

Secretary: Jim Simmonds

Email: [Jimsimmonds6729@gmail.com](mailto:Jimsimmonds6729@gmail.com)

Tel: 07340 297328

## CATCHING UP ON MERSEYSIDE



Neil Crockett on a visit to see his sisters in Birkenhead took the chance to have a catch up with across the road neighbour Peter Sullivan & who else came along but Ian “Murphs” Murphy. Much catching up was done. If your ears were burning it was because we were talking about you ~ don’t worry it was all good!

## FORECAST OF EVENTS UNTIL JUNE 2026

### AUGUST

#### **Edinburgh Tattoo ~ Including Pipes & Drums 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Scots Guards**

Sat 9 SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon BBQ @ Datchet Golf Club 1300 – 1630hrs.

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 6 SGA Durham & Yorkshire Dinner ~ Sgts Mess, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards, Somme Barracks, Catterick.  
Contact: Mark Wall Secretary ~ Email: [Markwall442@outlook.com](mailto:Markwall442@outlook.com) Tel: 07535 029061

### OCTOBER

Sat 4 SGA Carlisle D & G Dinner ~ The Auctioneer, Rosehill Est, Carlisle.

Fri 10 WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner, Sgts Mess, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Scots Guards, Catterick.

Sat 11 SGA Dundee & Angus 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner ~ Invercarse Hotel, Dundee.

Sat 11 SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner, Datchet Golf Club 1800hrs for 1900hrs.

Sat 25 SGA Glasgow 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner ~ Glasgow Arts Club, Glasgow, (125th Anniversary)

Thu 30 SGA Manchester Lunch ~ Ukrainian Club. Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

Fri 31 SGA Aberdeen & NE Scotland Dinner ~ Althens Hotel, Aberdeen

### NOVEMBER

Sat 1 SGA Australia Dinner ~ Bribie Island RSL, Bongaree, QLD

Fri 7 SGA Fife Dinner ~ Victoria Hotel, Kirkcaldy

Fri 7 SGA Ayrshire Dinner ~ RAFA Club, Prestwick

Sat 29 SGA Pipers Dinner ~ Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh

Sun 30 SGA Merseyside Lunch ~ Masonic Club Garston, Liverpool.

### DECEMBER

Wed 10 SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Christmas Lunch ~ Datchet Golf Club 1230 for 1300hrs.

## 2026

### JANUARY

Sat 24 SGA Highlands & Islands Dinner / Burns Supper ~ Inverness.

### APRIL

Fri 17 – Sun 19 Regimental Weekend ~ London

Sun 19 Regimental Remembrance Sunday

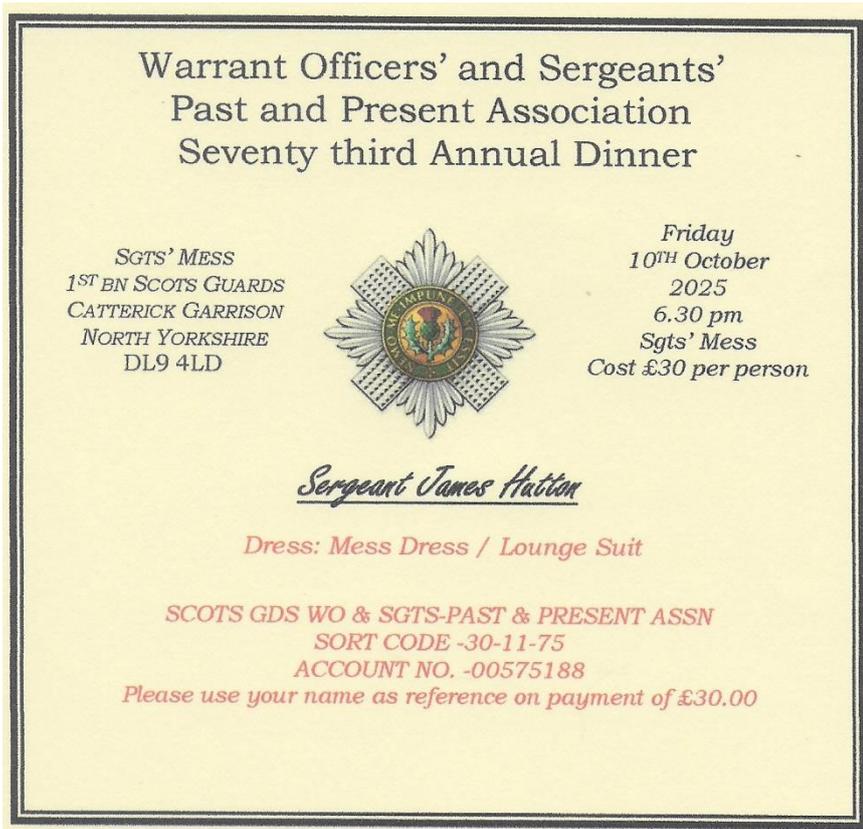
### JUNE

Fri 12 – Mon 15 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association Weekend ~ Blackpool

**JUST THE TICKET**

**WARRANT OFFICERS & SERGEANTS PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION 73<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL DINNER**

On behalf of RQMS Munro Secretary & Treasurer of the Scots Guards Warrant Officers & Sergeants Past & Present Association



**Date: Friday 10 October 2025**

**Venue: Sgts Mess, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards, Catterick Garrison.**

**Time: Gather at 1830hrs**

**Dress: Serving Mess Dress / Past Lounge Suit, HDiv Tie, Miniature Medals**

**Cost: Tickets £30 ea.**

**Payment: Bank Transfer preferred.**

**Scots Guards WO and Sgts Past and Present Association**

**Sort Code: 30 - 11 - 75**

**Account Number: 00575188**

**Please use your name as reference of payment.**

**Misc:**

- **Please email [James.Munro827@mod.gov.uk](mailto:James.Munro827@mod.gov.uk) to let him know you've made payment.**
- **There wont be any military accommodation available, however transport will be made available from & return to local hotels.**

## CSGT ROSS THORLEY ~ SCOTS GUARDS LEAD COORDINATOR ~ EDINBURGH CASTLE



Very well done to CSgt Ross Thorley on being presented The Colonel's Certificate for his outstanding service to the Regiment. Working out of Edinburgh Castle for the past 2 years he's worked hard, from co-ordinating recruiting to supporting Scots Guards Army Cadet Force units both activities particularly in Scotland. He's attended very nearly every Scottish SGA dinner over the past few years and has done much to support the association.

### ROYAL VISIT TO KIRKCALDY

Their Majesty's the King & Queen were in Kirkcaldy during on 2 July during the period of Edinburgh Royal Week. They unveiled a Commemorative Cairn (Time Capsule) and the World War One War Memorial was rededicated in it's 100 years since it was built.

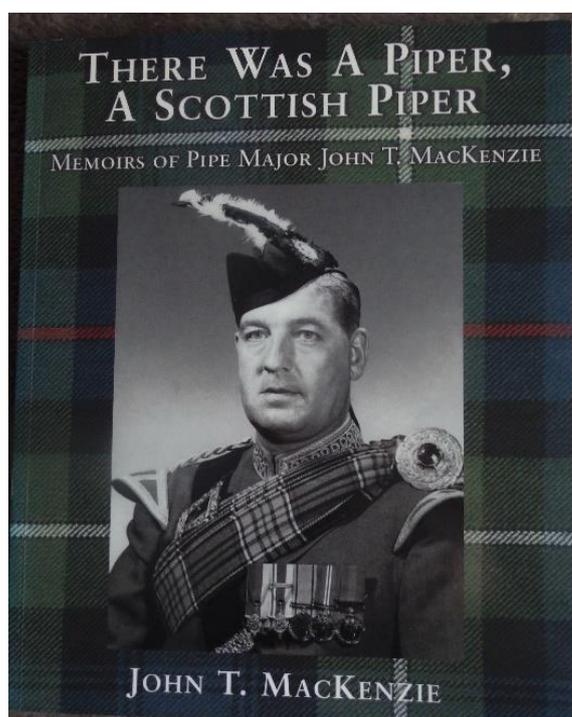
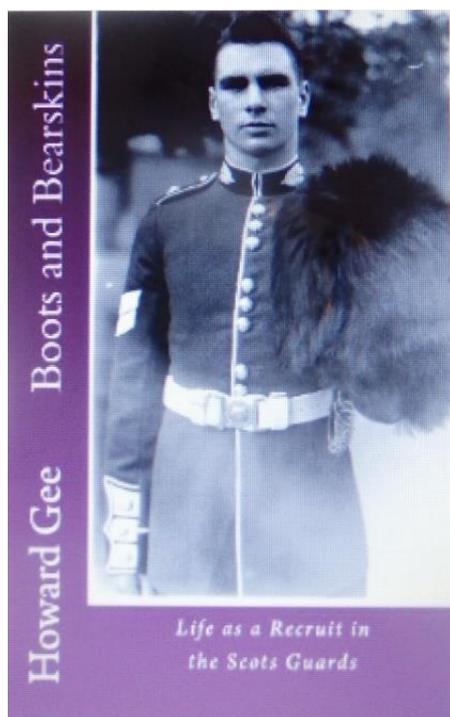
Members of SGA in Fife were included in the parade, playing with Kirkcaldy Pipes & Drums were Iain Lowther (and his daughter) & Drummer John Ritchie. Parade Marshall Tam James formed the parade up in good order with various Regt Associations, Reserve units and the Sea & Army Cadets and Air Training Corps. Brian Ward (Events Manager ~ Legion Scotland) took part.

The saying "If its not raining its not training" certainly came to mind ~ it poured down!! At the end of the event it was very heartening that Their Majesty's took time to speak to every one of the young cadets on parade, something they'll talk about for years to come.



**Pipers Step – Up: Fraser Ritchie & Jimmy Banks. Also on parade were Ernie Melville, Dougie Duthie, Neil Crockett and CSgt Thorley.**

## SUMMER LEAVE READS



### **Boots & Bearskins**

**(Life as a recruit in the Scots Guards)**

**Amazon Price £6.99**

For a young 17 year old the thought of recruitment into the Scots Guards for 3 years prior to joining Edinburgh City Police was an exciting prospect but their renowned discipline was daunting. He wasn't sure if he was up to the required standard. After deep consideration on 11 June 1959 he took the Oath to HM The Queen and went through the gates of the Guards Depot, Caterham and entered a world of drill parades, discipline and military humour.

If you ever look at the squad photographs in the Scots Guards Club ~ Have a look for Recruit Gee at the Guards Depot 1959.

### **There Was a Piper a Scottish Piper**

**Kindle Price £4.79**

**In Paperback from Bookshops.**

P/M John T MacKenzie from Edinburgh, went to Queen Victoria School, Dunblane. He served as a Piper with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Scots Guards in Egypt before World War 2, then with the Bn during the North African Campaign. Just after the end of the war he took part in the Liberation of Norway. John was P/M of 2SG In Malaya 1948 – 51. In 1952 he was recruited to be Pipe Major of the Royal Canadian Air Force in UK and later he settled in Canada where his contributions to piping are legendary.



**Now 101 years old & looking good ~ Read up to the final page to find out what's going on at The Scots Guards Club.**

## SCOTS GUARDS ACF ~ ANNUAL CAMP

Cadets from 4 & 5 Scots Guards ACF attended their Annual Camp at Barry Budden in Dundee



The Senior Cadets spent most of the week taking part in a three day Fieldcraft package going through all the training they had learned up until this point (enabling them to be ready for the Master Cadet Course). CSgt Thorley, LCpl Grant & Gdsm Morrison provided support for the training.

The start of the week consisted of training for Navigation and Expeditions to allow them to complete a Hike and Navigation Exercise between Carnoustie and Arbroath. The junior cadets completing the 10mile hike and the more senior cadets putting their navigation training into practice by map reading from point to point along the coastal route.

Mid week the cadets carried out Skill at Arms training learning the required skills to enable them to use the Cadet A2 GP rifle.

All the cadets enjoyed the camp and while it was tiring at times our cadets were always to be found with a smile on their faces and full engaging with all training during the week.



Left: Amiens Company Sergeant Major, Cdt CSM Jørgensen, was appointed the Lord Lieutenant for Lanarkshire on this year's Glasgow & Lanarkshire Annual camp at Barry Budden. Cdt CSM Jørgensen has been a member of 5 Scots Guards ACF in Lanark for nearly six years and during this time he has completed his 4 Star award and is getting ready to attend Cadet Training Centre Firmly Park to participate in the Master Cadet Course. He enjoys Drill and was part of the winning Brigade Drill Team for G&L Bn ACF last year and won the Royal British Legion (GADG) Standard Bear Completion. He is currently attending his DofE Residential on Tiree with the ACF to complete his Gold DofE award.

Right: Cadet Ferguson Hiking & Map Reading.



Cadet Murray ~ Enjoys Time – Out from Training

## SCOTS GUARDS CLUB ~ NEWSLETTER

Our summer party weekend is coming up, starting on Friday 1 August with general fun and festivities over the three days. Specifically however, there will be live music on Friday evening, a party DJ on Saturday evening and live music on Sunday afternoon. The barbeque will be fired up between 4-7 on the Saturday and 3-6 on Sunday. Bar closing at 7pm on Sunday. We may operate on a 'members and immediate guests' basis over the weekend to ensure members get the best experience.



**The Library taking shape**



**The Back Garden ~ Sun Trap**

The library is almost there and those of you on facebook will have seen photos of the new book cases and display shelves. We continue to receive donations of books and memorabilia and a special mention to our friends at Poppy Scotland for a large number of books received from their collection.

On that note, Poppy Scotland are looking to find a Poppy Appeal Area Organiser for Edinburgh West End. This is a voluntary role and involves the distribution of poppy boxes and tins across the local area.

If anyone is interested in this role, the link below contains more information or you can message Jess on at [J.Clark@poppyscotland.org.uk](mailto:J.Clark@poppyscotland.org.uk)

<https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/.../volun.../area-organiser>

The downstairs bar has been painted from top to bottom and is looking fresh. Putting the pictures back up was a big job! Shout out to Jim Solway and his team at Solway Decor for their work on the bar and library room and to Thomas Parks (TSP Home Improvements) for building the bookshelves. Great job fellas!

We have taken delivery of our defibrillator and are just waiting now for it to be installed. Thanks again to everyone who helped fund this project and we will be saying more on this once the job is done.

In order to control numbers and ensure a comfortable environment for existing members, there has been a freeze on new memberships over the past couple of months, with prospective members asked to email their interest. We will contact everyone who has messaged shortly with an update.

That's all for this month folks and as ever, all the best from all the Team!