

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**

**May 2024
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Front Page Photograph:

On the occasion of Regimetal Remembrance Sunday 14 April 2024 Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC(P) bids farewell as 26th Colonel of The Regiment Led by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel & F Company he received 3 very rousing cheers from the Regiment past & serving as he took his leave, walking through the applause of the well lined route from RHQ to Wellington Barracks gate. Sir, we thank you for your constant loyalty and support at all times over 50 years (1974 – 2024).



The wreath laying party at the Guards Memorial, including Kenny Lawson (SGA Fife), HRH The Duke of Kent, RQMS James Scott, LSgt Warren (F Company Piper). Rear: CSM James Munro (RQMS Designate), Captain GA Hopkins (Equerry).

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING MAY IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Malaya Emergency 1948 – 1951

19 May 1949 2704864 LSgt Harvey Lea, Age 21

19 May 1949 2Lt PWB Graham – Watson

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Northern Ireland

5 May 1990 24586352 LSgt Graham Stewart, Age 25 Killed South Armagh.



LSgt Graham Stewart

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

THIRD GUARDS CLUB

Mr JHO Bridgeman Died 3 April 2024. Age 95. Served 1957 – 59, 2SG / 1SG Chelsea, Shorncliffe & Hublerath BAOR, Lived Dumfriesshire.

SGA EDINBURGH & THE LOTHIAN / SGA BORDERS BRANCHES

24285649 Gdsm Tam Laidlaw. Died 31 March 2024. Served Left Flank 1SG Munster 1973, Chelsea MT & Guards Depot MT. Lived Edinburgh.

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBER

22022540 LCpl Frank Robinson. Died 17 March 2024 Age 95. Served 2SG Malaya 1948 – 1951. Lived Edinburgh.

24048415 LSgt John (Jim ~ The Bear) Hogg. Died & April 2024. Served 2SG from Munster late 1960s for many years. Well remembered as the Battalion coach driver. His funeral will take place on Tuesday 30th April 11.30 hrs at Slough Crematorium & the wake will be at The Olde Five Bells, 14 Church St, Burnham SL1 7HZ.

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, LONDON 14 APRIL 2024

As members of the regiment gathered over the weekend of 12 – 14 April, news broke at 2200hrs on Saturday evening that HRH The Duke of Kent would attend “Blank Sunday” and retire at the end of the formal proceedings of the day. Most would have heard as they woke up to the Sunday newspapers & on television news.



Left: The parade to the Guards Memorial was led by the Regimental Band & 1st Battalion Scots Guards Pipes & Drums.

Right: A recent innovation, F Company took part, led by Major Josh Drummond Moray on one of his last duties before handing over to Captain TAM Strachan as Company Commander.



The Regiment marches in bright sunshine along Birdcage Walk to the Guards Memorial



Left: Gift presentations to HRH The Duke of Kent by Colonel JDL Leask (Regimental Lieutenant Colonel) in thanks for his service to the Regiment. The Colonel's Pipe Banner & a photograph album with memories of 50 years of service to the Scots Guards.

Right: On parade from near & far. At the Guards Memorial to Remember the Fallen ~ L-R Brian McEwan (SGA Aberdeen & North East Scotland), IP Malcolm Russell (Formerly REME) remembering his late father CSM R Russell 1SG Norway, Tunisia & Anzio WW2. IP Colin Paterson (SGA London and Berks, Bucks & Oxon), Dougie Duthie (WOs & Sgts Past & Present and SGA Fife), Eck Barclay (SGA Borders).



F Company with local celebrity & YouTube star "Frank" before the service at the Guards Chapel. I spoke to quite a few from F Company, not least because I was seeking those who come from Fife. They were all smart, willing to engage, spoke well and were pleased to be part of the day.

Good luck to Frank ~ hopefully he is a future recruit, even if his heart is with the Coldstream Guards.

There were many other photographs on social media of Black Sunday. A great day made more so by the gracious presence of HRH The Duke of Kent on his retirement as Colonel of the Regiment. Thank You ~ Sir!

There have been questions already by some not able to attend this year ~ what date is Regimental Remembrance Sunday 2025. The answer is that it will be approximately the same Sunday in April 2025 & when the date is formally announced it will be widely shared.

And now we look forward to the future with our new and 27th Colonel of the Regiment

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, GCVO, CD, ADC.

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION ~ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 13 APRIL 2024

The meeting took place in Wellington Barracks Sgts Mess.

At the meeting there was a short silence for the 102 former members of the Regiment who have passed away between Api 2023 & Apl 2024.

A number of events were discussed:

SGA Shooting Competition 2024

It is intended to hold a Clay Pigeon shooting competition will take place near Northallerton (near Catterick) on Saturday 21 September 2024. It will be hosted by 1SG and will be open to the Association, 1st Battalion Scots Guards and other Scots Guards Veterans, they will be asked to provide teams.

The trophies up for grabs are the Swinton Quaich & a new Leask Cup.

It is intended there will be funding towards the costs of accommodation & shooting.

Full details will be issued in due course.

The Regimental Gathering 2025

The Gathering will take place near Catterick during the summer of 2025, hosted by 1SG. 2 locations are being looked at very close to Richmond. It is intended it will take place earlier in the summer than before in June or July. Fingers crossed this will provide more certainty of good weather.

100th Anniversary Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh

The SG Club is celebrating its 100th Anniversary throughout 2024. There will be various events including 21 / 22 June for the wider membership of the club & 13 / 14 September for SGA & serving. Full details will be advertised by the SG Club soon.

50th Anniversary of the Guildford Pub Bombing ~ Date TBC October 2024.

In Guildford on the site where the Horse and Groom Pub stood. 2 Scots Guards recruits in training at the Guards Depot, John Hunter & William Forsyth were killed along with 2 young WRAC Privates and a civilian were killed. More information in due course.

REGIMENTAL WELFARE OFFICER'S UPDATE

Major (retired) MA Cape

Regimental Welfare and Finance Officer

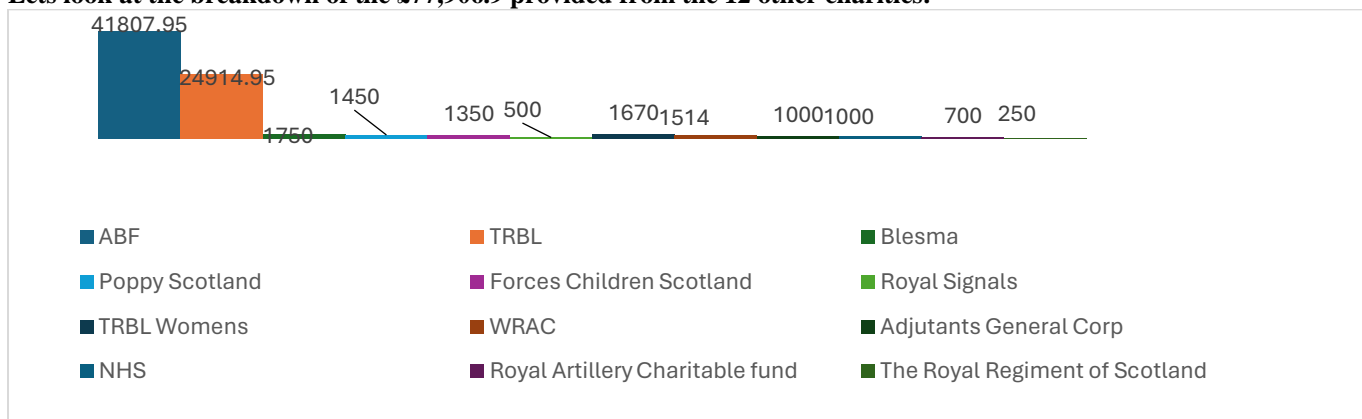
Email: finance@scotsguards.org

At the SGA AGM Major Cape gave his Welfare Officer's Update. He was given our thanks on behalf of the whole Regiment for his good work mainly in matters of welfare of our soldiers & families past and serving. Also remembering that his wider role entails looking after the day to day control of the Regimental finances, all for which we are grateful.

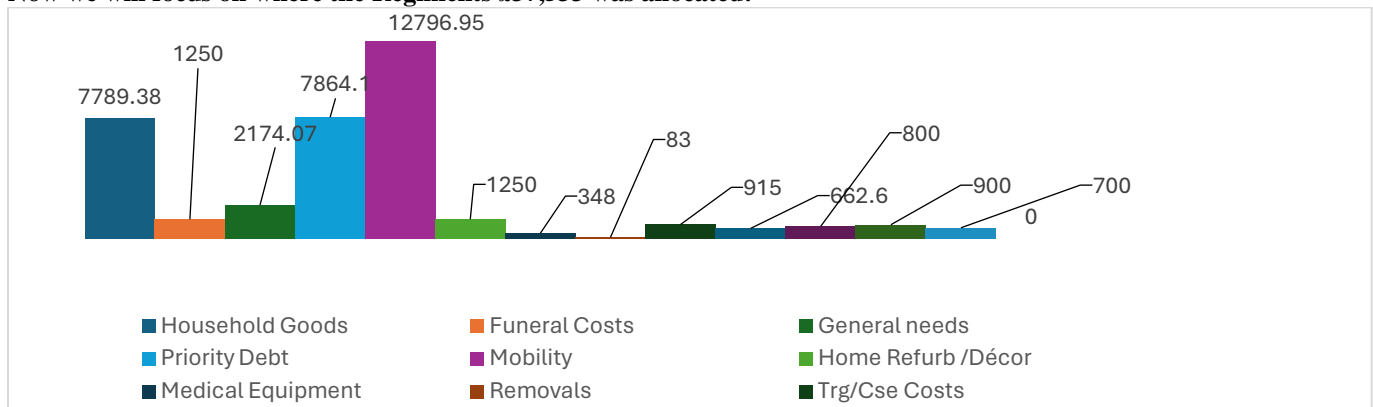
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024 - Key Welfare facts from this reporting period

This year we have provided benevolence grants to 72 Scots Guardsmen and their families totalling £115,440, with the exception of the previous year which included the winter fuel grant to all our Married LCpls and Gdsm is slightly above the 5-year average. The charity has given grants to the sum of £37,533.1 and sought assistance from 12 other charities who generously gave £77,906.9 in grants.

Lets look at the breakdown of the £77,906.9 provided from the 12 other charities:



Now we will focus on where the Regiments £37,533 was allocated:



Breakdown of grants to time of service:

Table 1. Breakdown of categories by time in service and shows the swing towards the younger generation receiving support, this year no grants have been awarded to anyone who served pre-1945:

Category	Time served	Grants
1	Pre 1945	0
2	1946 - 1970	5
3	1971 - 1995	33
4	1996 - 2023	30
5	Still Serving	4
Total:		72

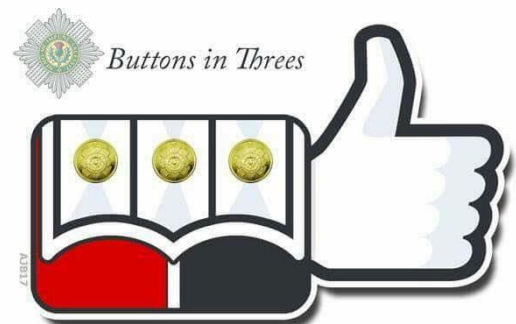
Table 2. The geographical breakdown has changed and there was more grants given, south of the border:

Geographical Area	Cases
Scotland	32
England	37
Other	3
Total:	72

Summary. The Scots Guards remain in a good position to support Scots Guardsmen and their families in need with benevolence grants, this is due to the excellent work with fundraising, donations received and the Payroll Giving Scheme (formerly known as the ODPS) received from all those still serving.

Your assistance has been instrumental in identifying Scots Guardsmen in need by communicating and signposting them to me or case workers such as Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Families association, TRBL and Poppy Scotland.

It is incumbent on us all to play our part by looking out for each other and identify Scots Guardsmen who are in need, and I thank you all for your continued support in doing this.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

It's the time for Branches to hold their Annual General Meetings

Highlands & Islands Branch

The AGM was held at the Legion Scotland Club, Inverness on 4 April:

The branch officials are:

President: Alasdair Hilleary

Vice President: Major CT Proudfoot

Chairman: Brian (Maxi) MacDonald

Secretary &

Treasurer: Rod Davidson Email: Roderickdavidson@hotmail.co.uk

Harry Obern stood down as Secretary with the thanks & best wishes of the Branch.

Glasgow Branch

AGM held in the Arts Club, Bath Street, Glasgow on 5 April 2024

The branch officials are:

President: Captain Sir James Campbell Bt

Chairman: Captain AEC Edmonstone

Secretary: Colin Downie Email: cdownie1@icloud.com

Tel: 07956 526283

Treasurer: Ronnie Cook

Dundee & Angus Branch

AGM held in St David's Veterans Club, Dundee on 6 April 2024

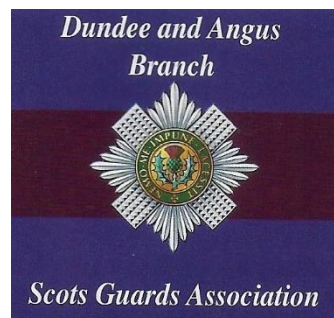
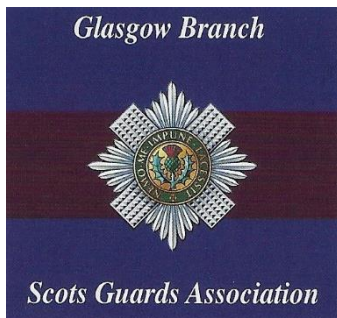
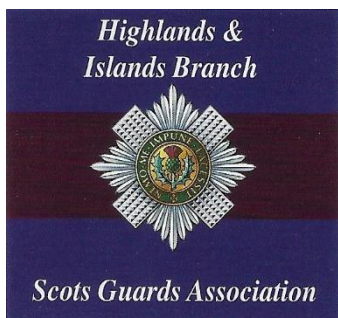
President: The Earl of Dalhousie

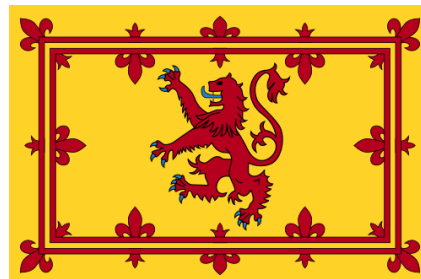
Chairman: Kenny Duffy

Secretary: Iain Bryson Email: iainpiper@hotmail.com

Tel: 07447 700536

Treasurer: Gordon Peebles





FORECAST OF EVENTS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2024

JUNE

- Thurs 6 D-Day 80 ~ Concert, Usher Hall, Edinburgh.
- Sat 15 King's Birthday Parade ~ 9 Company Irish Guards.
- Sat 15 SGA Glasgow Garden Party / Summer BBQ ~ Windyhills, Kilmacolm.
- W/E 14 – 17 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association ~ Blackpool Weekend.
- W/E 21 – 22 Scots Guards Club 100th Anniversary Event.
- Sat 22 Armed Forces Day, Edinburgh. Note this year the route will return to a parade from Charlotte Square via George Street to St Andrews Square. Form up 1000hrs more details to follow.
- Sat 29 Armed Forces Day ~ Watch Out for your local events.

SEPTEMBER

- W/E 13 – 14 Scots Guards Club 100th Anniversary Event.
- Sat 21 SGA Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.



BRIAN WARD ~ AWARD OF SCOTS GUARDS CERTIFICATE

On Tuesday 23 April Major General Alastair Bruce OBE, VR, DL, Governor of Edinburgh Castle presented Brian Ward with a Scots Guards Certificate beside the famous “One ‘o’ Clock Gun.

General Bruce served with the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards from 1980 – 1983 in the Falkland Islands & Northern Ireland.

Brian is the Events Manager for the Royal British Legion (Scotland) ~ **Legion Scotland**, arranging such prestigious events as Edinburgh Remembrance Day Parade on the Royal Mile, Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh, The Garden of Remembrance Services in Glasgow, Edinburgh & Inverness. Currently he is working on the D-Day 80 Band Concert taking place at the Usher Hall Edinburgh on 6 June 2024.

From Legion Scotland HQ, alongside Poppy Scotland & the Poppy Factory at Logie Green Road, Edinburgh Brian also has an ear to the ground for Scots Guardsmen who require welfare assistance.

Well Done Brian ~ Well Deserved.

Major Mark Cape arranged the presentation and Neil Crockett was able to attend.

Historical Note

Ships in the Firth of Forth once set their maritime clocks by the One o’Clock Gun. The firing of the gun dates back to 1861, when businessman John Hewat brought the idea to Edinburgh from Paris. The gun is still fired every day at 1pm, except Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas. Crowds gather to enjoy the spectacle – and the sound often surprises people on Princes Street below. The original gun was a 64 pounder. Since 2001, a 105mm field gun has been fired from the Mills Mount Battery.



Brian Ward receives his certificate from Major General Alastair Bruce, Governor Edinburgh Castle,

SCOTS GUARDS MEMORIAL PROJECT

A reminder that the Scots Guards Memorial Project is live on the Scots Guards website <https://scotsguards.org/history/the-memorial-project/#> , it is fairly easy to use. As part of the work of the Regimental Historical Committee the project was tasked with setting up a computer database to record memorials across the World that have been constructed to remember Scots Guardsmen in both war and peace. To date we currently have 380 Memorials listed and 927 Scots Guardsmen.

We are looking for:

- Large or small memorials to single Scots Guardsmen, detachments or Battalions, from times long past until the present day.
- The memorial could be anything from plaques to stained glass windows in churches, to trees of remembrance, in fact anything which in the respectful memory of our officers or Guardsmen.
- The names of Scots Guardsmen killed and listed on local town or village war memorials.
- Headstones of graves in UK or abroad which record service in the Scots Guards, but please not those men buried in Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemeteries because they are listed comprehensively by that organisation.

As a reminder please sent any information with photographs that you find to Michael Campbell-Lamerton

Michael@hallestate.co.uk

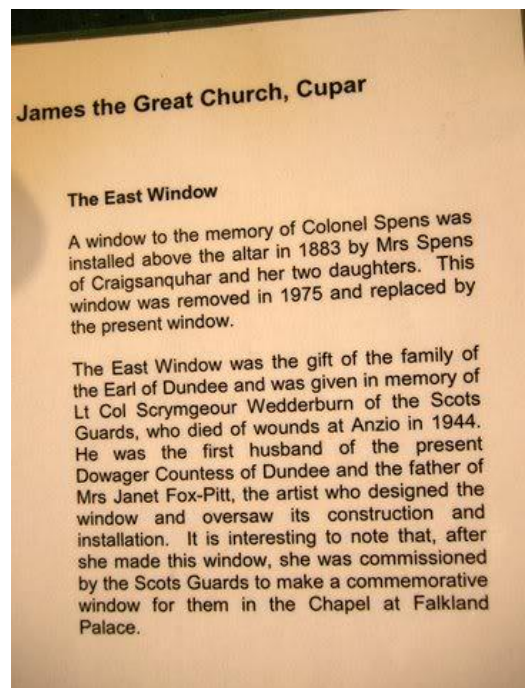
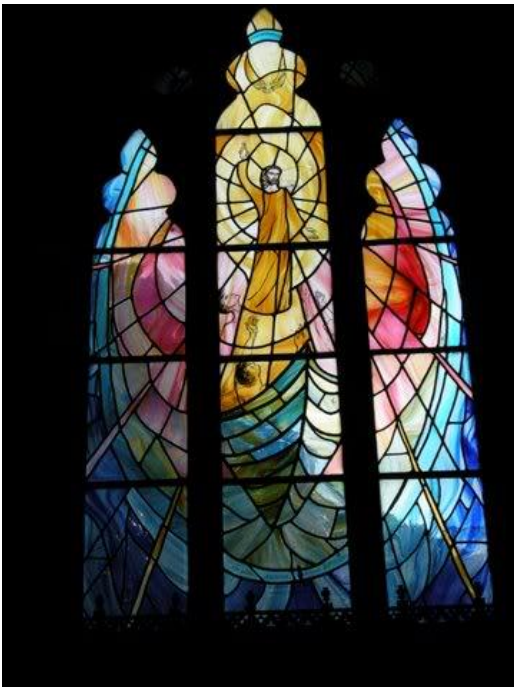
T: 07920 725572

While you are out on your travels across the UK and beyond keep a look out for memorials to Scots Guardsmen from **Unusual** to **Colourful**:

Unusual

The most unusual so far is an animal drinking trough & water fountain at Cuckfield in Sussex. Erected by their sister in the memory of Captain Charles Sergison and his brother (not SGs). Captain Sergison died at a relatively young age of 46 in 1911 after service during the Boer War.

Colourful



FEW FINAL PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE REGIMENTAL WEEKEND ~ LONDON 12 – 14 APRIL 2024



Left: A chance to meet friends ~ Gordon Peebles, Major John Craib, Captain Peter Tetlow, Andy Peters, Rab Connolly

Centre: Neil Crockett & Glen Jones, an old Coldstream Guards friend from Junior Leader days, Oswestry 1966 – 68. Glen's eyesight isn't so good these days and it was great that he came in from North Kent to meet up.

Right: Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor & Andy McKeand at the SGA AGM. 1SG Aldergrove 1981 then 2Lt MacGregor was Pltn Comd with Dmr McKeand in the Drums Pltn, Left Flank. Andy McKeand is now Secretary SGA Surrey Branch.



My sister on sunny Merseyside managed to pick me out at the Guards Memorial in an online video. I'm not sure whether the 'X' is signifying that she was impressed with my current drilling skills or perhaps not! It maybe a "Big" sticking plaster!



It was good to see a big contingent of the 1st Battalion at Black Sunday. An early start from Catterick and a return journey late afternoon before setting off for Salisbury Plain 1st AM Monday morning on Exercise Tartan Strike. It was great to see you all.

THE SUN IS SHINING ~ ENJOY