

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

April 2026
Volume 27
Issue 3

Email: sga@scotsguards.org

Tel: 01383 – 721530

Front Page Photographs:

“Get on Parade” HRH Catherine, The Princess of Wales, in her role as Colonel of the Irish Guards attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade at Mons Barracks in Aldershot on 17 March 2026. Major P Cody attached to the Irish Guards as Quartermaster assists HRH The Colonel Irish Guards distribute Shamrock.

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING APRIL IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

1st Battalion Scots Guards Egypt 1951 – 1954.

Easter Sunday 18 April 1954 22219738 Gdsm K Wallace Killed while on vehicle escort.

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Third Guards Club

Lt AC Horsman Died 8 March 2026. Age 89. Served 1SG Lydd 1957 – L Company 1958 as a National Service Officer.

SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians, Fife Branches. WOs & Sgts Past and Present Association

23909086 Sgt Edward “Ted” Middlemass Died 15 March 2026. Age 80. Lived Edinburgh. Ted served in the 2nd Bn for many years including in the Falkland's Campaign. He served in F Company in Hong Kong in 1971 until the 2nd Battalion was reformed. After his service Ted worked for British Airways at Heathrow before returning to Scotland when he retired. He lived in Fife for a short while before moving to Edinburgh.

Ted was Chairman of the Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch and a member of the Fife Branch of the Association. He was President of the Warrant Officers & Sergeants Past & Present Association in 1991 – 92 and a good supporter of the Scots Guards Club. Ted was a former member of the SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Branch.



Ted Middlemass (Right) a well respected man of friends across the Regiment.

NON ASSOCIATION

Neil Barrass Died March 2026. Lived Taunton, Somerset. Served C Coy 1SG 1986 to early 1990's

25222292 Gdsm David Ashton Died 16 March 2026. Age 40. Lived Rawtenstall, Lancashire. Served 1SG including Op Herrick 17.



David Ashton on Op Herrick 17.

SGA AGM – SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026 – 1030hrs SGTS MESS, WELLINGTON BARRACKS

Members of the Scots Guards Association are encouraged to attend. Email sga@scotsguards.org to ensure access into Wellington Barracks.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND LONDON 17 – 19 APRIL 2026

IT'S APRIL & THE WEATHER'S GETTING WARMER ~ LONDON IN THE SPRING

Fri 17 Scots Guards WOs & Sgts Past and Present Association AGM ~ 1830hrs ~ Wellington Barracks Sgts Mess.

Sat 18 SGA AGM ~ 1030hrs ~ Wellington Barracks Sgts Mess.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday – Guards Chapel

Sun 19 April – Service starts 1100hrs

Order of Dress: Suit / Blazer, Bde Tie, Large medals. No head dress.

Regimental Wreaths will be laid :

The Guards Chapel: Major RJG Craib ~ SGA Durham & Yorkshire Branch

The Guards Memorial: Gordon Peebles ~ SGA Dundee & Angus Branch

TIME TO MARCH WITH A SPRING IN YOUR STEP ~ YOU CAN'T BEAT IT!

After the service the parade will form up on the Barrack Square in 6s. Comd Off 1SG will command the parade to the Guards Memorial where there will be a short service of wreath laying, marching back to Barracks, a salute will be taken just before re-entering Barracks. The parade will be dismissed.



ADMIN POINTS

Entry to Wellington Barracks must be via Petty France, due to a Sunday Parade on the Buckingham Palace Forecourt at 1000hrs. There will be no access to barracks from Birdcage Walk, as roads will be closed.

Please take direction from the Military Provost Guard Service at all times when entering and exiting Wellington Barracks.

Car Parking. There will be limited car parking facilities available for disabled persons only in Wellington Barracks from 0930hrs. Please inform RHQ in advance if you require parking otherwise **you won't be allowed in.**

Everyone attending is required to sign into barracks at Petty France Guardroom ~ **please carry suitable identification**, i.e. MOD Form 90/SGA Membership Card or veterans card.

Tea and Coffee will be available at the Guards' Museum prior to the service in the chapel from 1015hrs **Toilets are available.**

There will be refreshments in the Other Ranks Dining Room and for those who want lunch it will be available on payment on the 'Pay to Dine System'.

Afterwards the Warrant Officers & Sgts Mess will be open.

Always a good chance to meet up with friends ~ What better reason to be there!

EVERY SCOTS GUARDSMAN PAST & SERVING ARE VERY WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

GATHERING NEWS – ORDER YOUR TICKETS

- Members of SGA branches should order their tickets by contacting your branch Secretary.
- SGA Virtual Members and all other Scots Guardsmen should order tickets by emailing: sga@scotsguards.org
- Tickets will be getting posted out soon.
- If you need more information contact; sga@scotsguards.org

GATHERING NEWS – BULLET POINTS

- **Friday Evening 19 June 2026** – Beating Retreat by Scots Guards Band and Pipes & Drums 1st Bn Scots Guards. Tickets are required (Free).
- **Saturday 20 June 2026** – Regimental Gathering, Somme Barracks, Catterick. The day will begin by the Regiment Serving and Past Marching Past HRH The Colonel at 1100hrs. Form Up 1040hrs at the Guardroom. SGA Standards should be on parade.

The day will end with the traditional forming a circle for “Auld Lang Syne”

Thereafter Curry Supper will be served in the Officers & Sgt’s Messes until 2000hrs – Tickets are required (Free).

- **Sunday 21 June 2026** – Remembrance Service & Consecration of Old Colours – Garrison Memorial Church of St Martin & St Oswald 1000 – 1100hrs. Please advise sga@scotsguards.org of your attendance.



Gathering 2021 – Somme Barracks



Gathering 2023 – Broomhall House

GATHERING NEWS – THE SWINTON QUAICH – A TROPHY WITH HISTORY.



The Swinton Quaich is inscribed : Lt Col AHC Swinton MC : To be competed for annually by rifle teams from London Branch SGA and all Battalions serving at home.

Lieutenant Colonel AHC Swinton MC served in the Regiment from 1914 – 1938. As a Captain in Left Flank one week before the end of World War 1 he was wounded and lost his left leg below the knee. Between 1933 -1937 he was Commanding Officer of 1SG including a tour of duty in Egypt. In 1939 on rejoining the Regiment he formed the Scots Guards Training Battalion at Pirbright until 1944.

His son Major General Sir John Swinton KCVO OBE JP DL who as a Lieutenant serving in LF 2SG in Germany in the final months of World War 2 was wounded similar to his father and also lost his left leg below the knee. He went on to serve in most major Regimental appointments including Commanding Officer 2SG 1966 – 1968, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the Regiment 1970 -71. He was also Major General Commanding London District 1976 – 1979. In turn his son Lieutenant Colonel WHC Swinton MBE carried the 2nd Battalion Colour on the Queen’s Birthday Parade 1987, Adjutant 2SG and later Commanding Officer 1SG in Munster in the 2000’s.

Between 1940 and 1948 the Swinton Quaich was won each year by the Training Bn. In 1952 SGA London won it. In 1967 – 1968 a strong 1SG Shooting Team won. K Company, SGA Surrey, SGA Berks & Bucks, SGA Borders and SGA Highlands & Islands have all won it.

By 2004 it became increasingly difficult to arrange insurances to allow SGA veterans to fire weapons. With permission of Major General Sir John Swinton the use of the Swinton Quaich was changed to a bi-annual golf competition between SGA Branches. Winners twice each included Fife, Glasgow and Durham & Yorkshire.

At the Regimental Gathering in June the Swinton Quaich will be the trophy to be won. In addition there will be a financial award for demonstrating their commitment to the Regiment and to their soldiering ability.

Overview: The competition is open to teams from all areas of the Regiment

A maximum of 40 teams can take part, each team of no more than 6 members.

10 teams will complete each stand together in a round robin rotation.

Start time 1145 – 1200hrs Teams Briefing. 1230 – 1525hrs Rotate through Team Events.

- Events:**
- 1) Sniper Observation
 - 2) Airsof Lane
 - 3) Regimental History
 - 4) UGV Driving Course

Teams to register to: Neil Crockett SGA Secretary Email: sga@scotsguards.org

Gather your teams together ~ A trophy worth competing for at the Regimental Gathering ~ THE SWINTON QUAICH!

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SGA Ayrshire Branch

The Branch will hold the AGM on Wednesday 8 April 2026 at Ayr Ex Services Club, Academy Street, Ayr at 1930hrs. All members are asked to attend.

Any member wishing to join the Branch Committee should inform Jim Fraser, Secretary.

Tel: 07765 490477

Email: james.fraser279@gmail.com

SGA Aberdeen & North East Scotland

President: Colonel AD Mathewson OBE

Chairman: Ian Roger

Vice Chairman: Kevin Matthew *

**Secretary &
Treasurer:** Brian Harrison

SGA Glasgow

The Branch held its AGM with no change of office bearers

President: Captain Sir James Campbell Bt

Chairman: Captain AEC Edmonstone

Secretary: Colin Downie

Treasurer: Ronnie Cook

The Glasgow Branch will hold a Garden Party on Saturday 4 July 2026 at Knocknack Farm, Fintry

SGA Fife

The Branch held its AGM with no change of office bearers

President: Mr MWF Mathewson

**Chairman &
Treasurer:** Gordon Dickson

Secretary: Neil Crockett

We welcomed new members Steff Stewart (formerly Chemielewski), Fraser Ritchie & John McMeekin.

SGA Preston

The Branch held its AGM.

President: Captain Sir Ben Wallace KCB

Chairman: Michael Nutter *

**Secretary &
Treasurer:** Steve Hills *

Alf Clempson handed over as Chairman with the appreciation of branch members for his work on their behalf.

SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon

The Branch held its AGM on Thursday 26 March 2026

President: Major The Honourable GCW Grimston

Chairman: Trevor Elliott

Secretary: Jim Simmonds

Treasurer: George Anderson *

Those marked * are new in post.

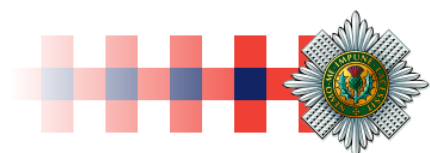
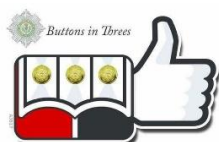
SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

18 REGIONAL BRANCHES ACROSS THE UK

1 BRANCH IN AUSTRALIA & 1 BRANCH IN NORTH AMERICA

BRANCH	SECRETARY	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
SGA Secretary	Neil Crockett	sga@scotsguards.org	01383 721530
Asst SGA Secretary	RQMS James Munro	James.Munro827@mod.gov.uk	Via 0207 414 3324
Australian	John Linn	john.linn1968@gmail.com	+061(0)435865765
North American	David Rennie	drummie2ca@gmail.com	1-613-981-9762
Aberdeen & NE of Scotland	Brian Harrison	harrison39@sky.com	07719 501361
Ayrshire	Jim Fraser	jamesfraser279@gmail.com	07765 490477
Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire	Jim Simmonds	secretary.bbosga@gmail.com ~(new)	07340 297328
Borders	Alex Barclay	eck01uk@yahoo.com	07802 442878
Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway	Tony Mason	eamasons@aol.com	07980 103804
Corby, Central & Eastern England	Scott Morton	piper.scott.morton@btinternet.com	07786 067878
Dundee & Angus	Iain Bryson	iainpiper@hotmail.com	07447 700536
Durham & Yorkshire	Mark Wall	Markwall442@outlook.com	07535 029061
Edinburgh & The Lothians	Danny Minto	e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk	07758 193362
Fife	Neil Crockett	neil.crockett@btopenworld.com	01383 721530
Glasgow	Colin Downie	cdownie1@icloud.com	07956 526283
Highlands & Islands	Rod Davidson	roderick.davidson@hotmail.co.uk	07532 089535
London	TBA	Contact via SGA Secretary	
Manchester	David Courtney	dgs.courtney@live.com	07785 224678
Merseyside	Keith Reid	Keithreid5@btinternet.com	01744 815149
Pipers	Dougie Watson	sgpipersbranchsecv@gmail.com	07515 263716
Preston	Steve Hills	Shills72@yahoo.co.uk (new)	07971 043876
Surrey	Andrew McKeand	amckeand@virginmedia.com	07544 727019
Tumbledown Vets & Fams Assoc	Heather McGrath	Tumbledown.fa1982@gmail.com	07522 500365
Malaya & Borneo Veterans	Sandy Low	sandy.low57@gmail.com	01723 892049
SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)	Iain Lowther	iain-lowther68@outlook.com	07484 637188

GIVE YOUR CLOSEST BRANCH A CALL & ASK ABOUT JOINING IN WITH BRANCH ACTIVITIES. MEET FRIENDS FROM YOUR SERVICE & MAKE NEW FRIENDS FROM ACROSS THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

April

Sat 11 SGA Corby, Central & Eastern England Dinner, VOCO Hotel Corby

May

Fri 29 SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians Dinner, Scots Guards Club.

June

Sat 13 King's Birthday Parade.

Fri 12 –

Sun 14 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association Reunion, Blackpool.
(44th Anniversary from 1982)

Fri 19 –

Sun 21 Regimental Gathering Weekend – Somme Barracks, Catterick.

October

Sat 3 SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway (76th) Dinner, Auctioneer, Carlisle.

Sat 10 SGA Dundee & Angus Dinner (100th Anniversary).

Sat 17 SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Dinner, Datchet Golf Club.

Fri 30 SGA Aberdeen & NE Scotland Dinner, Althens Hotel.

November

Fri 6 SGA Ayrshire Dinner, RAFA Club. Prestwick.

Sat 7 SGA Australia Dinner.

Sat 28 SGA Pipers Dinner, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.

Sat 28 SGA Glasgow Dinner, Arts Club, Bath Street.

Sun 29 SGA Merseyside ~ Lunch

2027

January

Sat 23 SGA Highlands & Islands Dinner, Legion Scotland Club, Inverness.



SCOTS GUARDS CLUB ~ A WORTHY HOME FOR TUMBLEDOWN PRESENTATION

Andrew Unsworth used the occasion of the recent Rabbits Breakfast to make a presentation to the Scots Guards Club. Newly appointed Club Chairman Dougie Watson was on hand as Piper for the day at “The Breakfast” and he received the presentation.



Scots Guards Club Chairman Dougie Watson and Andrew Unsworth

Andrew Unsworth enlisted in November 1989, his cousin Paul Boyle was already in 2SG. When he passed out of the Guards Depot Andrew bought a copy of the print of 2nd Battalion Scots Guards assault on Mount Tumbledown.

He then joined G Company, 2nd Battalion based in Dungannon on their 1990 Northern Ireland tour. He remained with the Bn when they moved to Redford Barracks, Edinburgh and then Dreghorn Barracks (1992 – 1994)

While at Redford Barracks Andrew went to Bn Headquarters asking the ORQMS for a print out of everyone then currently in 2SG with a Falklands medal. He then spent a week or so tracking all them down and asking them to give their signature. He reports that as a young Guardsman it was scary at the Sgt Major's door to ask for his signature! He managed to get nearly 80 signatures.

Andrew reports that when he bought the Tumbledown print it was already framed and he collected the signatures separately. Now he has had the print and the signatures framed together providing a worthy memory and talking point for visitors to the Scots Guards Club

When 2SG was disbanded he was posted to F Company as the original Scots Guards Incremental Public Duties Company formed in 1994. Andrew Unsworth transferred to the RAF in July 1996 as helicopter crew finishing his service in November 2024 after 35 years.



BATTLE BACK CENTRE

I am Tony Taylor, ex Coldstream Drum Major, I recently started working at the Battle Back Centre for the Royal British Legion as a recovery support widely known that our multi activity course is available to attend by **any** veteran and I am trying to get word out there that our courses are available.

We offer a 5-day multi-activity course at the Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall, Shropshire. Food and accommodation is provided as is world class coaching on activities such as wheelchair basketball, golf, archery, cycling, sitting volleyball and climbing.

All activities can be adapted making them all very inclusive and open to all abilities, we have had a gentleman attend that was 83 recently who took part in all activities including getting to the top of the climbing wall.

This is a great place for a reset, refocus and general wellbeing including the link between physical and mental health as well as developing ways of managing stress.

If any veteran wishes to attend they need to call the helpline on 0808 802 8080 and request to attend, then a case officer will be appointed to check eligibility etc. before getting them booked on.

This is an amazing course and to see the difference in people between arriving and leaving on the Friday is phenomenal Would you be able to pass this information on to your Regimental Association Branches/newsletter and help get word out that all veterans can attend.

I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Kind regards

Tony Taylor

Recovery Support Officer

Mob: 07568700154 **Email:** TTaylor@britishlegion.org.uk



REMEMBERING THE IRAQ WAR – 15 YEARS ON

We are hosting a daytime commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on Friday 22nd May 2026 to mark the 15th anniversary of the end of Operation TELIC. We warmly invite those to attend from the serving and veteran communities who served in the Iraq War (Op TELIC: 2003-2011), families of those who served in Iraq (including the bereaved), and those who worked as civilian contractors supporting British Forces and civil society in the country.

If you are interested in attending, RBL ask that they register their interest via this link: <https://rbl.org.uk/telic15o>