

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS 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

**Neil Crockett
Secretary & Editor**

**Christmas 2019
Volume 20 Issue 11**

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**To All Scots Guardsmen
Serving or Retired and to your families**

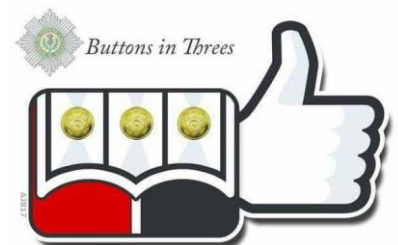
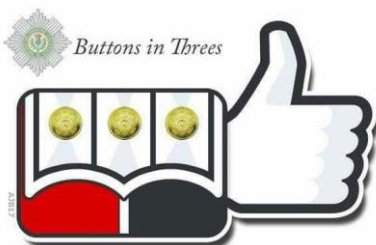
**To those in the 1st Battalion. To members of
F Company & The Regimental Band.**

A Very Happy Christmas



Good Luck & Good Health in the New Year

Hope to see you at Regimental & Association Events in 2020



NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

Branch Burns Night 18 January is at Datchet GC and is fully booked up.

The first Branch Meeting of the New Year will be on Friday 28 February at Datchet GC 1930 for 2000hrs.

Aberdeen & North East Scotland

The Branch held two functions at The Cocket Hat, Aberdeen. On 21 November a Ladies Night & on 28 November a Seniors Lunch. Everyone who attended enjoyed the food and the company.

To find out what's happening in the Aberdeen Branch in 2020 contact Secretary Graeme Thompson Tel: 01224 317738

Email: gthompson246@btinternet.com

Fife

A lunch for Fife Branch over 65s was held at the Topsy Nipper, Fife Airport on 4 December.



Top L : Allan Whitton, Joe Sime. Jimmy Pratt, Tom Mackie, Tam Paterson, Syd Stewart, Rab Houston.

Top R :George Sim, Frank Cairns, Stewart Ross, Stuart Robertson, Ernie Melville, Maj Iain Dalzel-Job, Sammy Kirkpatrick.

Bottom: Dave Goddard, Major Ray Walker, Rab Ross, George Cameron, Jimmy Banks, Major Ron Clemison, Dave MacLeod, Dougie Duthie. Absent on photographer duty – Neil Crockett.

London

The Branch held its Annual St Andrew's Dinner in the Sgt's Mess at Regents Park Barracks on Saturday 30 November. The Guest of Honour was Lt Col James Leask MBE, Comd Off 1SG. Tom Fleming from SGA Pipers Branch was Piper for the night. Members and Guests who attended thoroughly enjoyed the night.



Lt Col James Leask MBE & Piper Tom Fleming.

For more information of London Branch Meetings and events contact Secretary Mark Whatmough (see details later below).

NEWS FROM THE SCOTS GUARDS CLUB - EDINBURGH

The tree and decorations are up and your Club is now in full festive swing. We will close at 6pm as usual on Tuesday 24 December and will remain closed on Christmas Day. The Club will be open again from 12-6pm on Boxing Day. On Hogmanay we will close as usual at 6pm and remain closed on 1 and 2 January. Business as usual from 3 January.

Our Grand Christmas Raffle was launched on 1 December with some fantastic prizes including cash prizes of £300, £150 and £70. Tickets can be bought at the bar and the draw will take place on 21 December. (not 20/12 as advertised on the tickets and posters)

The Seniors Christmas lunch is fully subscribed and will take place on Monday 16 December from 2pm.

This year on 21 December we are also hosting a Christmas Disco party night which is free to members and guests are welcome at a cost of £5. This is sure to be a fun filled night so get your tickets at the bar.

2020 memberships are already being snapped up by new members and in January we will see our annual nudge to all existing members to renew for another year. Again, every penny will go to improving the fabric of the Club and we will update you with some exciting plans in the New Year.

The new windows are all installed and looking great. Aside from the improved appearance to the place, an immediate difference was noted in sound proofing and insulation and bay window regulars no longer need to endure a constant draught down the back of their necks!

The Club AGM will take place in late January or early February and a date will be published in the January newsletter.

2019 has been another year of real progress for the Club which was made possible by all those who support the Club through membership and regular patronage. Thanks to each and every one of you and to the friendly wee faces you see behind the bar each week who add so much to our uniquely warm and friendly atmosphere.

Merry Christmas to you all.

DEATHS

Third Guards Club & Durham & Yorkshire

Captain John France BEM Died 5 December 2019 Aged 83. Served in Ranks 1954 – 1979. Commissioned service 1979 – 1984. Funeral 10 January 2020, St Martins Church, Seamer, Scarborough. YO12 4PS.

Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway

Gdsm Archibald Holmes. Died Late November 2019 Aged 88. Served 1SG Egypt Feb 1953 – March 1955.

Fife

23703223 LCpl Robert Nicolson. Previously reported died 29 November 2019. Funeral Wednesday 18 December at 1245hrs. Kirkcaldy Crematorium, KY2 6HQ

Glasgow

14681133 Gdsm Tommy Hunter. Died late November 2019. Served World War 2.

Not Association Members

24780360 Gdsm Chris Stevens Died 15 November 2019. Served 2SG Aug 1986 – Nov 1989.

Everyone will also be very sad to hear of the death on 5 December 2019 of Margaret Davidson, widow of former Pipe Major Davidson and a long term friend and member of the Regimental family and a regular attendee at numerous Regimental events such as Black Sunday and the Gatherings. Margaret was respected, admired and loved by the many Scots Guardsmen who knew her. The funeral will be on 19 December at 1200hrs at The Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling, FK8 1ED. Followed by 1300hrs at Stirling Crematorium, Falkirk Road, Bannockburn, FK7 8AH

BRANCH SECRETARIES – CONTACT DETAILS

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SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)	Iain Lowther	iain-lowther68@outlook.com	07484 637188

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY JANUARY – JUNE 2020

JANUARY

Fri 17 SGA Glasgow Burns Supper, Loks Bar & Kitchen, Glasgow G43 2XU.
Sat 18 SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox Burns Supper, Datchet GC.
Fri 24* SGA Fife Burns Supper.
Sat 31 SGA Surrey Burns Supper, Clandon Regis, Guildford, GU4 7TT.

FEBRUARY

Sat 15 Rabbits Breakfast, SG Club.
Sun 23* SGA Fife AGM.
Fri 28 SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox AGM. Datchet GC.

MARCH

Fri 13 SGA Borders Dinner, Hawick Rugby Club.
Fri 20 SGA Glasgow Dinner, Loks Bar & Kitchen, Glasgow G43 2XU.
Fri 27 SGA Berks, Bucks and Ox AGM, Datchet GC

APRIL

Fri 17* SG WOs and Sgts P & P Assoc AGM, Wellington Bks, London.
Sat 18 SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks, London.
Sun 19 SG Remembrance Sunday (Black Sunday), Gds Chapel.

MAY

Fri 1 SGA Surrey, Dinner, Clandon Regis GC, Guildford, GU4 7TT.
Fri 1 SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians, SG Club.
Fri 8 75th Anniversary End of World War 2 (VE Day).
Sat 9 SGMBVA Reunion – Golf & Dinner, Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy.
Sat 16 Operation Motorman Reunion, SG Club.
Sat 30 QBP (Major General's Review). London.

JUNE

Sat 6 QBP (Colonel's Review), London.
Sat 13 QBP Horse Guards Parade, London. 1st Bn Welsh Guards.
Fri 12 – Sun 14 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association Reunion, Blackpool.
Inc Memorial Service and unveiling of 2SG Falklands Plaque.
Fri 26* SGA Fife Branch Golf Competition "The Chairman's Trophy"

Note: Events marked * are provisional and To Be Confirmed.

If you want more details on any event contact sga@scotsguards.co.uk or 01383 721530

BREAKING NEWS

12 December – Today the Atlantic Guardsman crew set off on their epic adventure to raise money for the Scots Guards Charity. The level of the challenge cannot be underestimated. It is an enormous achievement for anyone who is able to complete it. Good Luck – We are rooting for you



WW2 Guardsman John Shiells

3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards - Commemorated in the Netherlands.

On Saturday 23 November 2019 a monument in memory of John Shiells, Recce Troop, 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards was unveiled at the village Sevenum in The Netherlands. Captain James Fleming, Second In Command F Company attended to represent the Regiment

On 21 November 1944, one day before the liberation of Sevenum, a village in the south east of The Netherlands, a Recce Troop of 3rd Battalion Scots Guards was patrolling in occupied territory near an area called De Vorst. The M5 Stuart tank of Sergeant Brown hit a German anti-tank mine on the Saardijk. Tank driver Gdsm John Shiells (age 21) was killed. The tank hit an anti tank-mine that the Germans had laid the night before in a country road called Saardijk. John's comrade James Gorden sustained very serious permanent injury as a result of the blast.

With this monument the Sevenum community want to achieve that their names and their brave actions will not be forgotten. The monument is also a tribute to mother Pauwels, who lived nearby and adopted and tended John's grave in a field near the Saardijk. His grave was adopted and lovingly tended by Mrs. Ida Pauwels, who lived on the Saardijk.

John had his provisional resting place here until 1 August 1947. His remains were then moved to his final resting place at the British War Cemetery in Mook. His comrade James Gordon sustained very serious injury. John Shiells from Kelso became the first allied soldier who lost his life in Sevenum.



Captain James Fleming at the Commemoration



The Memorial to Gdsm John Shiells

Villager Piet Snellen shared this story last spring with the board of the local Remembrance Committee. He said that a memorial at the spot where the incident took place would keep the story alive for years to come. The idea was met with great enthusiasm by the village

A working group was formed with a memorial placed near the spot where John died. The memorial also honours Mrs Pauwels. She was a widow in the war and must have had a difficult time caring for her 8 children and her farm, but she made the effort to adopt and care for John's grave. She was a great example of humanity in the midst of the inhumanity of the war. It also honours James Gordon. He survived and in spite of his permanent disability he had a very strong character and enjoyed life the way it came to him. Sadly he died too at the young age of 52.



Captain Fleming – Travels in style, courtesy of a Rabbit!

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

10 December Right Flank. Ex Rattlesnake Rest and Recreation is ongoing. It began with the Company visiting New Orleans (the home of Jazz). Here we supported the Pipes and Drums whilst they put on a concert for the public. Thereafter, we visited the WW2 museum which is the largest in the world to conduct a few learning lessons. What an experience and honour to have had this opportunity.



Right Flank in New Orleans

Always a good day in the Regiment...Christmas lunch!



As tradition dictates, the officers and SNCOs serve the Gdsm, which is one of the last meals before Christmas leave.

WELL DONE SERGEANT MAJOR!

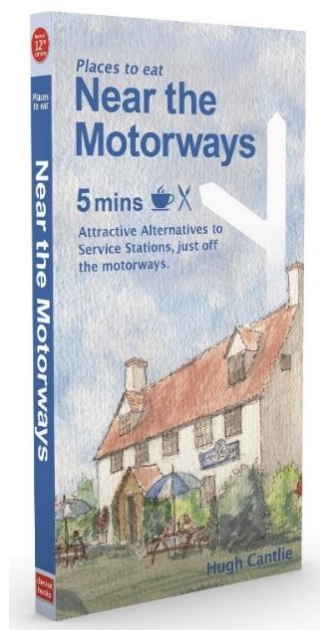


Many congratulations to Regimental Sergeant Major Colin Kirkwood, who having joined the Army at the age of 16 graduated this week from the University of Northumbria with a degree in Leadership and Management.

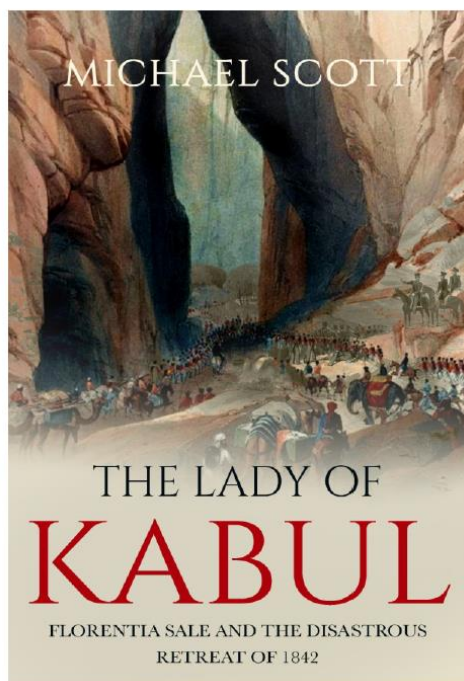
Christmas Stocking Filler - Near The Motorways - 12th Edition

This time last year I included information of a book which would make a good Christmas Stocking filler. Written by 3rd Guards Club Member Major Hugh Cantlie. It describes good tea / coffee stops just off the motorways and having character different from the standard service stations. Hugh Cantlie has updated his book and has very kindly said that half the proceeds of sales will go to the Scots Guards Charity.

The latest edition has 162 changes from the earliest edition, it costs £10.00 + £2.00 P&P Contact Cheviot Books on 01993 832 218 or email info@cheviotbooks.co.uk to buy a copy.



Attractive Alternatives to Service Stations just off Motorways



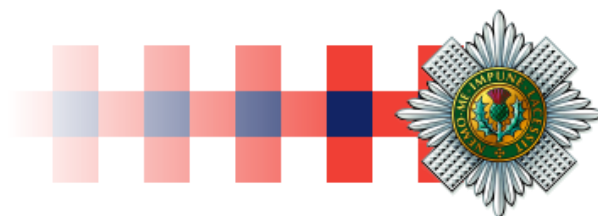
“A superb account of the disastrous British invasion of Afghanistan in 1841-2, told with flair and military insight, and starring the redoubtable Florentia Sale, the true hero of the campaign. A gripping read.” - Professor Jane Ridley

In January 1842, the British garrison of Kabul, besieged, badly led, and out of food and ammunition, began its retreat to India. In the depths of winter, through mountainous passes, the column was constantly harassed by the Afghans. Discipline collapsed and every day hundreds died from hunger and cold, or attacks by insurgents. Very few survived. It was, arguably, the biggest military disaster of the 19th century.

Among the refugees was Lady Florentia Sale. During the march, Florentia and a number of others were taken hostage by an Afghan chieftain. Constantly being moved to avoid abduction attempts by rival factions and kept prisoners as a bargaining counter for future safe conduct, life was miserable. Florentia was, though, unfazed by the perils in which she found herself. Lice, fleas, earthquakes, rain, snow, lack of hygiene, glutinous mutton stew and little bedding or shelter were taken in her stride. Her captors were quite prepared to kill her and her companions if it suited them. She knew the penalties.

This is the story of one of the most remarkable women of the 19th Century - the true Lady of Kabul - by the author of *In Love and War*, *Scapegoats* and *Royal Betrayal*.

The latest book by Major General Mike Scott, available now on Amazon Kindle & soon on Amazon.



Next SGA Newsletter published end January, until then Enjoy the Festive Season