

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

**Neil Crockett
Secretary & Editor**

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“TAXI”

See Front Page

Black Cab for hire in Edinburgh.

The Taxi in Scots Guards livery was launched at Edinburgh Castle with members of the Regimental Support Team led by Captain John Ford. It will be picking up fares across the city driven by Mark McKay, member of SGA Fife Branch and Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association - The taxi is advertising loud and clear **“The Scots Guards Are Recruiting”**. Well done Mark.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This newsletter comes with all good wishes for the New Year and into 2019. 2018 was a great year for the Association with many local activities at branch level taking place. The fact that we continuously turn out for memorials, such as World War 1 VC recipients, charity events, laying up of colours, social occasions and regimental activities, in good numbers, projects a positive image of the Regiment. The Association continues to support, in strength, events where it is not possible for the serving element of the Regiment to do so. This is a key role of the Association and I thank all branches for their willingness and ability to turn out when required.

2019 promises to be an exciting year for us - particularly due to the Gathering which will be held at Fife Airport, Glenrothes and Dunfermline Abbey, 7 & 8 September. Fife is fertile recruiting territory and it is anticipated that we will liaise closely with 1SG and F Coy in some of the management aspects, and content. The gathering is a flagship event for us with RHQ, the SGA and Fife branch putting in a lot of work.

I look forward to catching up with members of the SGA and the wider Regimental family in 2019 and wish you luck in all your endeavours throughout the year.

Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor
Chairman SGA

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND REVISED DATES

For a number of reasons, but largely in order to facilitate the attendance of members of the Battalion who will have returned from operational tour leave after their recovery from Cyprus in the Spring, the date of this year's Regimental Remembrance Sunday (Black Sunday) has been changed. Instead of Sunday 7 April, as previously published, the new date will now be **Sunday 5 May 2019**.

The full weekend consists:

Fri 3 May Evening Warrant Officers & Sergeants Pass and Present AGM.

Sat 4 May 1030hrs SGA AGM.

Sun 5 May 1100hrs Regimental Remembrance Sunday, Guards Chapel.

All events will be centred on Wellington Barracks. Full details will be issued in due course.



COME FORTH TO FIFE

SCOTS GUARDS GATHERING SATURDAY 7 & SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Regimental Gathering will take place in Fife over the weekend of 7 & 8 September.

Planning is currently taking place with the outline as follows:

Saturday 7 September Lunchtime. Regimental Band will play at Kirkcaldy Town Square.

Saturday 7 September Evening. Regimental Band Concert at Dunfermline Abbey followed by Buffet Supper.

Sunday 8 September 1200 – 1800hrs Regimental Gathering at Fife Airport (SW of Glenrothes) Postcode KY6 2SL.

There is a wide array of hotels available in Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes with B&Bs in smaller towns and villages.

It will be a great weekend and we hope to see a big turnout of Regimental friends. More information will come out over the coming months including ticketing arrangements etc. In the meantime if you need any other information to help you plan your weekend email Neil Crockett: sga@scotsguards.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

The Branch held a Burns Supper on Saturday 26th January 2019 at the Datchet Golf Club. As always, in recent years, this has been a very popular evening with the venue full to capacity with 100 members and guests.



Watched by Tam Bates, Major Neil McClelland gives the Haggis a "Very" serious Address



Secretary Rab Ritchie gets photo bombed by Mrs Pat Fowler.



"Holly Willie" it's Eddie McKay



Vice President Major Jan de Haldevang

<i>The Nights Ongauns</i>
SELKIRK GRACE Rev. Colin Paterson (SGA)
ADDRESS TO THE HAGGIS Major N.A. McClelland (SG)
THE IMMORTAL MEMORY Major Jan De Haldevang (SGA)
Selection of Scottish Pipe Tunes Pipe Major Graham Waller (SGA)
***** 10 Minute Interval Details overleaf *****
ADDRESS TO THE LASSIES Mr John McCullins (SGA)
REPLY TO THE LADDIES Mrs Christine McCullins (SGA)
Holy Willies Prayer Mr Eddie McKay (SGA)

BBO Burns Supper – Order of March

The Branch hold meetings at Datchet Golf Club for more details contact Rab Ritchie Secretary email: rab.ritchie@icloud.com

Borders

The Branch holds its dinner at Hawick Rugby Club on Friday 8 March 1900 for 1930hrs. tickets are £25.00. Contact Branch Secretary Eck Barclay for more details Tel: 01450 – 370413 or email: eck01uk@yahoo.com

Durham & Yorkshire

The Branch continues to hold a monthly meeting and a monthly Sunday lunch. The next Sunday lunch will be on 3 February at The Bay Horse, Heighington at 1230 for 1300hrs. The Branch AGM will be at the March Meeting when volunteers to the committee are welcome. Contact Secretary Peter Wheadon Tel: 01325 – 319125 or Email: wheadonp3014@aol.com

Edinburgh & The Lothians

This year the Branch hold their dinner to Friday 26 April at the Scots Guards Club. Ask Danny Minto about joining the Branch and more. Tel: 07758 193362 email: e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk

Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway

The Branch held a Christmas Lunch at Hundith Hill Hotel, Cockermouth on 16 December attended by 84 consisting members, families and guests. Don Potter arranged the day superbly.



Dougie & Maureen Mitchell's Table



George & Rita Lowther's Table (parents of Iain Lowther Pipe Major SGA Scotland Pipes & Drums)

The Branch holds regular meetings and events ask Secretary Tony Mason for info Tel: 07980 103804 or Email: eamason@aol.com

Fife

Branch Burns Supper took place on Friday 25 January at the Tipsy Nipper, Fife Airport (Regt Gathering site). Thanks to Bowhill Burns Club for their help. Willie McCarroll (1SG 1971 – 75) from SGA North American Branch gave the Address to the Haggis and brought along his brother Joe (1SG Aldergrove & Hong Kong). Ronnie Cook from the Glasgow Branch was there as well.



Willie McCarroll



Willie McCarroll meets up with Dougie Duthie & George Cameron after 44 years.



Jimmy Banks plays a Selection of Burns & more.

The Fife Branch AGM is at the CISWO Glenrothes on Sunday 24 February at 1330hrs. Contact Neil Crockett Tel: 01383 721 530 or email neil.crockett@btopenworld.com

Glasgow

The Branch dinner is at Partick Burgh Halls on Friday 22 March. The Branch holds monthly meetings contact Secretary Keith Norwood for details. Tel: 0141 577 6946 email: sgaglasgow@yahoo.co.uk

Merseyside

Despite a spell in hospital Secretary Jimmy Horne continues with growing his white beard until May in aid of Alder Hey Children's Hospital Cancer Ward, Liverpool. To sponsor Jimmy or for other Branch news Tel: 0151 520 0229.
Email: james_horne@btinternet.com

Manchester

Very sadly Branch Secretary John Brownley has passed away as reported below. The new Secretary is John Roache his contact details are Tel: 07577 992900 email: johnroache@live.co.uk

SICK PARADE

To all Scots Guardsmen not in the best of health we wish them well.

Captain Ronnie Paterson has had another hip operation. The news today is he is now out of hospital in tender care of Gillian and he's under orders to take things slowly.

Mick Hunter (Dundee & Angus) with throat cancer and having had a laryngotomy operation. Fingers x'd he'll get out of hospital on 4 February to continue his recuperation.

To Willie Brockie in Glasgow, very best wishes from the whole Association.

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

RST In mid December the Regimental Support Team completed a 3 Peak Challenge collecting £1012.44 which was presented to Drumpark Primary School to show the Regiment's long time commitment to help the school.

Guards Team At the end of 2018 the Guards Ski Team was in Val d'Isere and beat the other Infantry Teams on the night ski slalom course competition.

Guards Training Company, Infantry Training Centre, Catterick In early January a new intake of 42 Recruits formed up as 17 Platoon.

1st Battalion – Cyprus Adventurous Training Package Early January in Cyprus a package of rock climbing, mountain biking, sea kayaking and parachuting courses took place. Qualifications gained will set those who took part on their way to being able to lead expeditions.

1st Battalion – Cyprus Operations Company While on operations in the Buffer Zone the Operations Company took time to practise how to deal with casualties. Effective 1st Aid being a key skill of any soldier whether the casualty is civilian or military.

1st Battalion – Cyprus Skiing Taking a break from operational duties in the Buffer Zone members of the Battalion have been able to make the most of good snow fall to practise their skiing in the Troodos Mountains.

F Company – Skiing In mid January members of the Company were in Meribel for a week to gain Skiing Foundation Level 1 qualifications.

1st Battalion – Sport A brilliant effort from the Battalion coming 1st in the United Nations winter sports day. Tug of War, Orienteering, Cross fit were dominated by teams from the Bn.

Individual Jiu Jitsu Congratulations to Sgt Chris Miller winning Bronze at the European Jiu Jitsu Championship. Well done Chris.

Regimental Band The Regimental Band played in Concert at the Guards Chapel on Friday 25 January to celebrate the life of Rabbie Burns.

SCOTS GUARDS VETERANS GOLF MEETING 30 APRIL – 3 MAY 2019

There is a change of venue for this meeting which takes place from Tuesday 30 April - Friday 3 May. The new venue is Bathgate Golf Club (West Lothian) with matches over each of the 4 days from 1300hrs. Some accommodation has been booked at the Premier Inn, Bathgate. If you want to play or for more details contact Alan Fotheringham Tel: 07827 440501
Email: alanf2416@gmail.com

SCOTS CLUB NEWS

2019 is off to a great start with a busy bar and bustling functions diary. Remember, our function room is there for all sorts of events at very reasonable cost. If you have an occasion in mind and want a look around, just contact us or ask any member of the team. We have three very busy Saturdays in February and these are: Scotland v Italy on the 2nd, Scotland Wales on the 3rd and the Rabbits' Breakfast on the 16th.

Memberships are now due for renewal. We know many of you enjoyed coming in to the Club last year and very much hope that you will join us again this year. Memberships can be paid at the bar but if you can't make it in, you can make BACS payment to Sort Code 82 62 30 Account Number 60496650 Use your name as a reference and email us at enquiries@scotsguardsclub.co.uk with your address and we'll get your membership card posted out to you. Hope to see you soon and thank you one and all for your ongoing support of this unique and special place.

As with last year, we will spend every penny of membership money on improving the building and will keep you updated as we go along. Last year we managed roof repairs, plumbing work, reupholstering of the downstairs seats, improvements to the ladies toilet, a new rear fire door, a new stair-lift chair, new blinds upstairs and downstairs, new laminate dance floor and bar area in the function room, and numerous small repairs everywhere. This year we hope to renovate the rotting window sills etc, improve the kitchen facilities and further improve the decor of the old place.

DEATHS

Third Guards Club

Colonel Robert Leslie Usher Died 19 January 2019. Served 2SG/1SG 1977 – 1983 as a Captain. He became a TA Soldier and at the time of death he was a full Colonel as a Reservist.

Berks, Bucks & Ox

22577585 LCpl Jim Armstrong Died 17 January 2019. Enlisted 1951 served 2SG to 1954 in RF & Sigs Funeral 1415hrs 7 February at Easthampstead Park Crem, Wokingham, RG40 3DW.

Glasgow/Australia

23185128 Gdsm Fraser Barclay Died December 2018. Lived Australia.

London Branch & Coldstream Gds Assoc (Devon) Branch

21008022 Gdsm Ian Wright Stuart Died 10 December 2018 Served 2SG Malaya 1949 – 51. Lived Devon.

23229520 Edward (Ted) Barton Died 24 January 2019 Long time Branch Member as Welfare Officer. Funeral 1220hrs Fri 15 February at East Chapel, South Crematorium, Upminster.

Manchester Branch

23229552 John Brownley Died 21 January 2019 John was Manchester Branch Secretary. Lived Chorley.

Not Members of SGA

24585997 Sgt Paul (Pablo) Innes Died 31 December 2018. Lived London

22551622 Gdsm Peter Clancy Died 8 January 2019 Served 2SG BAOR 1954 – 56 Lived Edinburgh.

LSgt Ian McLeod. Died December 2018 Served 2SG & 1SG 1975 – 1989.

Gdsm Brian Carland Died 13 January 2019 Aged 84. Lived Preston.

CSgt Peter (Muir) Findlay Died 23 January 2019 Aged 95 Served 3SG (Tank). Lived Swindon.



Colour Sergeant Peter (Muir) Findlay passed away at his home in Swindon aged 95 years. Peter was formerly 3rd (Tank) Battalion and was recipient of the legion d'honneur for his role in the liberation of occupied France in 1944. Peter's funeral is to take place on Friday 22nd February at 1245hrs at Kingsdown Crematorium & Cemetery, Swindon.

BITS AND PIECES

Defence Discount Service

Most of you will know about the Defence Discount Card but do you have one? After five years my first issue of the card has just expired. To find out how to get one check www.defencediscountservice.co.uk It costs £4.99 to get a card and the same again to renew it. The first time you have to show documentary proof of your service but they don't when you renew the card. There are lots of organisations that offer varying amounts of discounts. You can check who they are very easily on the website. In the past few months I've used my card to get discounts from :

Travelodge

Holiday Insurance

Frankie & Benny's & Pizza Hut - always welcome when taking the grandkids out to tea.

Mountain Warehouse – To buy winter boots as we wait to get hit by the Beast from the East 2.

Odeon Cinema – Before taking grandkids out to tea!

Johnstone the Dry Cleaners.

Jet 2

Apple

There are many more great organisations offering discounts.

Help Is In Sight

Three of Scotland's leading charities have joined forces to raise awareness among veterans of the need to act swiftly if they are having hearing or sight problems. The collaboration by Age Scotland, Action on Hearing Loss and Scottish War Blinded to produce the new Combating Sight & Hearing Loss guide which gives advice where veterans can get help and support. These charities are members of the Unforgotten Forces which is a partnership of 15 leading organisations led by Poppyscotland delivering enhanced services for older veterans.

The practical guide for veterans living who are living with sensory loss, primary sight and hearing. It details in clear concise language gives the advice and support available. To get a free copy of Unforgotten Forces Combating Sight & Hearing Loss guide, call the Age Scotland Helpline on 0800 44222 Or go to www.actionhearingloss.org.uk/Combat

Fifty Years on from the Guards Depot

In December 1968 I passed out from the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry. 50 years ago in early January 1969 we former Junior Leaders formed a Platoon with ex Junior Guardsmen and Adult Recruits for their final 6 weeks of training. K Company Commander was Major Milner – Brown, CSM Edmonton, Sgt Jim Bunton (later Major QM) was Superintending Sgt, The Coy Clerk was Briggy Young (who I saw for the 1st time in many years near York at Cpl Blanchard Wood VC unveiling in October 2018).

Our final training exercise was in a very snowy Thetford in February. Our Pltn Comd was Lt (now Major) Niall Crichton Stuart, Pltn Sgt Jock O'Hara, with Section Comds LSgt's Bert Fields, Roy Holmes & Eddie McKay. Like me Roy Holmes came from Wallasey on the Wirral, I knew of him because our respective sisters were school mates and our fathers had wartime service in the Liverpool Scottish TA.

At Thetford we were first in nissen huts and had to build snow sangars around the camp perimeter (hard work – but were they bullet proof?). At night we were woken to the crack of thunderflashes and we crashed out in 4 man patrols in the snow to map read round a circuit to a Pltn RV. My patrol's map reading was better than expected, we arrived at the RV too early. Our reward - to be sent round the circuit for a second time!

Because of the snow the Pltn were sheltered out of the freezing weather in a sheep shed. A 12' x 12' tent had been laid on the ground of the sheep shed over 3" of sheep sh..t! The sleeping area was small but once the whole pltn had arrived we grabbed a space to lay out the green maggot. In the platoon was 1x Rct Jimmy Rankin (a character known to many). He was already in his sleeping bag, lying on his back gently snoring. A "horrible", scabby, flea ridden rat took up post on Jimmy's chest - we decided to wake him!

Jimmy opened one eye to find the rat sitting about an inch from his face. He sat up quickly and the rat went spinning into the air. There followed a period of confusion, with advice and counter advice given by every man in the Pltn. Blank rounds were fired (against advice) to corner the rat! "It'll go for your throat if it can't escape".

Eventually we settled down to sleep, but I was determined no rat was going to start chewing at my head. Inside my maggot I wrapped my face veil around my head as protection. In the middle of the night I was soundly sleeping & dreaming of Endex only to be woken to a nibbling at my hair.

I jumped up shouting "Rats" "Rats" "Rats". But... It wasn't a rat but instead Recruit (now Major Retired) Ray Walker was trying to feel his way to a route across a floor covered by sleeping bodies to do a pee outside! Chaos ruled again until we got fed up and decided to grab a few hours sleep.

