

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**

**February 2022
Volume 23 Issue 1**

Email: sga@scotsguards.org

Tel: 01383 – 721530

Front Page Photographs

Top Left: To Colonel JDL Leask MBE, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and President of the Scots Guards Association congratulations on his promotion.

Top Right: A photograph from the Regimental Gathering of September 2021 sending belated 80th Birthday (27 Jan) wishes to Brigadier Kim Ross from everyone right across the Scots Guards Association & wider Regimental Family. Brigadier Ross is the President of the SGA Manchester Branch.

Bottom: Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge 2022.

In December 2022, four Scots Guardsmen will take part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge- without a doubt the worlds toughest rowing race. Led by 2Lt Max Lawrence & CSM Billy Botes they are proudly partnered with ABF and all money raised from the challenge will be split between ABF and the Scots Guards Charity. These are two charities that are close to our hearts. Please spread the word, check out their new website and stay tuned as they begin an intense year of preparation and fundraising. www.atlanticguardsmen.com

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING FEBRUARY IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

Malaya Emergency

4 February 1949

2695480 Lance Sergeant A Ferguson 2nd Battalion. Age 31.

Afghanistan

18 February 2010

25029834 Lance Sergeant David Walker Right Flank 1st Battalion was fatally wounded while Conducting ground domination patrol which was engaged by insurgent fire during Operation Moshtarak. Age 36.



LSgt David Walker

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND LONDON 1 – 3 APRIL 2022

It is intended that the Regimental Weekend will go ahead in its full form.

Fri 1 April Evening WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association AGM. Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks.

Sat 2 April SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks 1030hrs. Instructions issued to SGA Branch Secretaries.

Sun 3 April Regimental Remembrance Sunday, 1100hrs. Guards Chapel.
Followed by parade to Guards Memorial / Wreath Laying.

There will be coffee available in the Guards Museum before the service.

On dismounting The Queen's Guard from F Company will join the parade to the Guards Memorial.

Further details on the weekend will be included in March Newsletter.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Branch

At Datchet Golf Club:

Friday 25th February 2022: Branch Monthly Meeting 1930hrs for 2000hrs.

Friday 25th March 2022: Branch AGM 1930hrs for 2000hrs.

Branch Secretary: Rab Ritchie email: rab.ritchie@icloud.com Tel: 07776 411120

A very successful & near capacity Burns Supper was held at Datchet Golf Club on Saturday 29 January 2022.



Left: Kevin Gorman lubricates this vocal cords before his "Toast to the Lassies"

Right: IP Colin Paterson calls a Burns Night Muster Parade to with Trevor Frazer-Evans (Kings Regt), Bill McHugh, Eddie McKay, Ronnie Paterson, Ronnie Wilkie, Graham Fowler & Willie Coffield.

Borders Branch

The Branch give notice of their Diamond (60th) Anniversary Dinner which will take place at Hawick Rugby Club on Saturday 12 March 2022. Scots Guardsmen in the Borders and beyond are invited to attend.

For details contact Branch Secretary Eck Barclay email: eck01uk@yahoo.com Tel: 07802 4422878

Fife Branch

The Branch will hold its AGM on Sunday 27 February 2022 at the CISWO, Glenrothes.

London Branch

The Branch will hold a Burns Supper on Saturday 5 February at Esher Rugby Union Club. 369 Mosely Road, Hersham, Surrey, KT12 3PF.

Contact Secretary Iain Blair email: blair605@btinternet.com Tel: 07843 477772

Glasgow Branch

The Branch postponed its Burns Supper in January. It is re-arranged for Saturday 5 March @ Lok Bar & Kitchen, 16 Newlandsfield Road, Shawlands, Glasgow, G43 2XU.

To find out more contact Organiser Ronnie Cook on Messenger or email Secretary keith.norwood@hotmail.com

Preston Branch

Well done to Jim Killeen and Micky Nutter for their hard work to raise just short of £620 in aid of Rainbow Hub at a Christmas Charity Music Night.

Surrey Branch

Welcome to newly appointed Branch Secretary George Rance. George served in RF 1SG in Hong Kong and Pirbright 1982 – 1986. To contact George Email: thebigscotsgeeza@gmail.com Tel: 07507 901892

Highlands & Islands Branch

The Branch will hold a meeting at Legion Scotland Club, Inverness on Mon 7 February 2022 at 1930hrs. The office bearers and committee hope to see you there.

Contact Secretary Harry Obern [Email hobc862@gmail.com](mailto:hobc862@gmail.com) Tel: 01463 717002

Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch

The Branch will hold its Annual Dinner at the Scots Guards Club on Saturday 30 April 2022.

For more details about the dinner and other events contact Branch Secretary Danny Minto e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 07758 193362.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 19 February	The Rabbits Breakfast, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.
Sat 5 March	Swallae Ho, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.
Sat 2 April	Legion Scotland Beating Retreat, Dundee Square.
Thu 2 June	Queen's Birthday Parade. 1 st Bn Irish Guards.
2 – 5 June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend.
Sat 4 June	Drums Company 2 nd Battalion Scots Guards Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.
10 – 13 June	40 th Anniversary Commemoration & Reunion, Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association, Blackpool.
Tue 14 June	Falklands Commemoration, National Arboretum, Staffordshire.
Sat 18 June	Falklands Commemoration, Edinburgh.
Sat 25 June	Armed Forces Day Events – Including Edinburgh.
Sat 30 July	50 th Anniversary Op Motorman Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.



At SGA Berk, Bucks & Oxon Burns Supper 2022 Eddie McKay & Ronnie Wilkie reminisce about the Rabbits Breakfast on 7 February 1981 (read further on).

QUEENS BIRTHDAY PARADE

PLATINUM JUBILEE – THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2022

If you are after Queens Birthday Parade Tickets its worth checking the website <https://qbp.army.mod.uk/queensbirthdayparade/>

You pay for the tickets and go into a ballot to be drawn in early March. You will then be informed by mid March if you are successful.

Remember this year the “Troop” is on a Thursday.

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

3rd Guards Club & Ayrshire Branch

Lieutenant John Alexander Harper (Sandy) Gow. Died 26th January 2022. He served in the ranks from 8 September 1944 to 24 May 1945. He was commissioned into the Regiment on 25 May 1945 and posted to the 3rd (Tank) Battalion in Germany in January 1946. He was then posted to the 1st Battalion in Italy before further postings back in England with the Scots Guards Training Battalion and the Guards Training Battalion in Windsor. He was posted to 2nd Battalion in July 1947 until December 1947. He served his beloved county of Ayrshire in many ways. He was a Deputy Lieutenant and a Justice of the Peace and was for many years the President of the Ayrshire Branch of the Scots Guards Association. He was also a member of the Royal Company of Archers. Sandy Gow became a member of the Third Guards Club in 1952.

Surrey Branch

23517898 Sgt Jake Elliott. Died 10 December 2021. Corps of Drums 2SG, 1SG & Guards Depot. Lived Lewes.

22551203 LCpl Andy Paterson. Died 27 December 2021. Served as a Piper in the Gds Para Company early 50's. Former Branch Chairman & member of Gds Para Assoc.

Fife Branch

22197293 Gdsm William "Bert" Maxwell. Died 15 January 2022. Served late 1940's. Lived Kincardine.

23054348 Gdsm Bill Hynd. Died 29 January 2022. Served early 1950s. Lived Dunfermline.

Highlands & Islands Branch

23445394 James Moffat. Died 25 December 2021. Lived Peebles.

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Lt Nicholas Patrick Reyntiens Died 25 October 2021. who served from 1944 to 1947. Served 2SG after end of WW2 including at Potsdam Conference.

23879017 WO1 (RSM) Roy Oliver. Died 28 December 2021 Aged 76. Served 1961 – 1983 inc CSM RF 1SG, RQMS 2SG, RSM 8 UDR.

CSgt Paul Douglass Died 24 January 2022. Served 2SG. Lived Basingstoke.

Sgt Allan (Barney) Barnes. Died 14 January 2022. Served C Coy & COP 1SG Approx 1976 – 1986. Lived Great Harewood, Blackburn, Lancs.

23448488 Gdsm Ronald Penman Died 28 December 2021. Served 2SG 1958 – 1960. Lived Clackmannan.

23439244 Robert Davidson Died 12 November 2021. A past member of the Ayrshire Branch.

James Clunie Died 16 December 2021 Aged 47. Served 1SG Approx 1990 – 1995. Lived Fife.

22589417 Gdsm James Brown Died 16 January 2022. Served 1SG 1951 – 1953 Egypt. Funeral 9 February 1500hrs South Lanarkshire Crem, Blantyre, G72 0TL.

Ray Stones Died 10 January 2022. Served Regimental Band. Funeral Lincoln Crematorium 4 February 1030hrs

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

1st Battalion Update

The 1st Battalion Scots Guards moved into Christmas leave with great pride after a year in which much was achieved. The Battalion deployed on 5 operational tours; Op SHADER (Iraq), Op ELGIN (Kosovo), Op ORBITAL (Ukraine), Op FIRIC (Falkland Islands) and Op CABRIT (Estonia), all set against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic which complicated every turn. This was an incredible achievement in this difficult time and duly reflects the Regiment's fierce reputation for professionalism. In the background to the operational drive was the unit move from Mons Barracks, Aldershot to Somme Barracks, Catterick throughout the Summer. As Autumn approached, and with most operation tours at an end, the Battalion's focus switched heavily to Exercise Mayan Storm, a battlegroup sized expeditionary overseas training exercise to the jungle of Belize. Therefore, over Christmas the battalion had well-earned its Christmas leave!

The Battalion returned to work on 10 Jan 22 and was quickly put to task as the United Kingdom Resilience Unit. In this role the Battalion has deployed personnel across England to support the UK Government and the NHS in the vaccine delivery programme – both in command and control roles and as general duty vaccinators. Left Flank have also deployed to Manchester to support the NHS Trust in this region on general duties.

C Company have been conducting ranges since they returned from leave – with the focus heavily on the GPMG, both dismounted and mounted. B company has been maintaining its support weapon capabilities with a firm focus on the Fire Support Group for exciting opportunities later in 2022.

The annual Battalion ski trip was back on the menu after a pause last year due to the pandemic and 2 weeks of skiing took place in France for members of 1SG.

BITS AND PIECES

6 NATIONS RUGBY 2022

This year's fixtures begin on Saturday 5 February with Scotland V England at Murrayfield. Congratulations Kyle Rowe (London Irish) on being selected for the Scotland Squad. Kyle is son of Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Rowe and we wish him a successful tournament.

Mrs C doesn't need any excuse to scream support at the TV when Scotland are playing but Crockett's ear defenders will definitely be in wear this year!

A GOOD NEWS STORY – THANKS TO ROD DAVIDSON – SGA HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS BRANCH

Crockett received an email from Major John Hamill (formerly the Queens Regiment and Int Corps). He was a former Junior Leader at Oswestry in the early 1960s. By the early 1970's John was back at IJLB Oswestry as a Sgt Instructor. During this time he was friendly with the more experienced Sgt Alex Chisholm BEM (Scots Guards) who taught John a lot about dealing with young recruits. They lived near each other in quarters and their wives were also good friends.

After his service Alex and his wife Kathy moved to Inverness where he worked for Royal Mail. Major Hamill progressed in his career and transferred to the Intelligence Corps as Quartermaster. He was on an exercise in Inverness in the late 1980s, knew Alex was in the area. He enquired after him at the local sorting office only to be told that Alex had passed away. From the local telephone directory Major Hamill was able to contact Alex's widow Kathy. Thereafter he & his wife and him kept in touch with Kathy Chisholm exchanging Christmas Cards and presents.

Kathy always replied with a thank you card, but not this year 2022 and so Major Hamill and his wife were concerned for her. His reason to email me was to ask if we had a SGA Branch in Inverness. Could someone be kind and check Kathy Chisholm's wellbeing?

Rod Davidson knew the road where Kathy lived and knocked at the house door but got no response. The following day he took the trouble to try again when the door was answered by Kathy's good friend who was looking after the house. She explained that Kathy had a fall before Christmas and was in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness having hurt her legs and back. She had been on the road to recovery walking with a frame and then a stick. Kathy then had another fall when she was out of bed unsupervised when she cracked her head and broke her thumb. Now back in recovery mode and once released from hospital comms will be re-established between Kathy and the Hamill's.

From other chat with Major John Hamill I found out he was a past QM of a Military Intelligence Bn (Reserve) and Rab McIntyre (Formerly 1SG) was a CQMS in the Edinburgh Company of the same Mil Int Bn. Rab of course lives not far from Crockett in Dunfermline.

Captain Graham Fowler had also worked alongside Major Hamill with SSAFA in Sussex. Graham Fowler is President of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion Association while Captain Ronnie Paterson is Secretary. Safe to say all encouragement is being applied on Major John Hamill to join the IJLB Assoc.

Thanks go to Rod Davidson of the Highland & Islands Branch for taking up the challenge to check the wellbeing of Mrs Kathy Chisholm.

ORIGINS OF THE RABBITS BREAKFAST ~ 7 FEBRUARY 1981

By Eddie McKay - Seagull

On my return from RMAS I served the remaining weeks with the 2nd Battalion on the final leg of their tour in NI. The CSM of G Company was Bert Field, he was due to be appointed Drill Sgt and me to CSM G Company.

Taking over the Rabbits I had to organize some sort of farewell to the outgoing "Seagull", I thought of Sgts Mess Dinners or lunches but because the Battalion was readjusting and getting up to scratch after Northern Ireland with courses, postings and changes to senior rank appointments it seemed an impossible task.

I had heard that in the past RSM Jim Bunton under had under similar circumstances held a WO2 / CSM meeting as a breakfast ~ so why not and the seed of an idea was sown.

After approaching the then RSM (Ronnie Wilkie) and gaining agreement, I set the function in motion. I wanted something a bit different not just another mess function.

All G Company Sgts Mess members along with those who were attached during the recent tour in Northern Ireland were invited. Also the Sgt Major, DSgt McKenzie, the dismounting Duty WO (Dougie Hope), the company officers led by Major Dalziel Job. Lt Miller, 2Lt Page, 2Lt Joynson (or was it 2Lt Blount?).

The Function:

Members had to attend 0700 for 0730hrs. The dress was lounge suit, Brigade Tie. LSgt John Samson was the Mess Steward arranging with Top Table. With "Sprigs". On entry to the mess were stacked drums with a pile of carrots on the top.

Grace was said by LSgt McKenzie the newest G Company Sgts Mess member,

The Menu:

On Arrival – Bucks Fizz

1st Course – Scrambled Eggs with Sparkling Wine

2nd Course – Porridge with Drambuie

3rd Course – Fried Breakfast with Red or White Wine

4th Course – Black Pudding with Port

5th Course – Ice Cream with more Sparking Wine (or was it Champagne?).

Now, bearing in mind this was my first venture as host in the Sgts Mess. My opening remarks were that it was a totally informal occasion, that smoking was allowed as was going for a pee and moving around. At this point of the proceedings I daren't look at the RSM or DSgt, everyone was at very least, slightly taken aback and stunned into silence.

The Aftermath:

During the meal Bert Field was congratulated on having done a great job as CSM of the Rabbits. Speeches were made and he was presented with a framed print of the Guards at Hougoumont.

It was at this point I proposed that we hold a Rabbits Breakfast every year and that everyone attending on 7 February 1981 would receive an invitation along with any member of G Company being promoted to the Sgts Mess. The proposal was duly unanimously carried.

On returning to the mess lounge & bar some members took a carrot from the stack of drums, took a bite and put it in their top pocket. A tradition that still carries on today.

RSM Wilkie ordered that a bucket be placed in the corner of the lounge should anyone need a pee, then locked the door. All was well but Lt Miller who was Picquet Officer was seen climbing out of the Sgts Mess window on to the canopy above the Tailors Shop, then somehow climbing down just in time for Barrack Guard Mount on the Square.

Forty years on it has continued to be one of the best Scots Guards functions ever. The format has changed a wee bit over the years and has even suffered a few cases of Myxomatosis amongst the Rabbits of the Company. Through the determined efforts by the likes of Bruce Henderson and Charlie McEwan and many others originating from G Company in 1981 it has continued ~ **Long may it do so.**

PER FUNERA VITAM

NEW WAYS THAT YOU CAN MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION DIRECT TO THE SCOTS GUARDS CHARITY

There have been some recent changes on how donations can be made, they are:

Invest My Community has replaced Virgin Money as a donation platform, donations can be made as follows:



1. Go to the [Scots Guards website](#).
2. Top right corner click donate button – then click the InvestMyCommunity donate button.
3. Enter the amount you wish to donate and tick the box if you wish this to be repeated.

On Line Shopping. For those that shop online, you may wish to consider using Give as you Live or Amazon Smile who donate a % of your purchase direct into the Scots Guards Charity account with no additional cost to you:



Give as you Live. This is a user friendly website that allows you to shop online and provides a varied % of your purchase as a donation to your chosen charity. This will differ between retailer's the range is between .5 and 7.5%. Compare the market will give £12.5 for each new car insurance policy:

1. Go to the [Give as you live](#) website and search for The Scots Guards Charity.
2. Register as a user.
3. When you next shop online with over 5,500 retail partners, the Regimental Charity receives a percentage of what you have spent. Stores include M&S, eBay, Tesco, John Lewis, Sainsburys (new customers receive 7.5%), Argos, Viking, Hotels.Com, Booking.com, asos, Trainline and many more.



Amazon Smile. Amazon have recently moved away from Give as you live and have created their own charity platform called amazon smile, they offer a flat .5% of your purchase to your chosen charity:

1. Go to [Amazon Smile](#) website.
2. Register as a customer.
3. Nominate The Scots Guards Charity as your chosen charity.
4. Shop on line.

Please do not forget when making your donation you agree to “Gift Aid” then we can reclaim 25p for each £ you donate at no extra cost to you.

Maj (Retd) Cape | Regt Welfare & Finance Officer | The Castle | Edinburgh | EH1 2YT | Mil Tel No. [94740 5042](tel:01313105042) | Civ Tel No. [0131 3105042](tel:01313105042) | finance@scotsguards.org |

UK VETERANS FAMILY STUDY



Are you a spouse / intimate partner or child (now 18+) of a military veteran living in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland? If so...

We want to hear from you!

We want to understand the support, situations, and environments that have had an impact on your family's **mental health** and **wellbeing** since leaving the military.

Can you spare the time to fill out a survey on your **experiences**? We would love to hear from you!

If you get involved, you can choose to be entered into a prize draw for one of a number of £50 Amazon gift cards.

Visit the website to learn more: ukvetfamilystudy.org

Contact our researchers to find out more:

UKVetFamilyStudy@qub.ac.uk
@Vet_Families
UK Veteran Family Study



I am a researcher on a study exploring the emotional wellbeing and support needs of families of those who have served in the UK Armed Forces. We hope this information will help to improve support available to veteran families in the UK.

The **UK Veterans Family Study** survey launched in November 2021, and I wonder if you may be able to help drive recruitment for this study. Organisations like yours, who work for the betterment of the community, have been vital in helping previous Veteran research to be successful.

We are looking for people who:

- Are either a spouse/intimate partner, or now adult (18+ years) child of a Veteran who has served at least one day in any branch of the UK Armed Forces/Reserves, but no longer serves.

OR

- Are a Veteran who has served at least one day in any branch of the UK Armed Forces/Reserves and have since left regular service.
- All participants must be 18 years old and currently live in Scotland, Northern Ireland, England, or Wales.

Our study will be beneficial for veteran families because we are aiming to:

- Identify the psychological health and wellbeing needs of veteran families.
- Identify the drivers that support psychological health and wellbeing in the face of challenges that come with being the spouse-partner or child of a veteran.
- Examine the relationship between family members psychological health and wellbeing and that of the veteran.
- Identify the future needs of veteran families.

This study is being conducted by Queen's University Belfast, King's College London and several other partners, and is funded by the Forces in Mind Trust and the Big Lottery Fund.

Attached is a digital flyer for you to distribute to your service users/members, and if you would like physical resources (cards, flyers, etc.) or any additional information, please let us know.

Spreading the word through social media would be invaluable and please do tag us! You can also support the study by liking/sharing posts on Facebook ([UK Veterans Family Study](https://www.facebook.com/UKVeteransFamilyStudy)) and liking/retweeting on Twitter ([@Vet_Families](https://twitter.com/Vet_Families)).

With best wishes,

Charlotte Williamson Email: charlotte.1.williamson@kcl.ac.uk

On behalf of the UK Veterans Family Study

Research Assistant

King's Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR)

King's College London, Western Education Centre, Room 3.15

10 Cutcombe Road, London, SE5 9RJ