

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



WW2 3SG Veteran Ted Davidson



Lachlan McBean with HRH The Duke of Kent
At the 2023 Regt Gathering

**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 2025
Volume 26 Issue 1

Email: sga@scotsguards.org

Tel: 01383 – 721530

Front Page Photographs:

RESPECT:

Two 2nd World War Scots Guardsmen who have sadly passed away in the past month

Gdsm Ted Davidson. Served in 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards from Normandy, across NW Europe and into Germany, he was awarded the French Legion of Honour in 2020.

14038992 Gdsm Lachlan (Jock) McBean Who completed Recruit Training at the Guards Depot, Caterham & the Scots Guards Training Bn, Pirbright including Z1 Company in North Wales.

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

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Third Guards Club & Surrey Branch

Colonel Andrew Parsons OBE. Died 18 December 2024. Served 1959 to 1993. Early career was in both Bns. Coy Comd 1SG 1971. Regt Adjt 1981 – 83. Comd MCTC Colchester, Zimbabwe & SHAPE, NATO Defence College.

Third Guards Club & Corby, Central & Eastern Branch

Major Donald Roberts. Died 17 December 2024. Age 94. Lived in Cambridgeshire. Served as a Sgt in 2SG Malaya & 1SG Egypt. Served as CSM at Army Apprentice College Aborfield, CSM RF 1SG Malaya & Borneo, WO1, Commissioned and Admin Officer 2 SG Coy, Edinburgh. TQM 2SG, QM 2SG. TQM School of Inf 1978, Retired 1982.

Third Guards Club, BBO Branch, Carlisle Dumfries & Galloway Branch, Durham & Yorkshire Branch

Major Hugh Cantlie. Died 11 January 2025. Age 92, Lived Oxfordshire. Served from 1950, Commissioned 1952. Mostly served 2SG. ADC to Viscount Slim when he was Governor General of Australia. Retired on 1 August 1962.

Third Guards Club & Carlisle Dumfries & Galloway Branch

Captain Andrew Clowes. Died January 2025. Age 82. Served 1SG & 2SG Kenya. Asst Regt Adjutant & Equerry to Field Marshal HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester.

Third Guards Club

2nd Lieutenant John Cuthbert Died 21 December 2024. Age 90. Served from May 1952, Commissioned January 1953. Served 2SG BAOR & Gds Trg Bn & The Guards Depot to May 1954.

Third Guards Club

2nd Lieutenant Timothy George Died January 2024. Age 91. Served 1952 Guards Training Bn & 2SG to October 1953.

Fife Branch, SG Malaya & Borneo Veterans

23904810 Ppr John (Jock) Ritchie Died 5 January 2025. Lived Kirkcaldy. Served 1SG 1964, Malaya/Borneo, Edinburgh, Chelsea, Sharjah, Windsor & Belfast 1971. A friend of many and a great supporter of the Regiment.

Dundee & Angus Branch

22992956 Gdsm James Green Died 28 December 2024. Age 89. Lived Dundee. Served 2SG early 1950s including taking part on the Coronation of the late Queen.

Manchester Branch

14038992 Gdsm Lachlan (Jock) McBean Died 29 December 2024. Age 97. Served Gds Depot & Scots Guards Training Battalion in the last months of World War 2. In May 2020 on the 75th Anniversary of VE Day he received a Letter from the Regt Lt Colonel in thanks for his service in WW2.

On leaving the Army Lachlan initially joined the Preston Branch of the SG Association before becoming a founding Member of the Manchester Branch in 1958. He held the appointment of Treasurer for the Manchester branch for 50 years. He had the unique honour of being presented with two Colonel's certificates from the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent. He attended every Regimental event including Regimental Remembrance Sunday, SG Association AGM's and Gatherings. A true gentleman and a loyal Scots Guardsman who will be sorely missed.

Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Branch, Malaya & Borneo Veterans

23866056 Sgt Alex Baillie Died 14 January 2025. Age 83. Lived Carlisle. Served 1961 – 85 1SG & 2SG, Mostly in 1SG Signals Pltn. Malaya & Borneo, Munster. Alex finished his service at Carlisle ACIO when he recruited many in to the Regt including Major Mark Cape.

The funeral will take place at the Carlisle Crematorium 6 February 2025 at 1340hrs. The family have requested a Guard of Honour, those attending are requested to have your Berets and medals in wear.

NON ASSOCIATION

George Boyd. Died December 2024. Age 85. Lived Alva. Served 1959 – 61.

23517633 Sgt Martin (Matt) Udy. Died 7 January 2025. Age 85. Served 1966 – 82 G Sqn SAS & PSI 23 SAS.

Graeme Montgomery Died 25 January 2025. Lived Barnsley. Served LF 1SG, Chelsea 1979, Aldergrove, Hong Kong.

24824835 Gdsm Stewart Ramage. Died 9 January 2025. Age 54. Enlisted 1990, Served 2SG, 1SG C Coy & MT Hohne & Windsor to 1997. Brother of Steve Ramage.

22551559 Drum Major Andrew MacDowall. Died 8 January 2025. Served 1954 – 1979. Boy Drummer & Corps of Drums 1 SG. He served mostly with 2SG, Jnr Tradesmens Bn, Troon & the Regt Recruiting Team, Edinburgh 1974. Funeral 10 February 2025 1215hrs at Colchester Crematorium.

24558098 Gdsm William Dunlop. Died 12 December 2025. Age 61. Lived Reigate. Enlisted as a Jnr Gdsm, served G Company, 2SG Falkland Islands to 1993.

Gdsm Ted Davidson. Died 28 January 2025. Age 99. Lived Padiham, Lancashire. Served 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards 1944 - 1945. Funeral will take place at Burnley Crematorium at 1515hrs on 18 February. Aged 99 years, Ted was a proud Scots Guardsman and also involved with the RBL.



Andrew MacDowall



Alex Baillie



Jock Ritchie with son's Fraser & John who both served in the Regt

New Years Honours 2025

Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB)

Major General Alastair BRUCE of CRIONAICH, OBE, VR, DL, Army Reserve

Member of the British Empire (MBE)

Major TFW MORTENSEN

Sergeant M CHADWICK

Chief of the General Staff Commendation

Captain WDJ Jack

REGIMENTAL GATHERING ~ IMPORTANT UPDATE

It has been confirmed that for reasons beyond the call of the Battalion 27 - 28 June is now unlikely to be the date for the Regimental Gathering.

The Gathering is now likely to be in September on a weekend to be announced.

For those of you who have currently made a hotel booking I would recommend you wait until the new Gathering date is confirmed before changing your existing booking.

RABBITS BREAKFAST 2025



The Rabbits Breakfast is for any former C or G Company personnel, including those still serving, who appreciate the finer things in life

Friday 14 February ~ 1800hrs Meet & Greet

Saturday 15 February 2025

Venue: SCOTS GUARDS CLUB
Tel: 0131 337 1084

Timings: (Bar open 0800hrs)

Breakfast Call: 0955hrs

Seated by: 1000hrs

Menu: Scottish Breakfast ~ breakfast will be informal.

The “address” to the haggis will be carried out by John Campbell

Rab Russell will be the Piper for the day

Regimental update will be given by WO1 GSM D Hunter

Stovies will be served PM

Photograph: 1300hrs (Approx)

Cost per person: £15.00 (cash not card)

Payment will be at the breakfast

Accommodation if required: Guards Hotel 0131 337 1002.

Dress: Collar and tie,

POC John Rae Club Manager. Pauline Arundel Bar Manager Telephone: 0131 337 1084.

Please, no selling or promoting of charities at the breakfast

Hope you can join us for a day of Harmony and Kindred Spirit

Yours Aye

Bruce / Charlie / Compo / Cap

FORECAST OF EVENTS

MARCH

- Sat 1 Swalle Ho 2024 ~ SG Club Edinburgh. Organiser: Neil Roney
- Sat 8 SGA Borders 63rd Annual Dinner ~Hawick Rugby Club.

APRIL

W/E 4 – 6 Regimental Weekend ~ Wellington Barracks, London.

Fri 4 Scots Guards WOs & Sgts Past and Present Association AGM ~ Evening ~ Sgts Mess.

Sat 5 SGA AGM ~ 1030hrs ~ Sgts Mess.

Sun 6 Regimental Remembrance Sunday Service ~ The Guards Chapel ~ 1100hrs.
Parade & Wreath Laying ~ Guards Memorial, Horse Guards Parade ~ 1200hrs.
Lunch ~ Other Ranks Restaurant ~ 1300hrs.

All Scots Guardsmen are encouraged to attend.

MAY

- Thu 8 VE Day - 80th Anniversary. Expected to be a Bank Holiday.
- Fri 30 SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians 32nd Annual Dinner ~ Scots Guards Club.

JUNE

- Sat 14 King's Birthday Parade ~ No7 Company Coldstream Guards
- W/E 13 – 16 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association ~ Blackpool Weekend.



DO YOU KNOW OF UNWANTED REGIMENTAL MEMORABILIA?

The Regimental Archives are an invaluable collection of papers, documents, records, medals, objects, photographs and other material relating to events in which the Regiment and individual Scots Guardsmen have been involved. They are very actively managed by the Regimental Historical Committee led by Randall Nicol and a team of interested volunteers.

If you, members of your families, friends or other people have such materials and do not wish to keep them do please consider donating them to The Scots Guards Charity, which is responsible for the Archives. It is the constant purpose of the Trustees and of the Regimental Historical Committee to conserve, enhance and extend this collection.

Do not be deterred by the thought that something may not be important. Even though it may not appear to be significant, it will still be part of the story.

Should something be of a sensitive nature and therefore require to be held securely under time release restrictions then that can be arranged and will be complied with.

In the first instance, please contact Neil Crockett, Secretary, Scots Guards Association, on sga@scotsguards.org and he will report to the Regimental Historical Committee.

Brigadier GHFS Nickerson

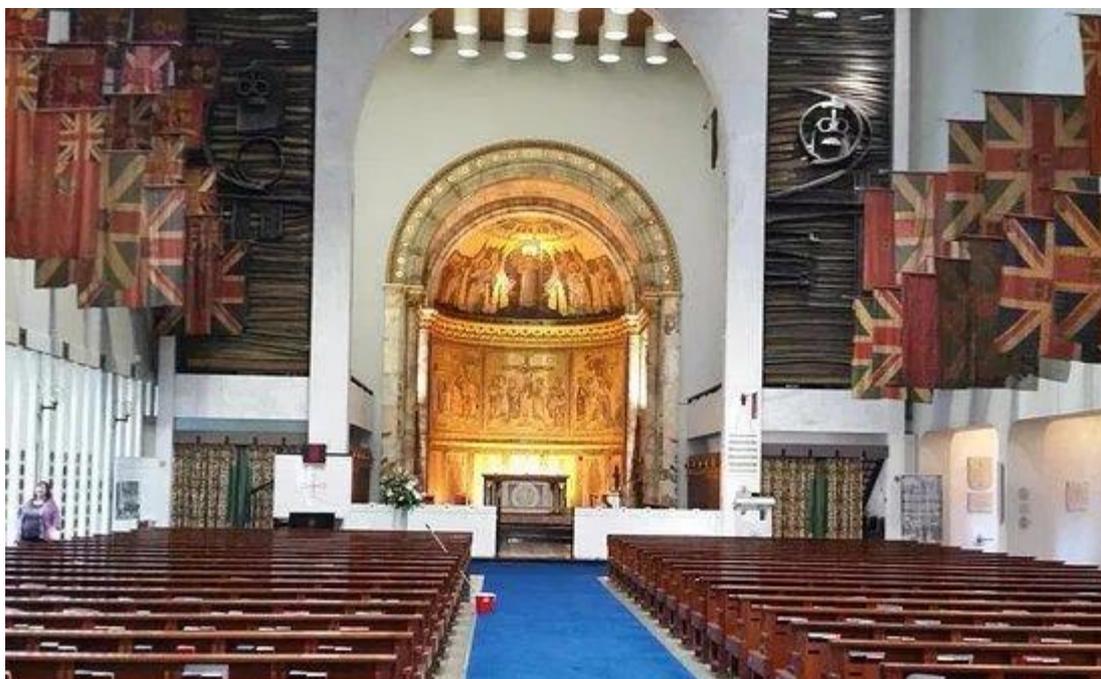
Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Bt

Chairman The Scots Guards Charity

Chairman The Scots Guards Association

DREARY FEBRUARY ~ THE WEATHER'S COLD AND DULL!

LOOK FORWARD ~ LONDON IN THE SPRING – YOU CAN'T BEAT IT!



Regimental Remembrance Sunday – Guards Chapel

Sun 6 April - 1100hrs

Regimental Remembrance Sunday will follow its normal form.

All Scots Guardsmen past & serving are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

OOD: Suit / Blazer, Bde Tie, Large medals. No head dress.

After the service the parade will form up on the Barrack Square in 6s. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel 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.

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 ~ A reason to make early plans to be there!

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SGA Glasgow

The Branch held a Burns Supper at the Glasgow Arts Club on Saturday 25 January. Despite the stormy weather the previous day a good time was had by all.



Left: Brother's McCarroll: Willie who came across from SGA North America to give the Address to the Haggis & Joe.

Right: Old Friends Catch up ~ Colonel Clavering & Captain Ronnie Wilkie



Left: Bill Watson & Pat Campbell

Right: Captain Eddie Edmonstone (Chairman), Colin (Secretary) & Mrs Sue Downie raise a glass to Rabbie Burns

SGA HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

On Saturday 25 January 2025 stormy weather lead to relatively calm Inverness where the Highlands & Islands Branch held their Annual Dinner and Burns Supper at the city centre Legion Scotland Club.



Left: Roddy Cantwell (Chairman) & Alasdair Allen ~ with smiley faces.

Right: Lenny Cowieson (1SG LF & Recce early 1970s) & John MacIennan (1SG Gulf 1991)

SCOTS GUARDS CLUB ~ JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships and a warm welcome to our new members who took the opportunity to join over the past few weeks. A wee reminder to you all that memberships renew in January and February so if your card says anything other than '2025 'then it's time to renew! Details below.

The easiest way to join/renew is simply to enquire at the bar and your request can be processed by a member of the team. If you can't make it in to the Club, you can make payment from the comfort of your own armchair by direct bank transfer to Sort Code 82-62-30 Acc No 60496650. Let us know at enquiries@scotsguardsclub.co.uk once you have made payment and give us your address so that we can then get your card out to you ASAP. Membership for this year is £30 or £25 for over 65.

We have admitted defeat with Wednesday evenings! It seems that it is just not a sexy time for you to be out and about so with immediate effect, we will no longer open on a Wednesday evening after 6pm, unless for a pre-arranged event.

To all our Scots Guards members and friends, remember that the legendary Rabbits Breakfast takes place on 15 February and Swally Ho is in the diary for 1 March.

Other dates for the diary are the international rugby home games of Saturday 1 February (Italy) Sunday 9 February (Ireland) and Saturday 8 March (Wales) Please note that the Club is always very busy before and after the match and as ever, we appreciate your patience and understanding with this. These days make a big difference to Club finances.

The next piping knockout event is at 1600hrs on Sunday 26 January when Calum Wynd and Bobby Allan will go head to head. Tickets are £6 on the door.

Just one of many low key but important reunions that take place at the Scots Guards Club – Saturday 11 January 2025



Left to Right : David Richardson, Bill Clayton, Alistair McLennan, Bernard Houbert, and Ian Bryson, Nijmegen Pltn Junior Guardsman's Company 1974 who meet up annually

SICK PARADE

Many of you will be aware that Rab Ritchie (former Secretary & now a Vice President of SGA BBO) & friend to many has been in hospital requiring a major operation on 20 January. Rab reported "It was an amputation of my left leg just below the knee which certainly cured my ingrowing toe nail in that foot"

Rab is doing well and in very good spirits, he's getting out of hospital today (Friday 31 January). His home needed a few adaptations which Rab's wife Val has worked hard to achieve. These include a new single bed downstairs until he is fitted with a prosthetic leg. Also clearing a route through the garage to allow access into Rab's house via the kitchen, the front door route was just too tight with too many corners to allow him in.

While in hospital Rab received lots of visitors all wanting to buy him coffee & cake.



Rab & Bob
Still Sticking

Bob MacDonald (SG Veteran amputee) and Rab out for coffee ~ Rab reported "It was great to catch up with each other and swing the light. Bob gave me lots of advice to help me adapt which I hope are better than his golfing tips".



Left: With Trevor Elliott SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Chairman & Yvonne (photographer) they were quickly volunteered as porters to transfer his suitcase home on the evening before he got home from hospital.



Right: Rab with Linda & Les Swaney Scots Guards friends for over half a century.

Best wishes Rab in your recovery.