

# 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**

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## FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards Memorial Cross and Plaque on Mount Tumbledown.

## NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

### Regimental Headquarters

After 10 successful years as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Brigadier Harry Nickerson hands over to Major General Chris Bell CBE on 11 July 2020. The RLC is also President of the Association and we thank Brigadier Nickerson for his support over the past 10 years, he will remain active as he becomes a Director of the Scots Guards Charity. General Bell's military job is as GOC Army Recruiting & Initial Training Command.

### The First Battalion

Stand-by for Covid-19 duties have now largely finished and the Battalion is preparing for a number of significant training and deployment events. Left Flank will take part in a large exercise either on Salisbury Plain or in Sennelager in Germany and are still planning to be deployed to Estonia early next year.

Battalion Headquarters, Right Flank, B Company and elements of Headquarter Company are still preparing to be deployed to Iraq on Operation SHADER 12 in December this year. Their role will be a mixture of training, mentoring and providing protection for new Iraqi Army troops.

The move from Aldershot to Somme Barracks, Catterick will take place next Summer 2021.

The number of new recruits, as well as re-joins and those now choosing not to leave the Army, has seen a huge improvement in manning figures. The Battalion numbers were down to the 400s last year, they are now in the 500s and the expectation is that it will be over 600 and fully manned by February next year. There is a very healthy number of recruits being trained at Catterick and the number of young men wishing to become Scots Guards officers is considerable and well over the six a year that we can recruit. There are also two young ladies who have expressed a strong desire to be considered for selection and training for a Scots Guards Gap Year Commission.

The Battalion will go on a month's leave on 17<sup>th</sup> July and on their return on 17<sup>th</sup> August, Lieutenant Colonel Guy Anderson will assume command from Lieutenant Colonel James Leask.

### F Company

Major Chris Connelly is the new Officer Commanding and F Company continue to provide ceremonial guards at Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London throughout the Lockdown period.

There are currently around 70 Scots Guards recruits going through training at Catterick and as they filter into F Company the equivalent number of Guardsmen will join the First Battalion.

The moral of those in F Company has remained exceptionally high over the Coronavirus Lockdown period and they have been providing the Guards on a whole week on, followed by two weeks stand down.

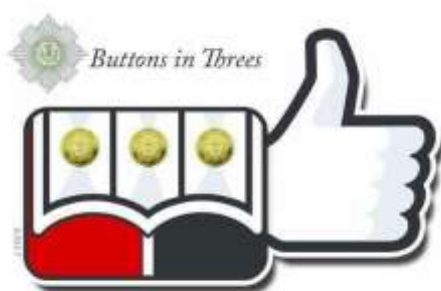
### The Queen's Birthday Parade 2021

**The Colour of the Second Battalion Scots Guards will be Trooped at next year's Queen's Birthday Parade.** F Company will provide the Escort and some key members of the First Battalion taking certain individual roles. The music will be very much Scottish themed and that twenty Scots Guards pipers will also be on parade with the Massed Bands.

How to apply for tickets for the Major General's Review, Colonel's Review and the Queen's Birthday Parade 2021 will be announced by Regimental Headquarters early next year.

### Regimental Gathering 2021

**It is planned that the next Regimental Gathering will take place in Somme Barracks, Catterick, the new home of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion over the weekend 11 – 12 September 2021.**



**REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF TUMBLEDOWN 38 YEARS ON  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards - Falkland Islands - Killed 14 June 1982**

DSgt Danny Wight  
Sgt John Simeon  
LSgt Clark Mitchell MID  
Gdsm Derek Denholm  
Gdsm David Malcolmson  
Gdsm Jim Reynolds DCM  
Gdsm Archibald Stirling  
Gdsm Ronald Tanbini  
LCpl John Pashley Royal Engineers Attached 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards

The long planned annual reunion of the Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association due for the weekend 12 – 15 June was cancelled due to Covid 19. Instead small groups gathered around the UK to lay wreaths and to remember fallen comrades at their graves, at local war memorials and at Blackpool war memorial.

**Jan Miller Leader of the Scouts, Cubs & Beavers on the Falkland Islands reported :** Normally we climb up Tumbledown as a group to pay our respects. Due to Covid this year it had to be carried out in family groups. Day 1: My 5 little heroes climbed Tumbledown in the snow today to clean the Cross and plaques, Scout Max read the Collect of the Scots Guards and Cub Sam read out the names of the fallen. Those taking part were Scout Max, Cubs Jack, Sam and Jacob and Beaver Scout Ewan and their families. Day 2: Two more of my Cubs climbed Tumbledown this morning to lay a cross for each man who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom! The weather is bitter cold but they wanted to do this! So proud of them.

**From the whole Scots Guards Family, we are proud of them as well – Thank You.**



Scouts/ Cubs Day 1



Cubs Day2



A small group from TV&FA and SGA Preston gathered at Blackpool War Memorial when a wreath was laid by...

**From Willie Urban Chairman TV&FA:** Looking at all the services that took place around the country to commemorate our fallen brothers on Tumbledown mountain 38yrs ago, I can honestly say that my heart is bursting with pride, we may not have been all together in person at Blackpool but we were all together as one in spirit. As the chairman of the TV&FA I thank each and every one of you. Until we meet again in Blackpool Friday 11 June – Monday 14 June 2021 - stay safe



## WE REMEMBER SCOTS GUARDSMEN KILLED IN CONFLICTS DURING JUNE & JULY SINCE 1945

### 2nd Battalion Scots Guards Killed Malaya Emergency 1948 – 1951

11 June 1950	Captain MG Bax
11 June 1950	2Lt MJ Morrice
17 June 1950	Gdsm W Clucas

### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards Killed Afghanistan 2010

21 June 2010	LCpl Stephen Monkhouse “Monkey”
21 June 2010	Cpl Matthew Stenton RDG. Killed alongside LCpl Monkhouse

## SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Scots Guards Association Pipes & Drums Scotland

Pipers & Drummers from across the Regiment came together to make a video montage to commemorate the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Tumbledown. P/M Iain Lowther coordinated the video, Captain John Craib from the Regimental Support Team was narrator and Kevin Wylie put it together. The finished video is a fitting tribute and it was widely shared across Regimental social media and to many individuals by email.

### Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

Branch Member In Pensioner Colin Paterson took part in the much reduced Founders Day on 5 June 2020 at Chelsea Hospital. The ceremony was widely shown on BBC news programmes. Colin was spied on TV at the hospital’s outdoor bar which is aptly named with black military humour as “The Covid Arms”



IP Colin Paterson on Founders Day, that’s him with the beard. A young Colin pictured with LSgt Pat Hope in Left Flank 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Sharjah, 1970

### Fife

The Fife Branch was asked by local Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Rod Cavanagh to provide two Standard Bearers to line the route of the funeral cortege for Fife’s oldest Veteran at Kirkcaldy Town House. Jimmy Sinclair was also Scotland’s oldest male when he died aged 107, he served with Chestnut Troop, Royal Horse Artillery in 7 Armoured Division (The Desert Rats) during World War 2. Jimmy was well known amongst the Fife veterans community.

Although Armed Forces Day couldn’t go ahead in it’s normal form, veterans associations in Fife were asked to provide photographs of their Standard Bearers to be used as a collage alongside a video of the AFD flag raising at Kirkcaldy Town House. The video is on “YouTube” as Fife Armed Forces Day 2020.





**Kenny Lawson with the main SGA Standard**



**Tam Marshall with SGA Fife Standard**

**DEATHS**

**Third Guards Club**

The Honourable K.I.M. Fraser. Died 30 May 2020. Served 2SG 1965. 1SG Malaysia and Edinburgh 1966 – 68.

**Pipers Branch & London Branch**

21008004 Piper Bob Porteous. Died 25 June 2020. Served 2SG 1947 – 1953, Lived Hextable, Kent. He was thought to be the oldest Scots Guards Piper.

**Highlands & Islands Branch**

23980033 Drummer David Rennie Died 25 June 2020. Served 1SG 1965 – early 1970s. Lived Dufftown. Funeral 2 July.

**Not Members of the Association**

Piper Neil (Beastie) Johnstone Died 9 June 2020. Served 1SG 1980 – 1985. Lived Oban.

Gdsm Peter Leadbetter Died 26 June 2020. Served 2SG 1960 – 66. Lived Greys, Essex.

**FORECAST OF EVENTS**

**JULY 2020**

Wed 15 SG Veterans -V- 1SG Golf Competition, Datchet Golf Club.

**SEPTEMBER**

Sat 26\* SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox Dinner, Datchet Golf Club.

**OCTOBER**

Sat 10\* SGA Dundee & Angus Dinner, Invercarse Hotel.

Sat 17\* SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Dinner, Shepherds Inn.

Sat 17\* SGA Pipers Dinner, Scots Guards Club Edinburgh (held bi-annually).

Mon 26 Opening Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street.

Tue 27 Opening of Glasgow Garden of Remembrance, George Square.

Sat 31 Dundee Festival of Remembrance, Caird Hall.

**NOVEMBER**

Fri 6\* SGA Fife Dinner, Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy.

Fri 6\* SGA Ayrshire Dinner, RAFA Club Prestwick.

Sat 7 Festival of Remembrance, Albert Hall, London

Sun 8 Remembrance Sunday.

**MARCH 2021**

Sat 6 Swallie Ho, Scots Guards Club.

**SEPTEMBER**

W/E 11 – 12 Regimental Gathering, hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Scots Guards, Somme Barracks, Catterick.

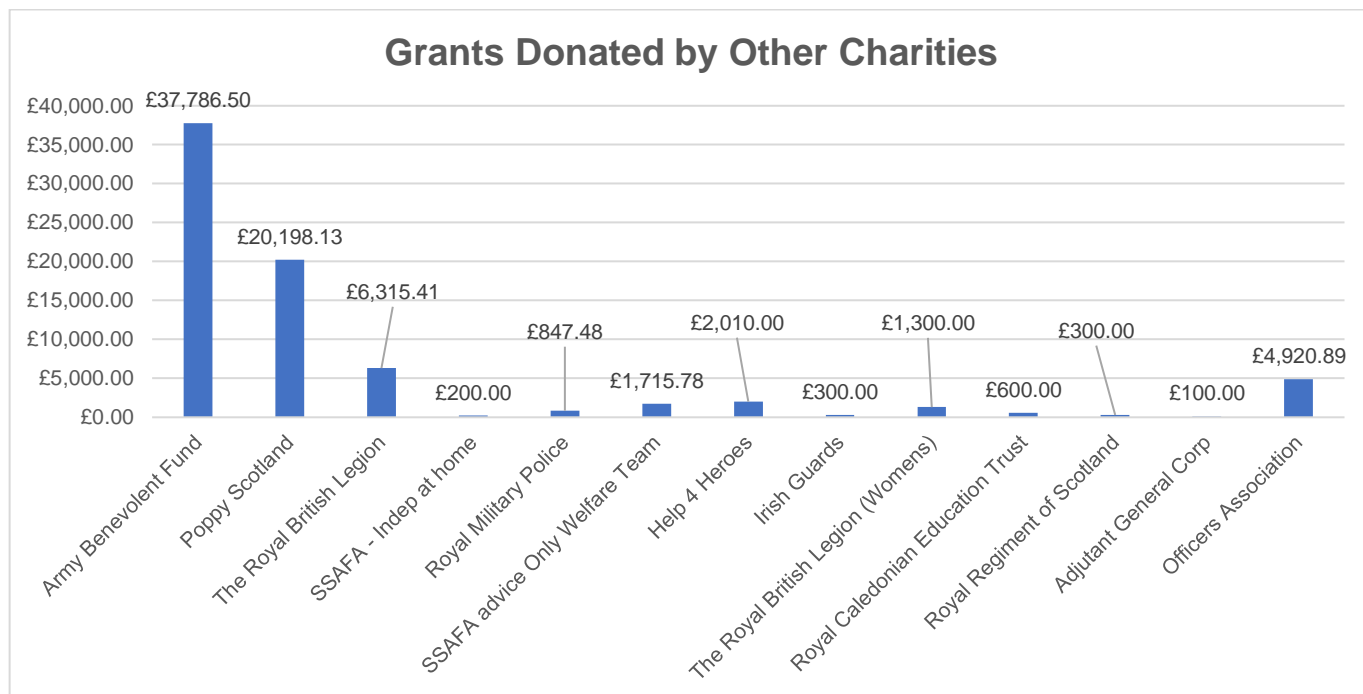
**Note:** All dinners – Dates marked \* are currently provisional, SGA Branches will be making decisions based on restrictions/guidance and information from the venues.

## WELFARE REPORT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020

**By: Major (retired) MA Cape Regimental Welfare and Finance Officer**

The need for welfare support continues to exist especially in the current climate and imposed government restrictions. The Scots Guards are and will continue to provide support to our veterans and their families during this crisis. The assistance from all association members has been vital in achieving this aim, and I thank all those that have gone that extra mile to help. If any, SGA Branch Welfare Officer or member, identify a Scots Guards veteran who needs assistance and is unsure of the process then please e- mail me - [finance@scotsguards.org](mailto:finance@scotsguards.org) and I will call you to discuss and help install a plan of action.

This year the Scots Guards has provided benevolence to 81 Scots Guardsmen and their families totalling £116,428.33, this is a slight decline from the previous year where we provided benevolence to 98 veterans and their families. The charity has given grants to the sum of £39,834.37 and sought assistance from 13 other charities who generously gave £76,594.19 in grants. See below for charity breakdown:



The tables below list the breakdown of grants by time served and the geographical area that they were received:

**Table 1.** Breakdown of categories by time in service and shows the swing towards the younger generation receiving support, this year no grants have been awarded to anyone who served pre 1945:

Category	Time served	Grants
1	Pre 1945	0
2	1946 - 1970	7
3	1971 - 1995	33
4	1996 - 2020	37
5	Still Serving	4
<b>Total:</b>		<b>81</b>

**Table 2.** The geographical breakdown shows that most grants given, remain north of the border:

Geographical Area	Cases
Scotland	43
England	32
Other	6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>81</b>

**Summary.** As the isolation draws to a close and lockdown is gradually being eased, the country is slowly waking up from the restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic. The return to normal will take time, and even when restrictions are lifted on public gatherings, members of our association will remain understandably wary and, therefore it is incumbent on us all to play our part in looking out for each other by continuing the excellent work that has been achieved so far.

## **BITS AND PIECES**

### **Queen's Birthday Parade 2020**

This year the Birthday Parade was very different, taking place under lockdown in the presence of HM The Queen at Windsor Castle. Described as a Mini Troop with the Guard found by 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Welsh Guards whose turn it was to Troop their Colour. It took place on the grass of Windsor Castle Quadrangle in glorious sunshine and The Queen looked to be enjoying it greatly. Some elements of the usual QBP were included, the band carried out the Slow Troop to Les Huguenots and completed a mini Spin Wheel. Scots Guardsmen on parade were included in the Band made up of Musicians from all Foot Guards Regiments. I'm sure we all agree that despite the differences it was well done with normal Household Division panache. We enjoyed familiar tunes played by the band and their fantail counter marching. For all that, I'm sure we'll all be hoping for a return to the usual parade in 2021!

### **Major General (retired) Murray Naylor writes:**

Major Philip Erskine served in the Regiment from 1953 to 1971. When he retired, he went to live in South Africa where he died in 2013. During his time as a soldier he wrote a series of letters to his parents and, later to Fiona, his wife, describing life and events in some of the places he served. His letters are full of interest, pithy in their comments, perceptive about people and highly amusing about some of his encounters. They cover three periods: his service in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in the Canal Zone in 1954; his time as an ADC to the Governor General of New Zealand in 1959/60 and, thirdly, in the late summer of 1967, his command of the Royal Guard at Balmoral. However, these military letters should not be confused with the many letters he later wrote from South Africa after 1971 describing life in that country.

Some have felt for some time that the letters should be given wider publicity because of what they tell us about the places, events and people Philip encountered. The Erskine family agree and have enthusiastically supported the suggestion that they should be edited and compiled into a single volume, and that is what is now being done. The lockdown has given me an ideal opportunity to do the necessary work and I hope to publish later this summer.

It is always difficult to know what the 'take up' for a book of this nature might be and therefore how many copies to have printed. I would hope that it will appeal to those who knew Philip, but also to those serving in the Regiment today who could find descriptions of a regimental officer's life over fifty years ago interesting. The probable price will be not be more than £15 including P&P in the UK, but a bit more for overseas. The book is approximately 130 pages in length, has a number of photographs and maps and is to be published by Radius Publishing in York. Should sales generate an excess, a contribution will be made to the Regiment's charitable funds. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, it would be helpful to know, although you are clearly not committed. A simple message – 'Erskine -yes' or 'Erskine – possibly' would be appreciated, either to [murray.naylor64@gmail.com](mailto:murray.naylor64@gmail.com) or to 07889 138381.

## **VETERANS CROSSING AMERICA**



Major (Retired) Richard Sinclair MBE was commissioned in 1994, was 2IC B Coy, Ops Offr 1SG, and commanded F Company around 2003. Major Gary Dunning was his CSM. He left the Army in 2009. He asked if I'd let the Association know of his charity campaign to distribute face coverings to support the SG charity and SAS Association. See the link to his website. <https://www.veteranscrossingamerica.com/>

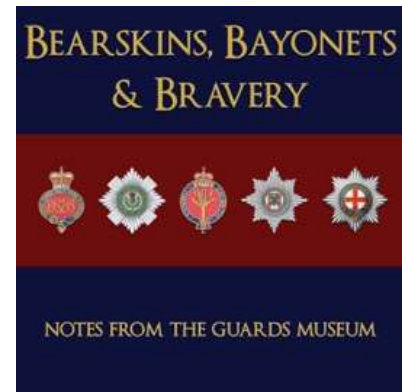




## THE GUARDS MUSEUM

The Museum has been hard hit by the enforced closure due to Covid 19. The museum's revenue sources have all disappeared: visitor footfall, corporate entertainment, VIP tours, lectures, all gone without prospect of them returning. They are all based on tourism which is unlikely to recover until mid-2021 at the earliest.

During lockdown there has been a Guards Museum weekly podcast called "Bearskins, Bayonets & Bravery" which you can Google. The podcasts are a mixture of guided tours of the galleries, readings from the biographies of eminent former Guardsmen and interviews with some key blue-red-blue characters. If anyone can donate to help preserve the existence of the museum please go to the donations page on the Guards Museum website at [www.theguardsmuseum.com](http://www.theguardsmuseum.com) and click on the Donation button.



## THE POPPY FACTORY

Lady Haig Poppy Factory which opened in 1926, was temporarily moved from its home in Edinburgh's Canonmills 18 months ago to Redford Barracks, Edinburgh for a major refurbishment.

The ex-servicemen and women have worked at home through lockdown to make four million poppies for this year's remembrance events. They made tens of thousands of poppies every week from their homes in a bid to meet their 1 June deadline. A core team of 14 reopened the factory to use the machinery to make the petals and to provide the materials for workers to pick up from the back door every fortnight. Factory manager Major Charlie Pelling said he was very proud of his team and that if they had stopped working during lockdown they would not have been able to meet their target. A small group of veterans have been working to prepare the factory for a hoped for full return to work with the necessary distancing measures.



**Paul Dickson 1SG served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf War**



**John Michell 2SG fought in the Falkland Islands**

Other Scots Guardsmen working at the Poppy Factory are Danny Minto (Foreman) Willie Urban, Fraser Rowan, Donald McLeod (with Biggles) and Craig Dickson (son of Gordon Dickson). **Well Done to all Veterans at the Poppy Factory.**



## DAME VERA LYNN – A SCOTS GUARDS CONNECTION

We were all saddened to hear the news on 18 June that Forces Sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn had passed away aged 103. As we have seen again this year during Covid 19 and VE Day 75 in May Dame Vera's songs from World War 2 still resonate with us today.

Dame Vera's home was in Ditchling, Sussex. The late Major Tony Philipson MBE also lived in the village and they were great friends. Major Philipson served from 1940 – 1946, he was taken POW at Salerno in September 1943. Afterwards he became a schoolmaster before rejoining the Regiment and serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Egypt 1952 – 54.

As Commander Junior Guardsmen's Company at the Guards Depot it was largely his vision and inspiration that pioneered the training of 15 & 16 year olds throughout the Army. Initially he took the boys from all the Corps of Drums of the Foot Guards Battalions to Pirbright giving them and the thousands who followed the wider prospects of promotion. He was proud that so many ex Juniors became senior Warrant Officers.

In his final post he served the Regiment with notable success as Recruiting Officer for some 10 years which were often difficult times for recruiting. He toured the length & breadth of the country stirring our Sergeants and all staff in Recruiting Offices. He used his phenomenal memory for names & faces. He produced many smiling photographs of Scots Guardsmen from his ever active camera, he visited families. He wrote to parents sending them the already mentioned photographs as many of us can testify, when my own mother passed away we came across letters and photographs from him going back 15 plus years. He believed that our families were the best recruiters of all.

He was a man of thoughtfulness and kindness, I worked for Major Philipson on the Regimental Recruiting Team and in Edinburgh Castle from late 1973 to early 1975. When my two lads were born in 1976 & 1979 he sent them gifts with a connection to their grandparents. Major Philipson retired from the Regiment in 1975 and went home to Ditchling where he no doubt spent time with his friend Dame Vera Lynn and where they were highly respected.



**Dame Vera Lynn**



**A photo sent to my parents. Taken in Sharjah by Major Phillipson with a young Crockett in the centre. No doubt the parents of the others in the photo received a copy as well.**



**Major AT Phillipson MBE**

## PIPE MAJOR BENNETT – HE'S NEW TO THE AULD ALLIANCE



**On his first day in his new post Pipe Major Bennett from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had the honour to lead the President of France, the first foreign dignitary to visit UK in lockdown.**