

# 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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## **FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards Falklands Memorial – Ajax Bay**

**By Major James Kelly, Regt Adjutant**

I have been in correspondence with Major General Rupert Jones (son of the late Colonel H) who is President of the Falkland Islands Memorial Trust.

He told me a few months ago that the SG memorial had inadvertently been built just inside the white painted ring of white stones that delineated where the fallen had been temporarily buried before receiving proper graves, and therefore technically in consecrated ground.

Having consulted with Ronnie Paterson to ensure that those who originally built the cairn were not going to be offended, the stones have been very sensitively moved and rebuilt a few feet further up the hill, commanding the same (if not better) view of the Sound. Therefore, it is now outside the consecrated grave area and thus no one now will need to tread into the consecrated area to look at and read the memorial and its inscription.

General Jones tells me now “The team have done a great job of sensitively moving the Ajax Bay SG memorial a short distance.”

The Command Warrant Officer of British Forces in the Falkland Islands reported: “ We’ve been battling the weather and the Roulement Infantry Company’s busy schedule. Cpl Tait from 2 SCOTS (Spt Coy) managed to get over to Ajax Bay last week and, helped by a small team, have relocated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Scots Guards Memorial outside of the temporary burial site.”

## **Falkland Islands Remembrance**

Wednesday 12 June at Laurencekirk Cemetery 1100hrs. To remember LSgt Clark Mitchell. Iain Bryson will play a lament.

Saturday 15 June at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh 1400hrs. To Remember DSgt Danny Wight. John Fraser will play a lament.

Please attend if you are able.

## **NEWS FROM REGIMENTAL WEEKEND 3 – 5 MAY 2019 – LONDON**

What a success the weekend was:

**The Warrant Officers & Sgt’s Past and Present Association** On Friday night members came together for their Annual General Meeting.

**Scots Guards Association Annual General Meeting.** On Saturday the AGM was very positive and included the following:

### **Review of the Way Ahead – 12 Months On**

The Chairman spoke to highlight that all Regional Councils in the UK have an Armed Forces Champion. They are former Armed Forces personnel who are now Councillors where they live. It was highlighted the help given by the local AF Champion in Fife with the Sgt John McAulay VC Commemoration & Gdsm Brian Hall’s name to Dunfermline War Memorial. He mentioned Alf Clempson, Chairman of the Preston Branch & AF Champion for Lancashire County Council. It is worthwhile Branches making themselves known to Armed Forces Champions and seeking their help when appropriate.

The Regt Adjt spoke about the memorial in Normandy for 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tank) Bn Scots Guards 75 Anniversary of the Battle of Caumont which is going to be unveiled at the end of July. Captain (Retd) Hew Balfour is now taking the lead on this, encouraging fund raising and advising relatives of 3SG of the event. He is seeking to find any other surviving members of 3 SG or their relatives. Brass plaques to 3SG will also be unveiled at SG Club Edinburgh and the Guards Chapel, most likely in the Autumn. Colin Foster a military history enthusiast has written a book about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn at the Battle of Caumont and gives presentations. Rab Ritchie said the Berks, Bucks & Ox Branch arranged a presentation by Colin and explained a little about it.

The Comd Off & RSM 1SG are committed to encourage those serving to become affiliated to a Branch of the Association. Major Cape informed the meeting that approximately 80% serving Officers and Other Ranks were now affiliated to Branches. They pay a subscription and their nominated Branch should keep in regular touch with them. The Secretary reported that in most cases we do now get an email address for each man and should be sending Branch news out to them. Secretary also reported that he had been able to contact most of those men affiliated to his own Branch (Fife) through Facebook.

The Sergeant Major said that he will attend as many Branch Dinners as duties allow.. He will contact the many former senior & other ranks that he knows and encourage them to meet him at the dinners he’s attending. This in turn could encourage those men to join their local SGA Branch.

### Regimental Update

The Commanding Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion said that recruiting to the Regiment had been disappointing. There had been well advertised challenges across the whole army and the posting to Aldershot had not been universally popular with the Bn.

The Bn strength is 450 against a required strength of 709.

Op Tosca (Cyprus) had been a good experience. After post operational leave training continues and there are opportunities for sport abroad including to St Lucia, Canada and Fiji.

Recruitment and retention are on the up, looks set to grow.

In Mid 2020 the Battalion is to move to Somme Barracks, Catterick. The accommodation isn't in the best condition but when the Bn arrives they will quickly set about improving things. The move to Catterick will give better opportunity for members of the Bn to get home to Scotland more often.

The Bn is due to go to Iraq for an operational tour in December 2020 and one company will go to Sudan. The Bn will hopefully go to Kenya in early 2020.

The Regiment will be in Edinburgh in July 2019 for Royal Week. Companies will be in Scotland /NE England during the summer for recruiting and training. They hope that members of the Association will be able to help with recruiting and visit training when opportunities arise.

### Regimental Welfare Officers Update

The need for welfare support continues to exist and the SGC continues to ensure that we remain in the best position possible to provide support to our Deserving Veterans and their families. Please convey to all SGA Welfare Officers that when identifying a Scots Guards Veteran that requires assistance then give the Regimental Finance and Welfare Officer a call in the Edinburgh Office to discuss a plan of action.

This year we have given Benevolence support to 98 Scots Guardsmen and their families this is an increase from 84 cases for year 17/18. The Regiment has provided £54,866.27 which is around average in comparison of the last 5 years. The significant change is the other £133,430.61 that was given from the other charities.

The Breakdown of £113,430.61 from other Charities are as follows:

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • ABF £46,044            | • SCT £24,000                   |
| • Poppy Scotland £17,569 | • AFSF - £500                   |
| • TRBL £7,299            | • RLC - £3,310                  |
| • RA £1,560              | • TRBL (Womens) £407.98         |
| • RMP 250                | • Royal Caledonian Trust £3,050 |
| • SSAFA £671.7           | • RE – 350                      |
| • H4H £3,984             | • Officer Association - £3,860  |

To summarise we have given £168,296.61 to 98 Deserving cases average case being £1,717.31

Breakdown of categories by service:

- |                               |           |              |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| • CAT 1 - Served Pre 1945     | 4x Case   | 0 Last Year  |
| • CAT 2 - Served 1946 to 1970 | 14x Cases | 12 Last Year |
| • CAT 3 - Served 1971 to 1995 | 50x Cases | 37 Last Year |
| • CAT 4 - Served 1996 to 2019 | 28x Cases | 34 Last Year |
| • CAT 5 - Still Serving       | 2 x Cases | 1 Last Year  |

The Geographical Breakdown is as follows:

- Scots Cases x 57
- English Cases x 38
- Others x 3
- 

Those statistics are still demonstrating the shift from the older generation and sits more with the younger CAT 3 & 4. With the exception of this year's spike in cases, the previous 2 years have shown a decline in cases and expenditure has increased over the last 3 years.

The need for benevolence support is on an increasing trend and has been for some years. This balanced with the new protection measure being introduced with the Casework Management System (2) will bring a heavy training bill for all users especially the complexity of our SSAFA and TRBL Volunteers, which I suspect the main reason around the current delay of CMS (2) being rolled out.



**Regimental Remembrance Sunday 5 May** This took place in its traditional form. Former & Serving members of the Regiment attended a service in the Guards Chapel followed by the parade to the Guards Memorial. Wreaths were laid in The Guards Chapel by Tony Mason (Secretary Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway) and at the Guards Memorial by Ian Colbridge (London).

Then lunch and drinks in the Other Ranks Dining Room which was followed by a chance to meet for pint & a natter with friends old and new. As ever it was a pleasure to chat with our serving soldiers and found them all to be in very good form.



**Gds Memorial, Wreath Laying Party. Ian Colbridge, London Branch prepares to lay the Regimental Wreath**



**Border Branch Secretary, Eck Barclay with F Company Sergeants**

## **NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES**

### **Aberdeen**

Members of the Branch will attend The Big Curry Lunch in aid of Armed Forces Day on Friday 28 June at Aberdeen Town House.

Find out when the Branch holds its regular monthly meetings Secretary: Graeme Thompson Email: [gthompson246@btinternet.com](mailto:gthompson246@btinternet.com) or Tel: 01224 317738.

### **Durham & Yorkshire**

The Branch will have it's monthly Sunday Lunch at The Comet, Hurworth near Darlington on Sunday 2 June. The next Branch Meeting will be at Newton Aycliffe WMC on Wed 12 June.

For more details call Secretary Peter Wheadon Email: [wheadonp3014@aol.co.uk](mailto:wheadonp3014@aol.co.uk) Tel: 01325 319125

### **Fife**

The Branch Golf Competition will take place at Thornton GC on Friday 28 June. Golfers from other Branches wanting to play, contact Neil Crockett.

The Branch will hold its Annual Bowls Competition & Grand Draw at Markinch BC on Sunday 18 August (Note change of date).

For more information Secretary: Neil Crockett Email: [neil.crockett@btopenworld.com](mailto:neil.crockett@btopenworld.com) Tel: 01383 – 721530

### **Glasgow**

Many thanks go to Mr David Cairns for inviting the Branch to hold a Garden Party at his beautiful home. A little rain didn't dampen spirits and a good time was had by all.

Check Secretary Keith Norwood for more events. Email: [keith.norwood@hotmail.com](mailto:keith.norwood@hotmail.com) or Tel: 0141 577 6946.

### **Preston**

The Branch will host a Vets Fest on 9 June at Lostock Hall Conservative Club in aid of St Catherines Hospice & SGA Preston. Live music, quiz, raffle, Hotpot. To find out more about what the Branch is up to contact Secretary Steve Hills Tel: 07971 043876 Email: [shills72@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shills72@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Pipers**

At the recent AGM of the Branch Mr Malcolm Innes handed over to Mr Angus Cheape. Treasurer Rab Ross stood down & was replaced by John Rae.

For Pipers news contact Secretary Dougie Watson Email: [sgpipersbranchsecy@gmail.com](mailto:sgpipersbranchsecy@gmail.com) Tel: 07515 263716

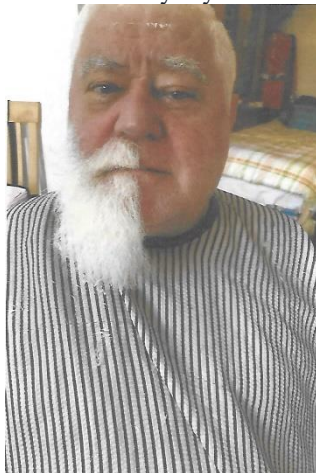
## Merseyside

### Show Himself Properly Shaven – But Not Until May 2019

After growing a beard for some months in aid of Alder Hey Hospital, Children's Cancer Ward Branch Secretary Jimmy Horne has shaved it off and has reverted to his usual handsome self. Jimmy says "Thanks" for all the kind donations.



**Going**



**Going**



**Gone**

To find out what else the Merseyside Branch is up to call or email Jimmy Tel: 0151 520 0229

Email: [james\\_horne@btinternet.com](mailto:james_horne@btinternet.com)

## Surrey

The Branch held a very successful annual dinner on Friday 10 May at Clandon Regus GC near Guildford. The outgoing President Major John Whiteley received a present from the Branch on handing over to Major Jeremy Warren.

For details contact Secretary: David O'Connell Tel: 01485 233223 Email: [dandm.oc@talktalk.net](mailto:dandm.oc@talktalk.net)

## Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association

### Fri 14 – Mon 17 June Reunion Weekend, Blackpool

For more details contact Secretary Bill McDowall Email: [billmcdowall@live.co.uk](mailto:billmcdowall@live.co.uk) or Tel: 07860 401434

## DEATHS

### Third Guards Club

Lieutenant REK Hutton died 21 April 2019 aged 84 living in Portugal. Served 1SG Egypt, London 1954 – 55.

### Not Members of the Association

23908105 LSgt Stewart Paterson Aged 73 Served 1962 – 1973 1SG. Will be well remembered with his twin brother. Lived Northampton.

2702652 LSgt Kenneth Targett Aged 92 Died 19 April 2019. Served June 1944 – October 1949.

22215103 Gdsm Lennard Larber Died 15 May 2019. Served 2SG June 1948 – July 1953. Including Malaya.

23229043 Gdsm Wilfred Woodruff Died late April 2019 Served 2SG 1955 – 19 Feb 1960. Lived Birkenhead, Merseyside.

## NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

News from the Battalion has been predominately of sport as 3 teams have deployed to display the prowess as Gladiators.

The Football team headed to Canada where they so far have won 1 & drawn 1.

The Bn Cricket team have been in St Lucia. Other than cricket they took time to help repaint a local school which included a patch of Blue, Red, Blue. On the Cricket field they have come up against some feisty bowling. A great experience & a case of HOWZAT!

The Rugby team headed off to Fiji for a 16 day tour to play 3 official matches. A number of friendly matches have been played including against the village of Colo-I-Suva where LSgt Suguturaga grew up. The 1<sup>st</sup> time he had been home in 13 years.

Away from the rugby field the team had the honour to march behind the Republic of Fiji Military Forces New Guard for the Presidential Palace. History was made as it was the 1<sup>st</sup> time the honour has been bestowed on overseas military.



Closer to home the Bn MTB Team took part in an Army Cycling X-Country event at Sherwood Pines their 1<sup>st</sup> outing since return from Cyprus with more events in the pipeline.

On the military training front the Bn Machine Gun Platoon, currently part of C Company are deploying with Right Flank on exercise where they will be honing their specialist skills. Right Flank will be deploying to Kirkcudbright for 2 weeks to undertake a Battle Craft Syllabus. Before hand they have been assembling the new Virtus Equipment. Virtus is one of the most advanced body armour, helmet & load carrying systems in the world.

The Battalion Shooting Team have been competing at the Divisional Competition & in doing so they qualified for the Defence Operational Shooting Competition coming up at Bisley.

A week or so ago the Bn Pacesticking Competition took place which saw the Headquarter Company Team emerge as winners of both the Team & Individual prizes. Well Done to the team of WO2 Davies, CSgt Blackstock, LSgt Gilbert & individual winner Sgt Grant. Next up is the All Arms International Pacesticking Competition at RMA Sandhurst on 13 June when they will represent the Battalion.

Mid May saw the Commanding Officer carry out a Recce of the new home of the 1st Battalion. Somme Barracks, Catterick where they will move in 2020.

Meanwhile the Regimental Band & F Company have been hard at work preparing for the Queen's Birthday Parade, when 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Grenadier Guards Troop their Colour on Saturday 8 June.

The Regimental Band also take part in the Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade on Wednesday & Thursday 5 & 6 June.

Earlier in May the Regt Band welcomed back into the fold LCpl Stephen Shepherd & Musician Rachel Kendall who had been performing in Vietnam & Malaysia as part of the Household Division Saxophone Quartet.

## **BITS & PIECES**

### **Op Banner 50**

The Royal British Legion will host a commemorative event on Wednesday 14 August 2019 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UK Armed Forces deployment on operations in Northern Ireland – the longest continuous campaign in British military history. The event will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Note: Op Banner 50 is a closed accredited event, not open to the general public. Check [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) for eligibility and full details.



**Well Done Willie Urban (Chairman Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association & Poppy Factory) who captained the Lady Haig's Walking Football Team in a tournament for veterans. Loyal supporters who turned up to support Willie were Ronnie Hynd & Steve Simpson.**

### **Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2019**

#### **Information from Major Tom Ormiston Secretary London Branch**

He is starting to pull in details of those who want to attend Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in November. Email me with your full name, DOB, address, place of birth, rest number, and any campaign medals held. I have been allocated 25 places. Priority will, as always, go to those who have marched with us over the years and any tickets left will go into a ballot. The Legion have told me that priority is to be given to veterans first then to widows of the fallen.

Email: [t.ormiston@ntlworld.com](mailto:t.ormiston@ntlworld.com)

Tel: 01480 460727

### A Quick Trip to Birkenhead

The Editor had occasion to travel to old stamping grounds on Merseyside at the end of May to visit his sister & family in Birkenhead. Peter Sullivan known to many of you lives in the same road as Crockett's sister and the opportunity was taken to call in to see Peter for a quick brew of tea and a catch up. Peter is in good form, he sends best wishes to you all & hopes to see you all at the Gathering in September.

### RMA Sandhurst Reunion

Information is frequently requested by former officers seeking to find the Company staff from their time at Sandhurst. This time around can I ask that anyone who knows the whereabouts of Lt Col Steff Alexander (CSgt 1993 - 94) or Rab Kennedy can they email [sga@scotsguards.co.uk](mailto:sga@scotsguards.co.uk) The reunion this time is for Burma Company Sept 1993 – Aug 1994 when Rab Kennedy was CSM & Steff Alexander CSgt.



### Kiltwalk

Walk the Kiltwalk for Erskine! That's exactly what a group of Scots Guards veterans and friends did. Veteran Scots Guardsman Bill McDowall who is now Erskine IT Manager was delighted to accept a fantastic donation of £3589. The team was arranged by John Bradley who reports:

The guys and Mrs Theresa Davidson that walked the Glasgow Kiltwalk for Erskine handed over the money that we raised, it was fantastic that two of the staff and one of the residents Mr Bob Cruikshank joined us. The Regimental Support Team from Edinburgh came along. The plaque that we had made for Erskine will be placed either at or on the wall just as you enter the grounds of the hospital. I would like on behalf of the team who completed the walk to thank each and everyone that sponsored us and everyone that so very kindly made donations.



### Scots Guards Veterans & Guests Golf – Bathgate GC 30 April – 4 May 2019

Peter Bakhsh (Guest), Alan Fotheringham, Eamon Gallagher (Guest), Paddy McEnhill, Vince Parrot, Sandy Henderson (Guest), Kevin Wildish, Jimmy McCulloch, Bob Blair, Willie McIntosh, Iain McIntosh, Mick Murray. A good week & thoroughly enjoyed by all.





### Operation Motorman Reunion – Saturday 18 May 2019

Well done to Charlie Knott (Right Hand Man) for arranging this now annual event at the Scots Guards Club.



## VETS FEST SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE FREE ENTRY

### Veterans' Music Festival

Absolutely everyone is welcome to the Preston Scots Guards Association's first "Vets Fest" at the Lostock Hall Conservative Club, Preston, PR5 5AA. Doors open at 1pm. Bring along all family and friends for a great afternoon of live music, quiz, raffle, tasty hotpot and entertainment to raise money for two great causes: St Catherine's Hospice and The Preston Scots Guards Association.

**All ages welcome.**

**Lostock Hall  
Conservative Club**

**Music, Quiz and  
Entertainment**

**1:30pm – 5:00pm**

**Music by  
Salesbury Guitar  
Group**

**and**

**The Preston City  
Pipe Band**

**Hot Pot**

**For More Info.**

**Contact:**

**Michael Nutter**

**Tel.**

**07976 909001**

**In aid of St Catherine's Hospice  
and The Preston Scots  
Guards Association**

**St Catherine's**  
hospice care





### **Armed Forces Day Events**

Events will take place across the UK at the end of June. Check for the events in your local area.



# **EDINBURGH ARMED FORCES DAY**

## **22 JUNE 2019**

**Note: A change of date to that given previously.**

**Lets do our bit and parade – Dress: Beret / Medals, Blazer / Suit/**

**Form Up: Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.**

**Time: 1000hrs**

**Parade Marches Off: 1020hrs.**

**Parade Route: Flat – Along George Street to St Andrews Square. A salute will be given to Edinburgh Lord Provost at South Castle Street.**

**The Parade will halt at St Andrews Square where there the bands will play. There will be displays and a Beer Tent.**

**The Event ends at 1500hrs.**

**The Scots Guards Club will be open – why not nip in for a pint afterwards.**



**Glasgow Branch Garden Party – Ppr Bell & 2 members of the RST. Jim McArthur (Treasurer), David Cairns (host), Captain Eddie Edmonstone (Chairman), Captain John Ford & Keith Norwood (Secretary).**



**Chairman Gavin Ives makes a presentation to Major John Whiteley at the Surrey Branch Dinner. Lieutenant General Hew Pike sits to the right of the photo. He was Commanding Officer 3 Para in the Falklands 1982.**



**Its amazing who you bump into at Buckingham Palace Garden Parties.**

**Former Scots Guards LSgt (RF 1SG 1970s) transferred to the RAF and at the age of 63 he's still in uniform. Sqn Ldr Tristram Carter meets Steve Duffy & Captain (Retd) Dixie Ingram & Major (Retd) Colin Coull in the Gardens of Buckingham Palace.**

#### **REGIMENTAL GATHERING NEWS – SATURDAY 7 & SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**

Information is now available. If you want to attend you should apply to your local SGA Branch Secretary - But if you cannot do that please contact Neil Crockett by Email: [sga@scotsguards.co.uk](mailto:sga@scotsguards.co.uk) or Tel: 01383 – 721530 for details.

**NOTE: You do need tickets to get into Gathering events – Please do apply well in advance.**

It is now time to think about the Gathering which takes place on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The Gathering will be held at Fife Airport, Glenrothes. Further information will be given out soon.

Entry into the Gathering will be by ticket which will cost £2.00. Each adult will require a ticket to enter the area and it would be preferable that tickets are purchased through Branches prior to arrival at Fife Airport. Children under 14 will be free.

Programmes will be available on the day.

Car Parking is no problem for either cars or coaches. I will produce passes for all vehicles including disabled people.

The Band Concert will be in Dunfermline Abbey on Saturday night which will be ticketed but free. A collection will be taken at the end and all monies collected will go to Dunfermline Abbey Funds & The Scots Guards Charity.

The Band Concert will be part of Dunfermline Outwith Music, Theatre & Arts Festival. There are lots of car parks in Dunfermline, the closest is a 2 minutes walk to the Abbey.

A cold buffet supper will be held afterwards at The King Malcolm Hotel, Dunfermline about 10 minutes by car from the Abbey. Entry to this will be by ticket only and the cost of supper this year will be £10.00 per person.

Cheques should be made payable to the “Scots Guards Association”. To be returned to me by Friday 2 August 2019.