

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**

**March 2021
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Front Page Photographs:

Pipe Majors of the Regiment

Top L-R: Wellington Barracks 1962 Gabby Roe BEM (1SG), Curly Roe (Piping School) , Bob Kilgour (2SG Designate), Bob Crabbe (2SG)

Bottom L-R: St James Palace 1980. Sandy Davidson (2SG), A McDonald (Edinburgh Castle), HRH The Colonel, Dixie Ingram (Gds Depot Piping School), John Slattery (1SG), Jimmy Banks (1SG Designate)

CORRECTION

February 2021 edition - Origins of Rabbits Breakfast: I have been told that it was CSM G Company, Eddie McKay who arranged the first Rabbits Breakfast as a G Company Sgts Mess function when he took over as Seagull in Chelsea Barracks in 1981 and not earlier as was reported last month. I'm happy to make this correction.

Many of the traditions of the 1st Rabbits Breakfast continue to this day such as the fresh carrots displayed on stacked drums and then claimed as a badge of honour in breast pockets of suits. Nowadays the fresh carrots are immediately placed in suit breast pockets and still worn as a badge of honour.

We've missed the Rabbits Breakfast for 2021 but I'm sure it will successfully return in February 2022.

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING MARCH IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

Afghanistan

31 March 2011 CSgt Allan Cameron 1st Battalion. Died as a result of wounds received on 13 April 2010. CSgt Cameron received serious injuries when he was struck by an IED while on foot patrol north of Lashkar Gah.



CSgt Allan Cameron

REGIMENTAL EVENTS

Regimental Remembrance Sunday - Guards Chapel – 18 April 2021 **CANCELLED**

The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and Regimental Adjutant have reluctantly made the decision to cancel this year's Black Sunday. Major Kelly will lay a wreath at the Guards' Memorial as last year with a piper and a drummer. It is hoped to make a short video to commemorate Black Sunday with appropriate musical accompaniment.

Scots Guards Association, Annual General Meeting – Saturday 17 April 2021 **CANCELLED**

Regimental Gathering – Somme Barracks, Catterick -11 & 12 September 2021

Plans for the Regimental Gathering are currently being made and by mid June we expect to have a clearer indication if the Gathering will be able to go ahead at Somme Barracks, Catterick over the weekend 11 – 12 September 2021.

If the Gathering can go ahead on Saturday evening 11 September there will be either a band concert or beating retreat with the venue in the local area to be confirmed. On Sunday 12 September being the main day it will take its traditional form at Somme Barracks with a start time of approximately 1200hrs with a march past of the Regiment (both past & serving marching together), the Regt Band and Pipe Bands, arena displays, food outlets and a bar. The Gathering will go on until approximately 1730hrs. Tickets will be required, plans are at an early stage and you will get more updates in due course.

One planning decision already made is that there will be no outlay of unrecoverable funds before mid June at the earliest when the situation will be re-evaluated. I highlight this point to you below in reference to travel and accommodation plans.

It is very obvious already that there is a lot of interest in attending the Gathering by Scots Guards veterans, both SGA members and otherwise. SGA Branches and individual members may want to give early consideration to their plans for attending but please make sure that any travel or accommodation bookings are refundable if the Gathering cannot go ahead.

DEATHS

Third Guards Club

Lord Samuel George Armstrong Vestey GCVO GCStJ. Died 4 February 2021 Age 79. He was only three years old when he inherited his father's title when the latter, Lord William Vestey, 2nd Baron Vestey, was Killed in Action while serving in the Regiment in Italy in 1944.

Lord Vestey enlisted on Brigade Squad on 11th September 1959 and joined his father's Regiment in 1960, being posted to the First Battalion in BAOR, Germany on 24 June 1960. He was posted to Kenya in East Africa with the Second Battalion in 1962. It was a period in his life when he always said he was most happy. He made numerous lifelong friends there including Johnny (later Colonel OBE MC) Clavering. He was posted to the Guards Depot and retired from the Army in June 1963.

Lord Vestey played a huge part in running his family business Vestey Holdings and a much loved figure in the racing world, in White's, in the Turf Club and much more.

He loyally served his Sovereign and was for many years Master of the Horse, Lord Prior of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and a Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

Association Members

Aberdeen & NE Scotland Branch

22551627 Bill Berry MBE Died 15 February 2021. Age 85. Served 1953 – 1957 1SG / 2SG and was a Trained Soldier at the Gds Depot. Bill served in Aberdeen City & Grampian Police for 30 years. He was an 8th Dan at Judo, an international judo judge and a former chairman of Judo Scotland.

Dundee & Angus Branch

22215993 Ian Piggot Died 17 February 2021. Former Chairman of the Dundee and Angus Branch. Funeral 2 March 1130hrs at Friockem Crematorium.

Fife Branch

24076866 WO2 Vince Parrott Died 25 February 2021. Served 1968 – early 1990s. Mostly Mortar Pltn 1SG, Gds Depot & Edinburgh UOTC. Lived Livingston.

World War 2

Sadly, we have lost four of our Regimental World War 2 veterans.

Third Guards Club & Former Central Branch

Sir William McPherson of Cluny Died 14 February 2021 Aged 94. Commissioned and served from 1945 – 47. He was serving at the Scots Guards Training Bn as at VE Day 8 May 1945 and in 2020 received a letter of thanks for his WW2 service from the RLC on VE Day 75. After 1947 he served with 21 SAS TA commanding the Regiment from 1962 – 1965. He was a High Court Judge and chaired the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. Sir William was 27th Chief of the Macpherson clan and lived near Blairgowrie.

Third Guards Club & Highlands & Islands Branch

Major Ruairaidh Edward MacLeod Robertson Hilleary ERD. Died 15 February 2021. Commissioned and served from 1944. He was at the Scots Guards Training Bn as at VE Day 8 May 1945 and in 2020 he received a letter of thanks for his WW2 service from the RLC on VE Day 75. He served with 1SG in Trieste and later 2 SG in Cologne in the aftermath of the war until 1949. He also served in 21 SAS joining C Sqn in 1950. He formed the 1st SAS TA Sqn in Scotland, D Sqn 23 SAS in 1967. Lived Isle of Skye.

2702318 CQMS Peter Lawlor Died 21 January 2021. Age 94. Served from January 1944 after the Gds Depot he served at the SG Trg Bn, Pirbright. He served in Trieste (1SG) and Germany (2SG) in the aftermath of World War 2. 2SG Malaya 1948-51. Eaton Hall Officer Cadet Trg 1952 – 54 and with 1SG in Egypt 1954. He finished his service in the early 1960's in 1SG and lived in Gravesend.

Glasgow Branch

2703476 Gdsm John Halliday Died 7 January 2020. Age 93. Enlisted 9 November 1944, Served Gds Depot then Scots Guards Training Bn from 15 Feb 1945. Served 1SG in Trieste and 2SG in Germany until late 1945. Lived Glasgow.

Non Association Members

25002591 Gdsm Robert MacConnachie Died 21 January 2021. Age 46. Enlisted as a Junior in 1990. Served G Coy, 2SG & LF, 1SG June 1991 – July 1997. Including 1SG Ballykinler.

24795478 Gdsm Mark O'Sullivan Died early February 2021. Served 1SG late 1980s early 1990s including Gulf 1991.

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

18 REGIONAL BRANCHES ACROSS THE UK

1 BRANCH IN AUSTRALIA - 1 BRANCH IN NORTH AMERICA

| BRANCH | SECRETARY | EMAIL | TELEPHONE |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
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| Surrey | David O'Connell | davidandmairioc@gmail.com | 01483 233223 |
| Tumbledown Veterans & Fams Assoc | TBC | New Secretary Pending | |
| Malaya & Borneo Veterans Assoc | Sandy Low | sandy.low57@gmail.com | 01723 892049 |
| SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland) | Iain Lowther | iain-lowther68@outlook.com | 07484 637188 |

**GIVE YOUR CLOSEST BRANCH A CALL & ASK ABOUT
JOINING IN WITH BRANCH ACTIVITIES. MEET FRIENDS
FROM YOUR SERVICE & MEET NEW FRIENDS TOO!**



ASSOCIATION NEWS

I would ask all Branches and all individual members to make every attempt to keep in touch with other members by phone, email, letter or even a socially distanced knock at the door. Particularly to keep an eye on our vulnerable members.

Aberdeen & NE Scotland Branch

The Branch complete its AGM by email on 4 February.

The Office Bearers for 2021 are:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| President: | Captain The Hon JA Forbes |
| Chairman: | Mitchell Pyper |
| Vice Chairman: | Brian Harrison |
| Secretary / Treasurer: | Graeme Thompson |

Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire Branch

The Branch AGM due to take place on 26 March @ Datchet GC is cancelled instead an AGM by email will be completed and the outcome published after 26 March.

The Branch hopes to hold a full meeting on 30 April at Datchet Golf Club.

Borders Branch

It is with great disappointment that the Branch have cancelled their 60th Annual Dinner due to be held on 13 March at Hawick Rugby Club. The 60th Dinner will now take place in March 2022.

Fife Branch

The Branch completed its AGM by email / letter on Sunday 28 February.

The Office Bearers for 2021 are:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| President: | Sir Robert Spencer Nairn |
| Chairman / Treasurer: | Gordon Dickson |
| Secretary: | Neil Crockett |

SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)

Pipe Major Iain Lowther reports today (28 February 2021). "I was running a zoom practice today for the band and if I'm honest I'm zoomed out after being on every day (for his day job) for the last three weeks. Good numbers today with 18 pipers on and 6 drummers". **Well Done All**

Scots Guards Club ~ Membership

We are now open for membership renewals. If you live locally and usually renew in person, then it is quite all right to wait until the doors are open again, at which time you can do so in the usual way.

If you prefer to renew online, you can do this now by making 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 name and address and we'll get your membership card posted out to you. £20 or £15 if over 65.

Thank you in advance for continuing to support the Club and we very much look forward to seeing you later in the year.

Best wishes from all the Team.

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

10 February

20 new Gdsm joined F Company. A huge boost for morale to see some new faces in London where they will spend a short time before joining the Battalion.

22 February

20 new Guardsmen and 2 new REME have arrived in Battalion, they will all join C Company and proudly become 'Rabbits'.

BITS AND PIECES

HAPPY 97th BIRTHDAY

To Regimental WW2 Veteran Desmond Collett we wish “ A Very Happy 97th Birthday” on Wednesday 3 March.

Des served in the 1st Battalion and was taken POW at Anzio in January 1944.

Rab Ritchie of the SGA Berks, Buck & Ox Branch keeps in regular touch with Des & Major Hugh Cantlie who lives closest in Oxfordshire is able to check on him in his carehome from time to time.

MEMORIALS TO SCOTS GUARDSMEN

Many of you will remember the Scots Guards Memorial Project set up some years ago. After a period of collating the information held, Captain (Retd) Michael Campbell – Lamerton is ready to receive the new fruits of your new searches.

See Mikie Campbell Lamerton’s message to you all below:

I am a member of our Regiment’s Historical Committee. I took on the responsibility last year, from Neil Crockett, to manage the project that we have to keep a record of any memorials to Scots Guardsmen. This can be any memorial, even if it has disappeared or is recorded in a book or publication, for us any memorial will do.

I am therefore asking if you happen to come across a memorial (not in a Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries or Memorials) to a member of our Regiment, either visually or online I would be grateful if you could perhaps take a picture or send me a web link.

I am sure you have plenty of time at present to do some hunting on the internet, until the weather improves next year and we are indeed all allowed to go out uninhibited ! Example would be a Scots Guardsmen listed on a village war memorial or on a plaque in a church. Please email me Michael@hallestate.co.uk a photograph and where the picture was taken.

The plan in the future is to add a section on memorials in the Scots Guards website. I would be grateful for anything that you can send to me, thank you.

Mikie Campbell-Lamerton



CSM George Evans VC 18th Battalion The Manchester Regiment

This is an example of the type of memorials Captain Michael Campbell-Lamerton is collating on behalf of the Regimental Historical Committee. Bob McDonald supplied the photograph which sits close by the grave of Lt Col Frank Bourne - The inspirational CSgt of the film Zulu (Rourke’s Drift) fame in Beckenham Cemetery.

When the World War 1 VC 100 anniversary paving stones were being laid between 2014 – 2018 there was an article in the SG Magazine 2016 – 17 about CSM George Evans and there was a presence from RHQ at the unveiling of the paving stone.

Other things to look out for are town and village war memorials with Scots Guardsmen named, benches in fact anything in respectful memory of individuals or Regimental units. The most unusual found so far has been a horse water trough in Sussex to remember a WW1 officer.

VETERANS RAIL CARD:

Last Chance to buy before end of March 2021 - Special Introductory Offer



The recently introduced Veterans Rail Card is now available at a special introductory price of £21 for 1 year or £61 for 3 years. The introductory offer runs until 31 March 2021. It will offer the Railcard holder and their companion 1/3 off most rail fares and 60% for up to 4 children aged 5 -15. For more information visit : www.veterans-railcard.co.uk

SCOTS GUARDS DIRECTORY

If any former Scots Guardsman has a business which can be offered for the benefit to members of the Regimental family, I can share their details:

Medal Supply / Mounting: Tony Stevens Email: ts2453@gmail.com Tel: 07789 324621 Tony served for a short time in 2SG, then the 1st Battalion in Aldergrove, Hong Kong, Pirbright & Hohne. His hobby is medals and his business is medal supply and mounting.

Kilt Making / Medal Mounting: George McKay Email: George@mckaykilts.com Tel: 01207 509674 Georges served for 25 years and was Master Tailor of 1st Battalion for 10 years.

ATTENTION ALL

SCOTS GUARDS FORMER IJLB MEMBERS OSWESTRY & SHORCLIFFE



Introduction:

The IBB & IJLB Association currently has 15 former Junior Leaders trained at Oswestry and Shorncliffe before attending the familiarisation course at the Guards Depot, Pirbright. That course for all of us who participated consisted of introducing the adult way of being Guardsmen.

IJLB Training led to advancement through Lance Corporal rank to some reaching Regimental Sergeant Major and commissioned into our extraordinary Regiment.

I would urge those former Junior Leaders if not already members of the IJLB Association to contemplate joining. You will note from the various paragraphs below how well the Association is organised on behalf of the Membership.

The IBB & IJLB Association 1990-2021

Junior Infantrymen's Battalion

Shorncliffe.

Infantry Boys Battalion

Tuxford – Harrogate – Plymouth.

Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion

Plymouth – Oswestry – Shorncliffe.

Junior Infantry Wing

Oswestry.

Formation

The Association was founded in the late 1990s. It took off when Bryan (Wobbly) Roberts Welsh Guards started a small personal website dedicated to former IJLB Junior Leaders which included a forum allowing folk to communicate online.

The Association continues to support young men and women who wish to enter into an Army career through associations with AFC Harrogate, School Combined Cadet Forces and Army Cadet Contingents.

Our members give these young people the benefit of their experiences in both military and civilian life. We pass on information about how the excellent training we received helped our careers both in and outside the military.

Membership

Our Membership includes exclusively former boys from the first IBB intake at Tuxford in 1952 and the last IJLB passing out parade at Shorncliffe in 1985 when the unit was disbanded. We also have members up to 1991 when JIB Shorncliffe was also dissolved. The members are spread worldwide including, America, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Bosnia and Spain to name but a few, with many travelling to Oswestry for the reunions.

Reunion

The Association is very active socially, with many events and get-togethers every year.

From the original small meetings in a TA Centre in Milton Keynes, we have progressed to Reunions in Oswestry on an annual basis. These are always very well attended with a Black Tie Dinner on Saturday evening at the Wynnstay Hotel, Oswestry.

The "Golf and Port Society" GAPS meets on the Friday before the Annual General Meeting Saturday morning. Friday evening consists of two informal Supper Meals, one at a local Italian Restaurant. And the other at a Curry Restaurant.

The Annual General Meeting Saturday occurs where members are encouraged to attend, followed by a sandwich lunch. The formal Black Tie Reunion Dinner is held in the evening. **The next reunion weekend will be subject to COVID Restrictions will be on 3rd, 4th and 5th September 2021.**

Facebook Page



There is a very active Facebook Page that you can apply to join if you are a former Junior Leader or Junior Infantryman. Please be aware that your application will be tested thus ensuring that Walter-Mitties are banned.

IBB & IJLB Website

The Website is accessible by logging into <https://ijlb.com/> where you can gain information on our front page. However, to gain access to the entire Website and Membership, You will be required to log in and join the Association. There you will read about our memberships and enables you to join online.

Conclusion

Now that you have this information, we do trust that you will consider joining the Association. There you will find many of your former Junior Leaders friends from not only the Scots Guards but the other Footguards Regiments. If you would like further information, then please contact the Secretary whose details are below?



Ronnie Paterson
Secretary
IBB & IJLB Association
Tel: 07919334444
Email: secretary@ijlb.com

Pipe Majors Tune Up



Paul Selwood



Arthur Gelvin



Brian Heriot



Jimmy Riddell

To the many other fine Pipe Majors I apologise that I couldn't find a photograph of you in full dress – Stand by for future editions!

Jimmy Riddell was Pipe Major of the 2nd Battalion during the period of the Falkland Islands War and he composed “The Craggs of Tumbledown”, almost certainly the most famous Regimental Pipe Tune written since the end of World War 2.

MARCH 2021

As we reach the month of March with two dates important our Household Division comrades

Welsh Guards Monday – 1st March St David's Day

Irish Guards Wednesday – 17th March St Paterick Day

Spring is nearly on us, the mornings & nights are getting lighter.

It's getting warmer – but Ne'er Cast Yer Clout - for a while yet anyway.

The Golfers can take more pleasure getting on the course.

And of course

Stay Safe - Stay Well & Get your Jab!