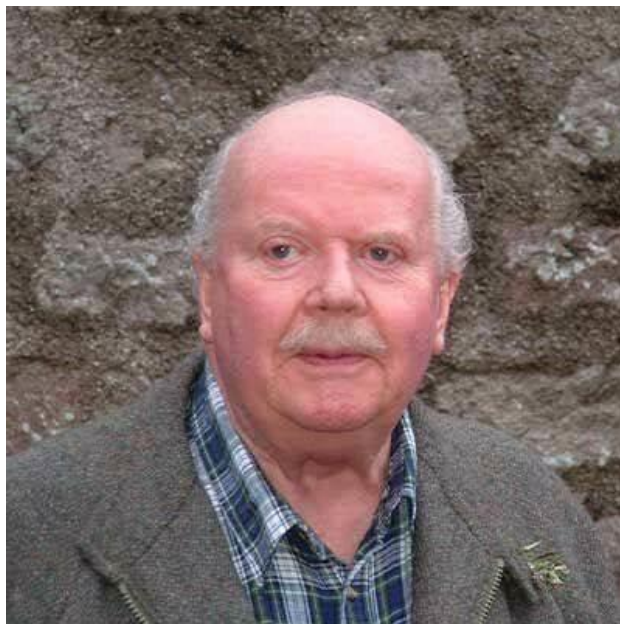


SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

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 2024
Volume 25 Issue 2**

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Tel: 01383 – 721530

Front Page Photographs:

100th HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

On Saturday 17 February 2024 we wished The Earl of Elgin & Kincardine a very happy 100th Birthday. As Lt Lord Bruce he was badly wounded in 1944 while serving with 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards. He was President of Scots Guards Association - Fife branch from 1961 to 2001.

Most recently in September 2023 the Regimental Gathering was held at his home Broomhall House by Dunfermline.

The bottom photograph shows Lord Elgin unveiling a plaque on 5 September 2019 at the Scots Guards Club to remember the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Caumont.

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

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

London Branch & Glasgow Branch

22551465 George Thursfield. Died 29 January 2024 Aged 88. Served 1SG early 1950's. Also served in the Police and lived in Birmingham.

Fife Branch

22551168 WO1 (RSM) Robert Price Died 11 February 2024. Served 1SG Egypt 1951 – 1954, SAS, 1SG Malaya & Borneo. Sharjah. CSM Junior Gdsm Coy, DSgt & TQMS 1SG Munster, RSM Aberdeen University UOTC. Later served as PSAO TA Coy Peterhead. Lived Menstrie.

London Branch & Berks Bucks & Oxon Branch also SG WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association

24000596 WO2 (DSgt) Eddie McKay Died 24 February 2024. Served Sig Pltn 2SG mid 1960s, Gds Depot Instructor 1968 – 69, 1SG Belfast 1971, CSM G Coy Falklands, DSgt 2SG Cyprus. Worked Houses of Parliament. Lived Wallington, Surrey.

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

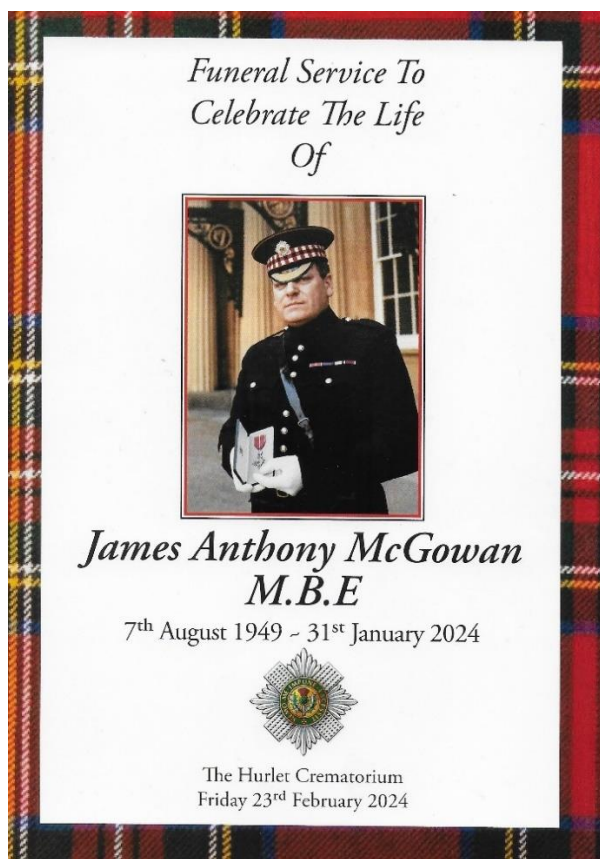
24021210 Sgt David Fletcher, Died 23 December 2023. Age 76. Served mostly 2SG May 1965 to Apl 1988. Served Northern Ireland & Falkland Islands 1982.

LSgt David Sherrett. Died 17 February 2024. Served 1SG C Coy Munster from 1975 & Chelsea to 1978. Orderly Room, 2SG, and Gds Depot for much of his service he was a clerk in the Orderly Room. Lived Kirkcaldy.

23969006 LSgt Bert Hay Died 19 February 2024. Enlisted from Fife 1965, Served 1SG Malaya & Borneo in Left Flank. MT 1SG in Edinburgh, Chelsea, Sharjah, Windsor and Munster. Lived Hartlepool. Funeral 5 March at St Aiden's Church, Hartlepool, Time TBC

LSgt Richard Crookdake Died 18 February. Served 2SG inc Falkland Islands (wounded) & Cyprus. 1SG NI 1986. Funeral 4 March at 1100hrs. Eden Valley Crematorium, Temple Sowerby, Penrith, CA10 2AN

24265624 WO2(RQMS) James McGowan MBE Died 31 January 2024. Served 1972 – 1994 1SG, Gds Depot, RMA, Lived Isle of Bute.



Eddie McKay



RABBITS BREAKFAST SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2024

The Rabbits Breakfast is for any former C or G Company personnel, including those still serving, who appreciate the finer things in life. At the Breakfast on Saturday 17th February 2024 & The finer things in life it was!!

Sadly as reported in the newsletter it is announced that former Eddie McKay as CSM G Company 2SG who initiated the original Rabbits Breakfast passed away this week.



The organisers take off the jkts to get down to business:
Tony Carter, Alf Clempson, Charlie McKeown, Bruce Henderson, Rab Carney.



The 2 Best Men get on their Mark
Major Mark Cape & Mark McKay.



Rabbit Sunray Major Iain Dalzel Job & Kenny Lawson



Breakfast: Porridge & Lager ~ just the job!



Including: Kenny Hanson, Bob Perry, & Simon Roberts



Ian McKirdy, Jimmy Baines, Allan Bunyan, Ian Armstrong

It was great to see serving Rabbits attending led by Company Commander C Company Major Teasdale, including 3 + 1 Pltn Commanders, CSM Little, CQMS Russell and some of the LSgts, LCpls & Gdsm. Good to have a natter with them.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND LONDON 12 – 14 APRIL 2024

WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association AGM ~ Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks

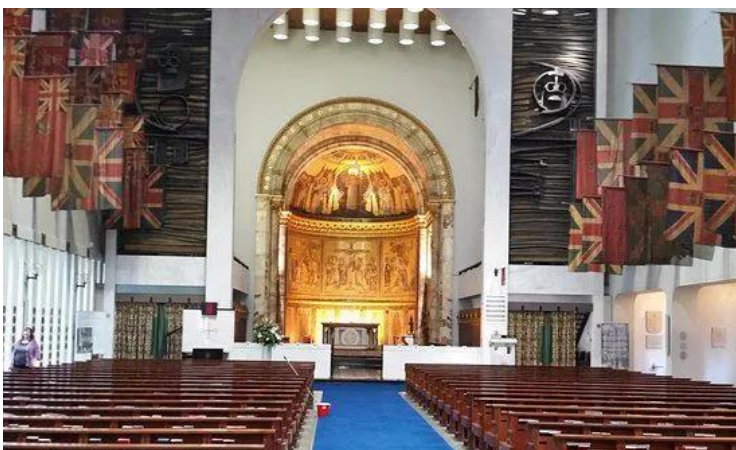
- Fri 12 April Evening – Bar Open 1800hrs ~ Meeting starts 1830hrs.
- Maximum numbers requested to attend.

SGA AGM ~ Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks

- Sat 13 April - 1030hrs
- SGA Members should check with their Branch Secretary for details

Regimental Remembrance Sunday – Guards Chapel.

- Sun 14 April - 1100hrs



All Scots Guardsmen of all ranks past and serving are encouraged to attend and are very welcome.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday will follow its normal form. All Scots Guardsmen past & serving are very welcome to attend.
OOD: Suit / Blazer, Bde Tie, Large medals. No head dress.

SGA Wreath Layers are: Gds Chapel ~ Kenny Lawson (Fife Branch)

Guards Memorial ~ Major Colin Coull RVM (Preston Branch)

Access to Barracks: Must be via the main Guardroom at Petty France from 0930hrs onwards. Please carry ID: Example MOD 90 / SGA Membership

There is limited Car Parking in Barracks entrance via Petty France and follow instructions from Guardroom & SG parking guides. You are asked not to arrive by car if possible.

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.

80 YEARS AGO ON SUNDAY MORNING 18 JUNE 1944 THE GUARDS CHAPEL WAS DESTROYED

At a quarter past eleven on the morning of Sunday 18th June 1944 a jet-propelled flying bomb (the German V.1) dived onto the Guards' Chapel when it was full of worshippers. By great good fortune the congregation on that Sunday was the smallest it had been for many months.

The chapel was hit by a flying bomb which entered at the western end and exploded, killing 121 soldiers and civilians, including Scots Guardsmen, Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Cobbold, Lieutenant H. W. Dods, Second-Lieutenant J. A. G. Duberly and two other ranks were among those killed .

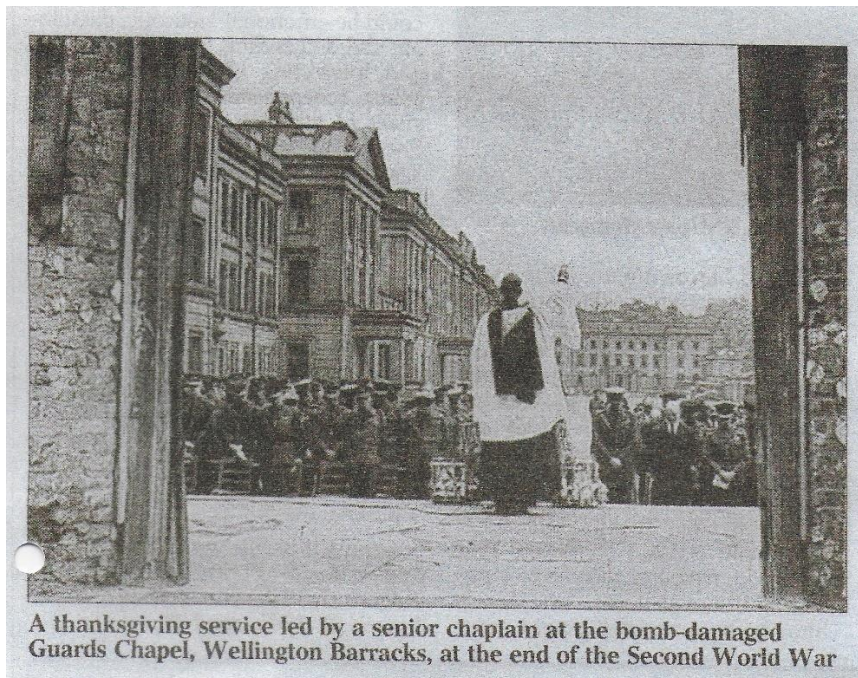
the Director of Music and five musicians from the Band of the Coldstream Guards. 141 others were seriously wounded.

Tons of rubble fell on the congregation. The chapel was completely destroyed with the exception of the apse, but the six silver candlesticks were unmovable by the explosion and the candles remained burning.

As clouds of dust subsided, first aid teams and heavy rescue crews arrived to find a scene of utter devastation. The initial City of Westminster ARP assessment put the number of casualties at 400 -500. At first the debris appeared impenetrable, the doors to the Chapel were blocked. The rescue services and Guardsmen from the barracks immediately began freeing survivors from the wreckage. The operation to free them all took 48 hours.

The incident was the most serious V1 attack on London during the war.

Despite wartime restrictions, a temporary chapel was erected in a Romney Hut attached to the undamaged apse and this was used .interior is light with big slit windows and regimental standards all around.



A thanksgiving service led by a senior chaplain at the bomb-damaged Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at the end of the Second World War

Using the memorials from the old chapel as foundations, a new chapel was built in a Modernist style in 1963. The only remaining structure from the original church; the apse is preserved with its intensely coloured mosaics. In 1970 the building was made Grade II listed building. The Flanders Fields Memorial Garden dedicated to the memory of Guardsmen lost in the 1st World War was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 2014 and occupies land next to the chapel.

A FINE PLACE FOR OUR REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION ~ NEWS

Aberdeen & North East of Scotland

The Branch held it's AGM on 1 February 2024. Graeme Thompson stood down as Secretary & Treasurer after quite some years with the well earned thanks of members for his work. Office Bearers are now:

President: Captain The Honourable Jonathon Forbes.

Chairman: Ian Rodgers

Secretary & Treasurer: Brian Harrison

Assistant Treasurer: Joe Girling

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Will hold their AGM on Thursday 28 March 2024 at Datchet Golf Club @ 2000hrs. Curry will be served beforehand (must be pre ordered).

Fife

Will hold their AGM @ The CISWO, Glenrothes on Sunday 24 March 2024 @ 1300hrs.

Preston

The branch held its AGM @ the New Meadow Street Club on 2 February 2024.

The Branch Officer Bearers are:

President: Captain The Rt Hon Ben Wallace PC MP

Chairman: Alf Clempson

Secretary & Vice Chairman: Micky Nutter

Treasurer: Steve Hills

FORECAST OF EVENTS UNTIL JUNE 2024

MARCH

Sat 2 Swalle Ho 2024 ~ 1200hrs ~ SG Club Edinburgh.

Sat 9 SGA Borders Branch Dinner ~ Hawick Rugby Club. 1900 for 1930hrs

Note SGA Corby Central & Eastern Branch event is postponed and has been be rearranged later in the year.

APRIL

Fri 25 SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians Dinner ~ SGA Club. 1900 for 1930hrs.

JUNE

Thurs 6 D-Day 80 ~ Concert, Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

Sat 15 King's Birthday Parade ~ 9 Company Irish Guards.

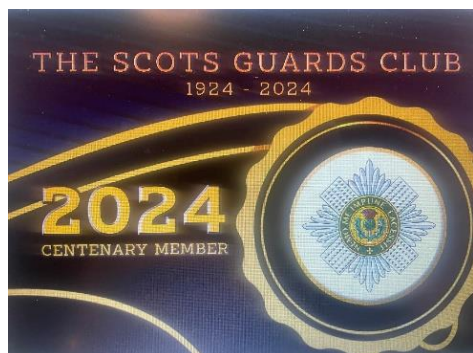
Sat 15 SGA Glasgow Garden Party / Summer BBQ ~ Windyhills, Kilmacolm.

W/E 14 – 17 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association ~ Blackpool Weekend.

Sat 22 Armed Forces Day, Edinburgh. Note this year the route will return to a parade from Charlotte Square via George Street to St Andrews Square.

SCOTS GUARDS CLUB ~ CENTENARY YEAR

Happy 2024 to you and Happy Birthday to us!



Scots Guards Club Membership Card 2024

Lots of enquiries coming in about new and renewing membership so here's a wee reminder about how it works:
The easiest way all round is simply to pop into the Club when you are next passing and one of the team will sort you out with membership there and then.

Memberships renew in January/February regardless of when you joined so if your card says 2023 you're due for renewal now. If you're not in town much then you can pay by BACS into Sort Code 82 62 30 Account No 60496650 and then email us at .enquiries@scotsguardsclub.co.uk with your address so we can send your card out to you.

Cost of membership is £25 or £20 for over 65s. Thanks in advance for supporting the Club by becoming a member

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA ~ A HOME FROM HOME

Retired, Free of financial obligation to support a spouse or family? Thinking about joining the Chelsea Pensioners ~ see below. The Royal Hospital Chelsea has been the home of the Chelsea Pensioners since 1692 and since its first residents moved in 332 years ago providing accommodation and care for its 300 In-Pensioners. However, it does more today than ever before as the institution now represents, very publicly, the covenant that exists between the nation and its Armed Forces. Collectively, the Chelsea Pensioners attend over 600 external events a year, the highest profile being over Remembrance weekend, and the general public are always interested in the lives of our In-Pensioners.

Inside the gates, the In-Pensioners are a vibrant community involved in a wide range of activities with 66 acres of grounds and gardens to enjoy, and facilities including a newly built hobby centre nestled amongst our historic buildings. We have regular entertainment nights and opportunities for socialising including external visits to places of interest. Visits to Corps and Regimental museums are always well attended.

The In-Pensioners have many different interests and experiences which helps to create the sense of community and comradeship that is felt here. Life as a Chelsea Pensioner encourages a sense of pride and belonging that is so important for veterans. We are in constant need of new recruits who hold the values and standards needed to represent this great institution and to be advocates for the wider veteran community. We recruit both male and female former soldiers, of any religion, ethnicity, or cultural background, from all regiments and corps, and from all parts of the UK and beyond.



A Day At The Races!



In Pensioner Colin Paterson Scots Guards
“ I have no live rounds or empty cases in my possession ~ Sir”

Criteria for application:

A former Private Soldier, Non-Commissioned Officer, Warrant Officer of the British Army. Late Entry Officers may apply subject to having served time in the ranks but will wear their soldier rank on their Chelsea Pensioner uniform.

In receipt of your State Pension or eligible to receive it.

Free of financial obligation to support a spouse of family (we do not accept applications from individuals who are currently married, in a civil partnership or have children under 18 yrs. old).

Able to live independently in our Long Ward accommodation. We don't accept applications from those who currently require residential or nursing care.

If you are looking for something more from life in retirement or still have the urge and drive to do something different and think you have what it takes to be a Chelsea Pensioner, then get in touch.

Our Admissions Team would love to hear from you.

Many thanks,

Greta Kendall
Admissions Officer
Contact details:
Tel: 0207 881 5204



YOU CAN NOW APPLY FOR AN HM FORCES VETERAN CARD

Information as below:

<https://www.gov.uk/veteran-card>



Apply for an HM Armed Forces Veteran Card

Apply for an armed forces veteran card to prove that you served in the UK armed forces.

www.gov.uk

When you apply, you'll be asked for:

- your service number for your last period of service
- your [National Insurance number](#)
- the approximate year you started and ended your service - it does not have to be exact
- a recent [digital passport style photo](#), showing your head and shoulders

TALKING OF VETERANS ~ IN THIS CASE A REAL OLD SOLDIER

Earlier this month I received an email from Jan Timmer in Utrecht, Netherlands telling me as a hobby he paints portraits of remarkable individuals he finds in photographs etc. Below is his painting of CSgt William McGregor from a photograph taken in 1856 after the Crimea War.



He asked for some information about CSgt William McGregor

- **At the time of the war in the Crimea** the title of the Regiment was the Scots Fusilier Guards.
- You can Google this man and you will find the photograph Jan Timmer took his painting from.
- William McGregor's military number was 2404. He served in 1st Battalion Scots Fusilier Guards.
- Although the title of photograph describes him as Sergeant he was in fact a Colour Sergeant.

His service is:

- Date of Birth 1821
- He enlisted on 6 February 1839 aged 18 years and 2 months. At the time he was living at Hunting Tower, Perth. This is a small area, just to the west of the City of Perth not far from St Johnstone's football ground.
- He was a Sergeant from 1 April 1846 – 7 July 1853.
- He was a Colour Sergeant 8 July 1853 – 7 February 1860 when he was discharged at the age of 39 years & 2 months. He served 21 Years. His tunic rank badge is the same as is worn today.
- The Battle of the Alma was 20 September 1854 when he was wounded.
- His medals are: The British Crimea War Medal & The Order of the Medjidie Turkish Medal.
- The British Crimea War Medal looks as though it has 3 clasps (bars) on denoting the battles he fought in. 1) The Alma 2) Inkerman 3) Sevastopol. These are Scots Guards Battle Honours and shown on our Colours.
- Because he was discharged aged 39 there is no indication if he returned to Perthshire or when he died.