

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 2025
Volume 26 Issue 2**

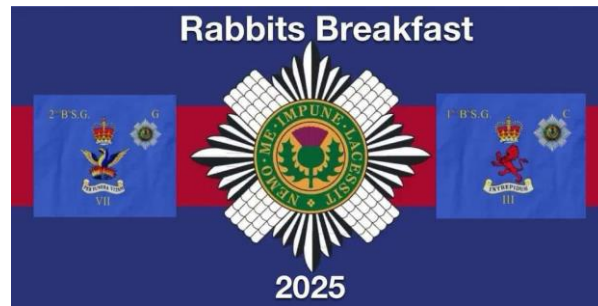
Email: sga@scotsguards.org

Tel: 01383 – 721530

Front Page ~ The Rabbits Breakfast Photographs all courtesy of Rab Sharp

Top: Not quite everyone came out of the bar for the photo ~ good effort though!

Bottom: “Bunny” Allan Bunyan a Rabbit by any other name keeping his friends close.



At the beginning of the Rabbits Breakfast on behalf of Kenny Lawson Neil Crockett handed into the care of the Scots Guards Club a C Company flag & a G Company flag both to be used annually at the “Breakfast”. Kenny is currently in hospital. After the meal his son (also Kenny) spoke on behalf of his father to thank everyone for their kind messages and ongoing support at this time.



Rabbits ~ A Team: John McLaren, Alf Clempson, Charlie McKeown, Bruce Henderson



Rabbits: Lt Col Andrew Foster i/c sentries “Guarding” the bar.



Lt Col Neil McClelland & Alf Clempson

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

Third Guards Club

Lieutenant Colonel Ewen Cameron MBE Died 16 February 2025. Age 80. Commissioned July 1965, Served 2SG / 1SG & Guards Depot including Malaysia, BAOR, 1SG Coy Comd B Spt & Trg Coy Hong Kong, 1SG 2ic Pirbright & NI. Served att to US Army. Retired 1989.

Third Guards Club & Fife Branch

Sir Robert Spencer Nairn, Died 13 February 2025. Age 91. Commissioned & posted to Gds Training Bn August 1952. Posted to 2SG and took part in streetlining on the late Queen Elizabeth II Coronation having a prime position at the Birthday Cake looking down the Mall. Completed his National Service in 1954. He became President SGA Fife in 2001 having understudied Lord Elgin previous on a number of occasions and remained in post right until his death.

Glasgow Branch

23221945 Hamish Ross Duncan Died 24 January 2025.

22551188 LSgt Robert Wotherspoon. Died 18 February 2025. Served 2SG as a Boy Drummer in 1952 & Gds Training Bn finishing his service in 1958. Bob was Clubmaster of The Scots Guards Club from 1973 – 1979 when the club was closed.

Fife Branch

24000452 LSgt Douglas Hutchison. Died 22 February 2025. Served Right Flank 1SG Malaya/Borneo, Edinburgh, Chelsea and Sharjah and the Gds Depot. Funeral Kirkcaldy Crematorium 13 March @ 1500hrs.

Preston Branch

23969010 LSgt Ronnie Bell. Died 24 February 2025. Served LF 1SG Malaya/Borneo, Edinburgh, Chelsea, Sharjah, Belfast 1971. Lived Blackpool.

Guards Parachute Association

23517601 George Magee. Died June 2024.

NON ASSOCIATION

Major Roy Bartaby MBE Died 14 February 2025. Age 81. Served Guards Depot & 1SG Malaya / Borneo, Munster, Chelsea & Aldergrove. Served as WO1 at BATT in Nigeria. Later Roy was commissioned taking on the role of PSAO Queens Lancashire Regiment, Army Reserve in Preston. Funeral 11 March 2025 @ 1115hrs Preston Crematorium, PR2 5BY.

24000588 Danny Mackowiak Died 11 January 2025 Lived Grangemouth / Falkirk. Served 1SG Edinburgh, Chelsea, Sharjah, S Coy British Honduras.

Piper Angus McAllister Died 24 August 2024 age 84. Served 1960 -1966.

Robert Muir Died 24 February 2025. Served 2SG Cyprus, Hounslow. Lived Twickenham.

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.

MAY

Thu 8 VE Day - 80th Anniversary.

Sat 17 Op Motorman Reunion ~ Scots Guards Club.

Sat 24 Major General's Review (King's Birthday Parade)

Fri 30 SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians 32nd Annual Dinner ~ Scots Guards Club.

JUNE

Sat 7 Colonel's Review (Kings Birthday Parade)

Sat 14 King's Birthday Parade ~ No7 Company Coldstream Guards

W/E 13 – 16 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association ~ Blackpool 2025 @Tiffay's Hotel

Friday ~ Meet & Greet in the Sapphire Bar & 1830hrs.

Saturday ~ AGM in the downstairs Sapphire Bar at 1230hrs.

Saturday ~ Disco/ Karaoke in the downstairs Sapphire Bar at 1900hrs until Late.

Hot buffet will be served during the evening.

Sunday ~ .Parade at the Cenotaph at 1145hrs. Service starts 1200hrs, suits or blazers with medals in wear.

After the memorial service refreshments and a cold buffet will be available in the Crystal Ballroom, (Next to the Public Bar).

Sunday ~ Evening we will be in the Public Bar to wind down.

At 2200hrs we will hold our Annual "Candles of Remembrance" In the downstairs Sapphire Bar. Please attend at 2145hrs. Afterwards we will retire to the Public Bar to carry on the evening.

IT'S MARCH & THE WEATHER'S GETTING WARMER

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

Regimental Remembrance Sunday – Guards Chapel

Sun 6 April – Service starts 1100hrs



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

Regimental Wreaths will be laid :

The Guards Chapel: Andrew McKeand ~ SGA Surrey Branch

The Guards Memorial: Major Cameron Proudfoot ~ SGA Highlands & Islands Branch

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.

ADMIN POINTS

Entry to Wellington Barracks must be via Petty France, due to King's Guard Mount time changes to 1030hrs. Birdcage Walk and approach roads will be closed.

Please take direction from the Military Provost Guard Service at all times when entering and exiting Wellington Barracks.

Car Parking. There will be limited car parking facilities available for disabled persons only in Wellington Barracks from 0930hrs. Please inform RHQ in advance if you require parking.

Everyone attending is required to sign into barracks at Petty France Guardroom ~ **please carry suitable identification**, i.e. MOD Form 90/SGA Membership Card or veterans card.

Tea and Coffee will be available at the Guards' Museum prior to the service in the chapel from 1015hrs **Toilets are available there.** The Guards' Museum will be closed after the service.

Always a good chance to meet up with friends ~ What better reason to make early plans to be there!

EVERY SCOTS GUARDSMAN PAST & SERVING ARE VERY WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.



SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION ~ NEWS

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Will hold their AGM on Thursday 27 March 2025 at Datchet Golf Club @ 1930hrs. Curry will be served beforehand (must be pre ordered).

Fife

Held their AGM @ The CISWO, Glenrothes on Sunday 23 February 2025.

The Office Bearers & Committee are:

Chairman & Treasurer: Gordon Dickson

Secretary: Neil Crockett

**Committee: Ernie Melville - Rab Ross
Tam Marshall - Tam James**

Dundee & Angus



Left: Chairman Kenny Duffy accompanied by Secretary Iain Bryson presents a cheque on behalf of the Branch to Veterans Best Friends (Dogs) at Dundee City Chambers. The Lord Provost also attended.



Right: Dundee branch member John Hodge along with his wife Betty made cheque donation for £250 to Scottish Charity Air Ambulance at their home at Invergowrie, Dundee. Branch Chairman Kenny Duffy also attended.

Note: John & Betty's home has a Scots Guards Museum which can be visited on request. Contact John Hodge via Iain Bryson mob: 07447 -700536

Glasgow

The Branch AGM will take place at Glasgow Arts Club on Friday 14 March 2025 at 1930hrs. After the meeting there will be drinks and a Buffet. ~ All Scots Guardsmen are welcome to attend.

Surrey

At the start of February members of the Surrey Branch met for a meeting followed by a buffet lunch.

Branch President Major Jeremy Warren took the opportunity to make a presentation of the Colonel's Certificate for outstanding service Mrs Jo Clarkson (Treasurer).



Congratulations to Mrs Jo Clarkson on receiving the Colonel's Certificate from Major Jeremy Warren

Watching On L-R: Willie Coffield (Chairman), David O'Connell, Andy McKeand (Secretary) Gavin Ives, Jim Burns, Eddie McDonald, Roger Huth and Mrs Mairi O'Connell.

Jo is the widow of the late Captain Bob Clarkson. Bob joined the Regiment as a Boy Drummer in the early 1950's in 2SG. At the Infantry Junior Leaders Bn, Oswestry in Sept 1966 he was the Pltn Sgt in Z (Recruit) Company to the likes of Major Ray Walker, Neil Crockett, the late Jimmy Rankin, Alan Howarth (Preston) & John Findlay (Durham & Yorkshire). Sharjah 1970 CQMS HQ Coy, Belfast 1971 CSM Left Flank, later Superintending Clerk RHQ. Commissioned he finished his service at the Infantry Demonstration Battalion, Warminster. Later he was a very enthusiastic volunteer at Regimental Headquarters working in the Archives.

Highlands & Islands

Next Branch meeting is on Wednesday 5 March 2025 in Nairn Legion at 1930hrs. The Branch will welcome Major Cammy Proudfoot home after 39 years service.

Borders

Chairman Jim Renwick soon 90 years old ~ Happy Birthday when it comes & make sure you enjoy!



The Branch Elder Jim Renwick celebrates his 90th Birthday on 27 March 2025.



ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

HOME OF THE CHELSEA PENSIONERS

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.

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 or 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

UNCLAIMED FORCES PENSIONS

I have been asked to circulate information.

It is well worth routinely reminding our retired SG fraternity of the fact that there are c14,800 unclaimed Armed Forces pension benefits out there and that, historically, around 2,000 preserved Armed Forces pensions go unclaimed each year.

The link below is super helpful and easy to comprehend.

<https://forcespensionsociety.org/unclaimedpensions/>

If you are not in receipt of a forces pension it's well worth checking if you should be receiving one.

VE DAY 80th COMMEMORATION ~ BATHGATE, WEST LOTHIAN



VE DAY 80th Commemoration

VE

Regal Theatre, Bathgate
Thursday 6th March 2025
7pm - 9:15pm

Featuring: Whitburn Brass Band, Sing West Lothian Choir, Bathgate Schools

EVERYDAY IS REMEMBRANCE DAY
GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS
Thank you!

Tickets £10
available from Regal Theatre Bathgate

ASA Scotland Charity Event
sponsored by
Bathgate Community Council and
Bathgate Community Centre
Management Committee

CSgt Ross Thorley will attend

LSgt Mark Macrae will play. A Mini Band from Scots Guards Association (Scotland) Pipes & Drums will be taking part.

The event will be remember local soldiers from Bathgate who served during World War 2 including Walter Lumsden who enlisted in 1932 in the Scots Guards serving until 1935. He joined City of Glasgow Police and was recalled to the Regiment at the start of World War 2.

During the war serving with 2SG as a Sgt in North Africa he was awarded the Military Medal in March 1943 at the Battle of Medenine. In Italy in September 1943 at the Battle for Salerno he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. In Italy in December 1943 he was awarded a Bar to his Military Medal.

CSM Walter Lumsden MM & Bar, DCM was killed in Germany on 6 March 1945 serving with 2SG, just 2 months before the end of World War 2

In the final 3 months of World War 2 in NW Europe 2nd Bn Scots Guards were an infantry battalion within the Guards Armoured Division.



SCOTS GUARDS CLUB ~ FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

The next piping knockout semi-final will take place on Sunday 23 February featuring the hugely talented pairing of Brodie Watson Massie and Jamie Elder. As ever, the event kicks off at 4pm with tickets £6 on the door. The Club's legendary pies are available at half time! We hope to see many piping fans old and new coming along to enjoy some great music and support the event. **Now we are just waiting for the final ~ it's bound to be good.**

Many of our newer members are perhaps unaware of the lovely weekly music session which takes place in the bar from 7pm each Thursday. A mix of traditional, folk, Scots, Irish etc, this informal session has been going for many years now and a warm, welcome atmosphere is guaranteed.

At the AGM in January, the decision was made to no longer allow vaping within the Club and all vapers are now required to use the outside smoking facility in the back garden.

The minutes of the AGM are currently displayed on the Club noticeboard.

Thanks again for everyone's understanding and patience as we catered for the two home rugby internationals in recent weeks. The third and final one is Scotland v Wales on 8 March.

Lunches continue to be popular and provide excellent value for money at £6.50. It is so difficult to predict demand with some days being very busy and others being fairly quiet. There is no real pattern to this demand but if we are busy and your order is likely to take longer than usual, we will always try our best to communicate this to you.

Membership renewals are taken in January and February so if you have still to renew then details for how to do this are below: 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, along with your address and we'll get your card out to you ASAP. Membership for this year is £30 or £25 for over 65.

That's all for now folks. Thanks for your support and all the best from all the Team!



Old Friends ~ Willie Pitt (Adult Ret), Mick Hoodless (Jnr Gdsm Coy), Neil Crockett (Gds Coy IJLB)

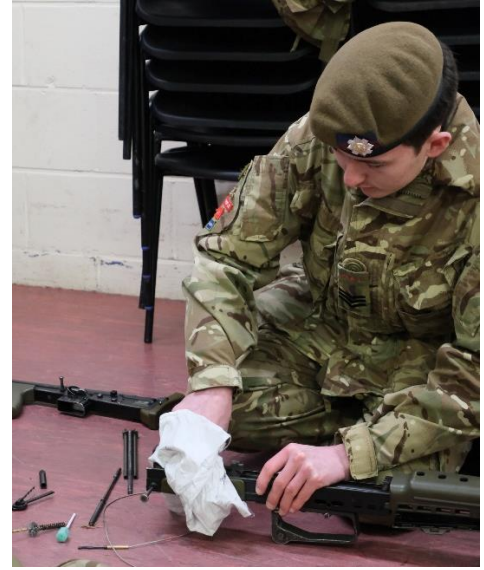
With our similar comrades came together to form a Pltn for the final phase of training, at the Gds Depot in January 1969. On passing out Willie Pitt & Neil Crockett went to 10 Pltn, Left Flank, 1st Bn Scots Guards at Chelsea Barracks & Sharjah. Mick Hoodless went to 2SG in Munster. Mick & Neil served in S Coy in British Honduras (Belize) 1971 & returned to 1SG in Belfast 1971 in G Coy. Willie Pitt remained in LF 1SG until he went to 2SG in 1972, Mick also returned to the reformed 2SG at that time. In 2024 we all managed to meet up for the 1st time in many years & again at the Rabbits Breakfast 2025.



Rabbits catching up on the news

5 SCOTS GUARDS ~ ARMY CADET FORCE

A busy weekend (09-10 Feb) for the cadets of 5 Scots Guards ACF. Our cadets attended the latest Coy training camp with 1 Star, 2 Star & 3 Star Fieldcraft being taught covering basic skills, withdrawal from contact drills, attack and ambush drills, cadet also shooting being our main effort. Cadets came away with new skills and friends progressing Star Awards and being awarded Marksmanship awards, CiS certificates and a promotion to Cdt Sgt.



E Gough

SSI

Detachment Commander

5SG ACF | Glasgow & Lanarkshire Bn ACF | Mousebank Lane | Lanark | ML11 7PP