

# SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE



**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 Photographs

### Opening of Glasgow Garden of Remembrance Tuesday 29 October.

**Top: L-R** Brian Ward (Legion Scotland Events Manager), Don Lamont, Willie Tam McDonald, Jim McArthur, Les Braby (Legion Scotland), Sammy Kirkpatrick (Fife), Bob Riddell, Sandy Birnie.

### Correction

Contrary to the report in this year's Scots Guards Magazine the news of the death of John (Brians) Ferguson of SGA Australia & Pipers is premature. He is very much alive and well, living in Australia and he took part in the recent Edinburgh Tattoo on tour in Sydney.

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES – AUTUMN DINNERS

### Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire

The Branch held a successful dinner on Saturday 28 September at Datchet Golf Club.



### BBQ Dinner

**Seated Row L-R:** Trevor Elliot (Treasurer), Capt Graham (Retd) Fowler, Paul Duffie, Lt Will McCreadie (1SG), Major (Retd) Dominic Dobson, Harry Slessor (Chairman), Major (Retd) Jan De Haldervang (Vice President), Lt Col James Leask (Comd Off 1SG), Major (Retd) Hugh Cantlie, Rab Ritchie (Secretary & Vice President).

Good to see the Warrant Officers from the Bn adding colour to the night.

### Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Branch

The Branch Dinner was held at the Shepard's Inn, Carlisle on Saturday 12 October. Brigadier Harry Nickerson (Regimental Lieutenant Colonel) was Guest of Honour and Lieutenant Colonel James Leask (Comd Off 1SG) spoke about what's happening within the Regiment and it was particularly pleasing to hear of the upturn in recruiting.

The Piper played his set marched out then then returned to receive his Quaich. As he marched out again the Commanding Officer carried out a short sharp session of Orders. Chastising the piper for being incorrectly dressed the Commanding Officer immediately surprised us all by congratulating and promoting Piper Bell to LCpl. LCpl Bell is currently the Piper on the Regimental Support Team and as such he has been a great supporter to the SGA, particularly playing at dinners but also at many other events. Well done LCpl Jamie Bell.

At the dinner it was Neil & Margaret Crockett's pleasure to catch up with my old pal Norrie Fee and his wife Sue.

### Dundee & Angus Branch

The dinner was held at the Invercarse Hotel, Dundee on Saturday 12 October when another good night was had by all attending. Captain John Craib, OC Regimental Support Team who hails from Kerriemuir was on home turf when he gave the news of the serving Regiment.

### Aberdeen & North East Scotland Branch

On Friday 25 October The Branch dinner was held at Althens Hotel, Aberdeen. Branch members and other Scots Guardsmen attending enjoyed the good food and the company of friends from the wider military family, from former Gordon Highlanders to Ghurkas. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Brigadier Harry Nickerson was Guest of Honour and it was the turn of Captain Stu Garrett to give the news of what the serving Regiment have been getting up to. Captain Garrett is currently commanding his platoon from C Company in Catterick, detached from 1SG. They are a pre advance party using carrying out training and setting the standard for things to come when the Bn does arrive in Catterick in 2020

## SGA BRANCH DINNERS IN NOVEMBER

Fri 1	SGA Ayrshire Dinner, RAF Assoc Club, Prestwick. Jim Fraser – Tel: 01294 211319
Fri 8	SGA Fife Dinner, Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy. Neil Crockett – Tel: 01383 721530
Fri 8	SGA Manchester Dinner, Ukrainian Club. John Roache – Tel: 07577 992900
Fri 15	SGA Preston Dinner, Masonic Club. Steve Hills – Tel: 07971 043876
Sat 30	SGA London St Andrew's Dinner, Sgts Mess Regents Park Barracks. Tom Ormiston – Tel: 01480 460727

If you live near or far if you want to take part it isn't too late – touch base with the respective Secretary and find out the full details.

### Durham & North Yorkshire Branch

The next Branch meeting will be held at Newton Aycliffe Working Men's Club at 19.45 on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### Glasgow Branch

Branch Meeting on Monday 4 November 2019 at the Polish Club, Glasgow.

## 2020

## FORECAST OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

Fri 17	SGA Glasgow Burns Supper, Loks Bar & Kitchen, Glasgow G43 2XU.
Fri 24*	SGA Fife Burns Supper.

### FEBRUARY

Sun 23*	SGA Fife AGM.
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### APRIL

Fri 17	SG WO's & Sgts P and P Assoc AGM, Wellington Bks, London.
Sat 18	SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks, London.
Sun 19	SG Remembrance Sunday (Black Sunday), Gds Chapel.

### MAY

Fri 8	75th Anniversary End of World War 2 (VE Day).
Sat 9	SGMBVA Reunion, Edinburgh.
Sat 30	QBP (Major General's Review). London.

### JUNE

Sat 6	QBP (Colonel's Review), London.
Sat 13	QBP Horse Guards Parade, London. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn Welsh Guards.
Fri 26*	SGA Fife Branch Golf Competition "The Chairman's Trophy"

Note: \* TBC

Let me have your dates when known – lots more to be added.

## SCOTS GUARDS CLUB NEWS

The window restoration project started on Monday 21 October and will see the replacement of all the front sash and case windows.

In partnership with our main supplier, Tennents, we recently upgraded our whole cellar system with the result, we hope, that the beer is in the very best condition it can be.

The aged fluorescent lighting in the front hallway has been replaced with hanging light fittings which everyone seems to agree is more pleasing on the eye. The remainder of the hall and back corridor remains an ongoing 'work in progress' as we continue to make improvements.

Membership numbers remain strong this year and the Club is grateful to everyone who supports this special place by becoming a member. As ever, renewals will be due in January but anyone taking out a new membership between now and then will receive a 2020 membership card.

On Saturday 9 November we have Andrew Carlin returning to the Club following his previous sell out performances. A hugely talented Elvis and Neil Diamond tribute performer, Andrew will take you through their greatest hits along with many other Swingtime favourites. Not to be missed. Tickets are available at the bar at £6.

Our piping knockout series kicks off once again at 4pm on Sunday 27 October when Brighde Chaimbeul and Jamie Elder will be with us. These two well known pipers are sure to produce a wonderful afternoon of music and as ever, tickets are available for £5 on the door.

Subsequent first round dates as follows.

24 November	Lewis Russell v John Dew
26 January	Angus McColl v Calum Wynd
23 February	Calum Brown v Bradley Parker

The date for the Seniors' Christmas Lunch and Party is set for Monday 16 December and we will start to take names for this from early November. Once again, this is a free event for members and qualifying criteria are vague but in general, if you can pass for being over sixty, then you're in! There will be a limited number of guest spaces available at £10.

Doors will be open from 0930hrs on Remembrance Sunday (10 November) to allow those gathering at Haymarket to rest up for a bit in the warmth and have a light refreshment if desired. This is always a very special day at the Club and again, we expect the bar to be busy. Complimentary hot filled rolls will be served late morning following the Haymarket service, with pies on sale during the day.

We have just a few weekend dates still free for the function room in December so if you know of anyone looking for a festive venue for a works do or whatever, then please point them our way.

## DEATHS

### Not members of the Association

Kevin Craig Died 14 October, Age 47, Served 2SG 1993 & F Coy Lived Montrose

24586852 Gdsm Kenny McIntyre Died October. Served 2SG May 1984 – Aug 1994. Lived Andover.

Charles McKinnon Wilson, Died October.

Stewart King Died October, Served for National Service. Lived Musselburgh.

24508990 Dmr Anthony Henshaw Died 23 October served 2SG Munster, Chelsea, Falkland Islands

Gerry Tyler Died 27 October. Served as a Tenor Dmr in 1SG P&Ds mid 1970s. Understood to have transferred Parachute Regt. Lived Peterborough.

### **Third Guards Club & Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway**

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Walter Hugh Malcolm Ross GCVO OBE GCSfJ was born on 27 October 1943 and died on 27 October 2019, after suffering a stroke at his home in Dumfriesshire, on the morning of his seventy-sixth birthday.

Sir Malcolm joined the Army from Eton in September 1962, in the Ranks, before attending the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He passed out on 30 July 1964 having won the Sword of Honour.

31 July 1964 to 02 December 1964 - Second Lieutenant at the Guards Depot.

03 December 1964 to 20 August 1966 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion as a Lieutenant Platoon Commander.

21 August 1966 to 11 April 1967 - Attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Irish Guards, deployed to Aden with his Platoon from 2SG.

24 May 1967 to 31 March 1971 - BAOR with 2SG as Signals Officer. He was promoted to Captain and appointed Adjutant 2SG.

01 May 1971 to 31 July 1972 - Adjt at the Guards Depot.

01 August 1972 to 05 May 1974 - Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion.

06 May 1974 to 18 February 1975 - Acting Major, Commanding Left Flank 1SG, BAOR.

01 April 1975 to 19 January 1977 - Captain GSO3 in London District and promoted to Major.

20 January 1977 to 15 March 1977 - 2SG, Company Commander in Northern Ireland.

16 March 1977 to 28 November 1977 - BAOR with 2SG.

29 November 1977 to 09 February 1980 - RMAS as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General.

10 February 1980 to 16 November 1981 - Operations Officer 1SG Aldergrove/Belfast.

12 December 1981 to 09 July 1982 - 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Stanley Fort, Hong Kong.

10 July 1982 to 31 December 1984 - Commandant of the Guards' Depot as a Lieutenant Colonel.

14 January 1985 to 04 December 1987 - HQ 1BR Corps (British Corps) BAOR.

He retired from the Army 04 December 1987

Sir Malcolm joined the Royal Household in 1987 as Assistant Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Office and Management Auditor. He remained in this post until 1990. From 1989 to 1990 he was the Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

He became Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Office from 1991 to 2005 and Master of the Household to the Prince of Wales between 2006 and 2008. Since 1988 he has been an extra Equerry to HM The Queen. He was made an OBE in 1988, and joined the Royal Victorian Order in 1994 as a CVO. He was Knighted as a KCVO in 1999, and advanced to GCVO in 2005.

He was appointed Prior of the Priory of Scotland in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and was appointed a Knight of St. John. In 2016 he then went on to become Lord Prior of the International Order of St. John and despite ill health he served three years in the post and travelled extensively around the world visiting numerous St. John organisations. He was promoted in the Order to a GCSfJ in 2016 becoming a Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order of St John. He stepped down from the post after his three year tenure only a couple of months ago.

Since 1981, Sir Malcolm has been a member of the Royal Company of Archers and he was a Freeman of the City of London since 1994. In 2006 he was made Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. He had been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 2003. He retired as Lord Lieutenant on 27 October 2018.

Malcolm was married to Susie, daughter of a Scots Guardsman, General Sir Michael Gow, and he was brother-in-law to Roddy Gow and uncle to Neil Gow who both served in the Regiment.

A church service to celebrate the life of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Malcom Ross will take place on Monday 4th November at 3.00 pm in Kirkcudbright parish church following a private family burial service in the morning. All are most welcome to attend the afternoon service. There will be Royal representation and the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel will attend representing HRH The Colonel. The family will be in suits or kilts and so anyone wishing to attend is most welcome.

A Memorial Service will also take place in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle but this will not take place until sometime early in the New Year. A date and details will be announced RHQ once confirmed.

### **SICK PARADE**

Update on Stuart Murrison. He has been transferred to Hothfield stroke and brain injury rehabilitation centre at Ashford Kent for treatment and will probably be there for 3 months. He did not require any operation at Dartford hospital as his infection was cleared with anti-biotics. Hopefully the rehabilitation centre will be of a benefit to him.



## NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

### Early October

Right Flank 1SG climbed and conquered Pen Y Fan in the Brecon Beacons. An arduous climb so well known to many Scots Guardsmen past & present on career courses over the years.

1SG carried out a study of the Monte Cassino Battlefield in Italy. They were able to carry out an act of remembrance to CSM Little MM of the Second Battalion who was killed during the battle.

RHQ Staff took time out from normal duties to climb Mount Snowden.

A Platoon Commander and Sgt have been on a STTT to mentor the Kenyan Infantry. They were training the men to take part on an upcoming operation for an African Union Mission in Somalia.

C Company have been on some hard jungle training in Belize. This was followed by a break to take part in paddle boarding & abseiling.

### Mid October

In preparation for deploying to Iraq next year 1SG drivers have been practising on the Husky Vehicle.

F Company provide 3 half companies of streetliners for the State Opening of Parliament.

A three man team from the Battalion have finished their @ Ultraxco Jordan Wadi Rum ultramarathon which took them through inhospitable terrain and never ending sand dunes. They had to push on through injuries to finish the 250Km race alongside a comrade from the Welsh Guards.

### Late October

Training by 1SG Boxing team in preparation for the Brigade Boxing Night is well underway

F Company recently formed its own Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Team.

The Bn Alpine & Nordic Sking teams are getting together for the upcoming season and most are complete novices.

Members of 1SG have been on Salisbury Plain carrying out briefings on the new Boxer vehicle at the Army Combat Firepower Demonstration. The vehicle capabilities and its potential roles are exciting.

Men from Left Flank have arrived in Kenya and have been busy learning all they can before starting their exercise attached to the Coldstream Guards.

### Well Done

Many congratulations are due to 5 Scots Guards Warrant Officers who have received their Late Entry Commissions.

WO1 McCrindle

WO1 Little

WO1 Tetlow

WO2 Moreton

WO2 MacDougall



## **BITS & PIECES**

### **SCOTS GUARDS MAGAZINE 2018 / 19**

The new edition of the Scots Guards Magazine has now dropped through letter boxes.

Regimental Headquarters also has a mailing list of other Scots Guardsmen who wish to receive a magazine annually. Do you want to be included on the mailing list? Telephone RHQ Admin Clerk on 0207 414 3324 to check they have your address details.

### **SCOTS GUARDS DIARY 2020**

The diary is now available at a cost of only £6.00p plus postage & packing.

Phone the Admin Clerk at Regimental Headquarters Tel: 0207 414 3324

### **SCOTS GUARDS CHRISTMAS CARDS**

They are available for sale, again phone the Admin Clerk at Regimental Headquarters Tel: 0207 414 3324

### **A MEETING IN AYR**

#### **By Eck Barclay, Secretary SGA Border**

It's 40+ years since I last saw Jimmy Spiers. Some years ago on speaking with the Ayrshire chairman Jim Dickie I found out that Jimmy was alive and well and living in Ayr. I asked Jim if I was ever in Ayr could he arrange a meeting with Jimmy Spiers and it was.

Well that day was Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Red Stone Pub in Ayr. Jimmy was there waiting for my arrival with his blazer and Household Division tie on. I went in and spotted him right away and I can tell you he hasn't changed a bit. I spent a couple of hours with him and Jim Dickie reminiscing over old times in Left Flank, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards. I first met Jimmy in 1972 after I passed out of the Guards Depot. On the day of my arrival in the Battalion I was shown to my bed space in Left Flank and left to sort out my kit. A little later on I heard someone coming into the block and eventually a head popped over a partition and asked me "who are you" Guardsman Barclay was my reply "what team do you support" now the dilemma as a rugby supporter do I pick Rangers or Celtic! I opted for Rangers "good" came the reply. Thank god for that I thought. "I'll look after you and by the way I'm Corporal Spiers." "Thanks Corporal", and that was that, the start of my life in Left Flank. It was great to catch up with Jimmy and thanks to Jim Dickie for making it possible.



**LCpl Jimmy Spiers watched over by Gdsm Eck Barclay at Chelsea Barracks, Ebury Bridge Gate about 1977.**



**2019 – Eck Barclay, Jimmy Spiers & Jim Dickie**

Jimmy Spiers served mostly in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion from 1968 to around 1977. A Left Flanker, he also served in S Company, British Honduras 1971 and as a Regimental Policeman in 1SG. No doubt he was and is a character, there are many stories about him but as Eck Barclay also said "Too many to mention".

## 2 RETIRED QUARTERMASTERS TAKE UP CLERKING DUTIES



**Captain Ronnie Paterson & Captain Graham Fowler in RHQ to fold letters to post out to the Household Division Riding Masters, Quartermasters & Directors of Music Association. Ronnie is current President of the Association.**

## SIGNIFICANT SIGHT LOSS – GET YOURSELF CHECKED OUT – BLIND VETERANS UK

Website: [www.blind.veterans.org.uk](http://www.blind.veterans.org.uk)

A friend of mine from Junior Leader days who served in the Coldstream Guards has problems with his eyesight. He is no longer allowed to drive and suffers from significant sight loss. He has told me:

### **Before Staying at their Brighton Centre**

I have been accepted by Blind Veterans UK (St Dunstan's what was) my wife and I are off to their Brighton centre for a week. It is a residential course to assist in coping with sight loss. Sounds good as they ferry you door to door. Their IT wallahs will set up my laptop and mobile to make them easier for me to use. I do find e-mailing difficult now. Apparently the Brighton centre is pretty swish. At 68 I am the youngest on the course!

### **After Staying at their Brighton Centre**

I have just returned from a week at Blind Veterans UK Brighton. What a place! Door to door transport. Three meals a day. Bar, gym, heated swimming pool and so on. The accommodation is all on-suite with wet room showers.

Met a lovely couple from Greenock. The charity flew them down to Gatwick and taxied them to the Centre. Same detail going back.

There were ten of us on the course and all were **GIVEN** various items to assist with sight loss. Talking watches, tablets and other super duper kit. I am to be sent a brand new laptop to replace my 7 year old model.

If you suffer from significant sight loss, check if they can help you.



## **ATLANTIC GUARDSMAN**

### **A message by Captain John Ford on behalf of his team**

Starting on Dec 11th I will be skippering a crew of four in a 26ft Ocean Rowing boat 3000miles across the Atlantic Ocean as part of the [www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.co.uk](http://www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.co.uk)

The details of this challenge have now been published in the Scots Guards Magazine and at the Gathering the Atlantic Guardsman was on display, therefore I hope that most of you are aware of the campaign.

The main aim of competing in this event is to have a challenge large and epic enough to warrant asking for the amounts of sponsorship required to sustain our fantastic Regimental charity. The growing need and rising associated costs places a large burden on the charity.

It is also the Battalions intent to retain the boat for future use in fund-raising, recruiting and retention positive adventure training type activities, indeed it is already the aspiration to enter the boat into the round the UK race in June 2020, this will be the first time this particular event has taken place since 2013.

The Regimental exposure that is and will continue to be generated through this and future ventures will be hugely beneficial to recruiting and retention positive schemes and which remain vital to the battalion sustainment.

I kindly ask each association and member within:

1. To champion the challenge, spreading the word and supplying details of any individual or organisation, know personally to you or where you carry influence, that in your opinion might consider sponsoring the boat. Further details of the event can be found on the website links below and if you do know of someone or organisation that might be interested in sponsoring the boat, I would be grateful if you could pass on their details to Maj Will Tulloch [William.tulloch119@mod.gov.uk](mailto:William.tulloch119@mod.gov.uk) 07960661559 or myself [John.ford855@mod.gov.uk](mailto:John.ford855@mod.gov.uk) 07725206824
2. Follow us on social media and assist with increasing exposure and reach by reposting, tweeting etc
3. Distributing the attached sponsorship form and gathering sponsorship on behalf of the crew and Charity.

If you require further information, have any suggestions or wish to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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