

# 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**

**November 2022  
Volume 23 Issue 10**

**Email: [sga@scotsguards.org](mailto:sga@scotsguards.org)**

**Tel: 01383 – 721530**

**Front Page Photograph ~ Scots Guardsmen pay their respects at the opening of Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance Monday 24 October 2022. Left to Right: Donald MacLeod (Poppy Factory), Brian Ward (Events Manager – Legion Scotland) Kevin Gray CEO Veterans Housing Scotland, WO1 Anthony Gibson (Garrison Sergeant Major Edinburgh), LSgt Kevin Gibb (Member RST) , Kenny Lawson (SGA Standard Bearer), Captain Michael Little (OC RST), Mark McKay (SG Taxi Driver, Edinburgh), Neil Crockett, Ted Middlemass, Paddy McEnhill, Peter Simpson, Major Mark Cape (Welfare & Finance Officer), Les Braby (SGA Borders), Sqn Leader Tristram Carter (SGA Borders), Danny Minto (SGA Edinburgh Sec), Charlie Knott, John Mitchell (Poppy Factory), Guardsman RST, Derek Harvey.**

## **WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING NOVEMBER IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945**

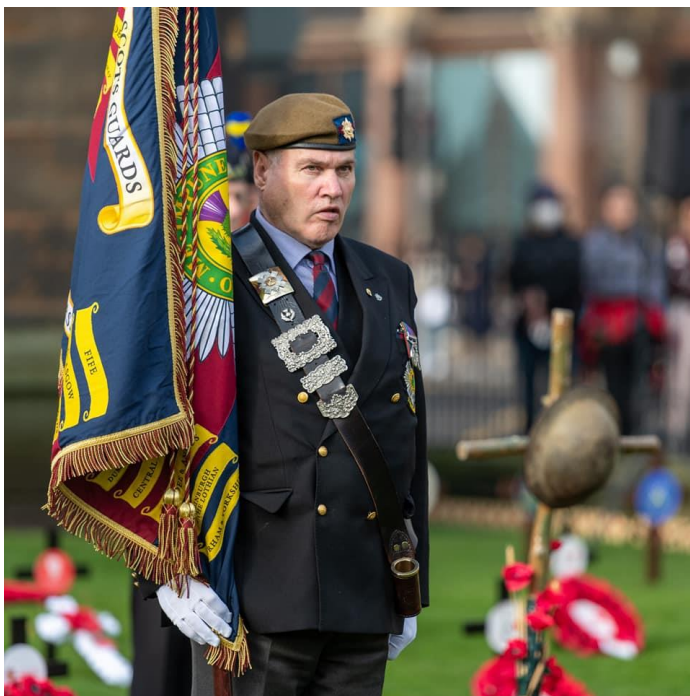
### **Northern Ireland 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

4 November 1971      24141254 Gdsm Stephen McGuire    Age 19    Left Flank, Killed Ballymurphy, Belfast.

27 November 1971      24141336 Gdsm Paul Nicholls      Age 18    G Company, Killed St James (Off Falls Road), Belfast.



## **ASSOCIATION NEWS**



**Kenny Lawson carries the SGA National Standard at the Opening of Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance 24 October.**



**Sandy Birnie carries the SGA Glasgow Standard at George Square 25 October**

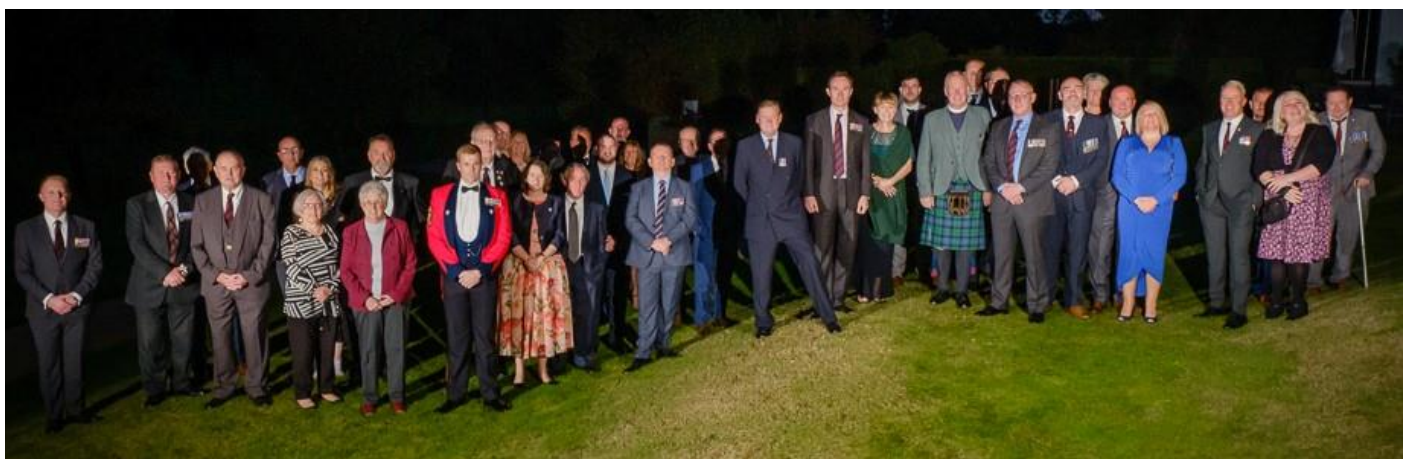


## **AUTUMN IS THE TIME OF DINNERS**

A selection of photographs from October dinners:



**SGA Corby, Central & Eastern Members & Guests including Iain Armstrong, Bruce Henderson & Alf Clemson.**



**SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway opted for a tactical photograph including Lt Col TM Parsons (GOH), Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor (President), Major Mark Cape (Chairman), Rev'd John Murdoch (kilted), Captain Michael Little (Member), CSM Tom Morris (1SG), Tony Mason (Secretary), Alan Barry (Treasurer), Don Potter (Tiny).**



**SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon  
Chairman Jim Simmonds pleased  
with a successful night.**



**SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon members and guests line up:  
IP Colin Paterson, CSgt Paul Monkhouse (RMAS), Graham Fowler,  
Colin Coull, Eddie McKay, CSgt Stewart Ducie (RMAS)**





**SGA Aberdeen & NE Scotland: Joe Murray & Len Bain**



**SGA Australia including Major Tom Mooney, Brains Ferguson, Peter Boorman, John Linn (Secretary).**



**SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon: Jimmy 'Teabag' Goodall enjoying the night. Also Willie & Mrs Coffield, David & Mrs Reekie and Jimmy Wolff.**



**SGA Dundee & Angus  
Iain Bryson**



**SGA Dundee & Angus ~ Top Table awaits the word to march in:  
The Earl of Dalhousie (President), Major John Gibb, Sqd Ldr Trstram Carter  
(formerly LSgt SG & GOH), Lt HAM Digwall (Regt Rep), Rev'd Stephen Blakey**

**WAIT OUT FOR MORE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE NOVEMBER DINNERS.**

## DEATHS

### THIRD GUARDS CLUB

Lieutenant Colonel DR (Duncan) Beat LVO ARCM – Died October 2022. Director of Music Regimental Band.

Lieutenant Colonel (QM) Ian Beck MBE – Died 30 September 2023. Served mostly in 2SG including Kenya 1962 – 64, CQMS F Company att 1IG 1971 Hong Kong. 2SG DSgt & RQMS. Regimental Sergeant Major 1SG from late 1978 to late 1981 (Chelsea & Aldergrove), MTO Hong Kong & Tech QM 1SG, QM 2SG, QM The Guards Depot. He retired from Regular Service in the Army on 31 May 1998. On leaving the Army, Ian became Quartermaster at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. He settled in Cumbria and was for a time Treasurer and then Secretary SGA Carlisle Branch before moving to live in Wiltshire.

### NON ASSOCIATION

24076927 WO1 Charles Stewart Died 18 October 2022. Aged 71. He enlisted into the Scots Guards on the 8 May 1967 until 7 April 1991. Served mainly with 2SG, in the Falklands he was an Op Clk with BG HQ. In 1990, he was promoted to WO1 and appointed Superintending Clerk of the Guards Depot.

24579060 LCpl Bruce Carter. Died 6 October 2022. Served Right Flank 1SG Aldergrove & Hong Kong.

Guardsman Eric Croasdale Died early Oct 2022. Age 88. SG 1951-56 served Canal Zone.

## FORECAST OF EVENTS FOR YOUR SCOTS GUARDS DIARY 2023

### January

Sat 21 SGA Berks, Bucks and Oxon Burns Supper, Datchet Golf Club.

Fri 27 SGA Highlands & Islands Rearranged Annual Dinner, Chieftain Hotel, Inverness.

Sat 28 SGA London Burns Supper.

### March

Sat 3 Swallae Ho Reunion – Scots Guards Club.

Sat 11 SGA Borders, Annual Dinner, Hawick Rugby Club.

### April

Sat 15 SGA Annual General Meeting, Wellington Barracks, London

Sun 16 Regimental Remembrance Sunday, Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London

### May

Sat 6 Coronation Day.

Sat 27 Major General's Review King's Birthday Parade.

### June

Sat 3 Colonel's Review King's Birthday Parade.

Sat 10 King's Birthday Parade - 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

Sat 24 National Armed Forces Day.

### September

Sat 23 Regimental Band Concert, Dunfermline.

Sun 24 Regimental Gathering, Broomhall Estate, Dunfermline Fife.

**No doubt there's more dates to be added to the list let me know the dates of your SGA & other Scots Guards reunions.**

## **BITS & PIECES**

### **The Army Operational Legacy Branch**

The Army Operational Legacy Branch (AOLB) was established to support investigations, inquests and inquiries into past operations such as Op BANNER, Op TELIC and Op HERRICK. One of AOLB's fundamental roles is to provide welfare support to any veteran who has become involved in the legal process related to a legacy operation, and currently, AOLB supports over 60 Northern Ireland (Op BANNER) veterans due to a wider effort to address the legacy of 'the Troubles'.

For many veterans the first thing they know about their involvement in this process is when they receive a letter from the coroner or a phone call from the MoD's Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy (DJEP) informing them that they are required to give evidence. This can be a protracted and stressful process so AOLB's Veteran Visiting Officers (VVOs) are here to help.

The VVOs are fulltime reservist captains with a wealth of experience: they understand the legacy processes; have a background of service on operations and possess significant experience in welfare support. The VVOs provide 'End to End' support to the veteran to explain and support them throughout the process. This includes assessing the needs of each individual and referring them to other specialist welfare organisations where necessary. The VVO support includes regular home visits and 'check-ins' to reassure and guide the veteran through the legacy process; coordination of any broader welfare or administrative support they may require; as well as matters such as accompanying them to give evidence in court where necessary. Throughout the process, the VVOs work closely with the Regimental Headquarters / Regimental Associations to ensure there is a strong network of pastoral support in place so that the longer term needs of the veteran are also captured and met beyond the duration of the legacy process.

**Legal Support.** Free legal support is available to all serving personnel and veterans being investigated or prosecuted for allegations relating to legacy operations, however, this is coordinated and arranged through DJEP. **AOLB does not provide legal support or advice but can help you to make contact with DJEP if you are unsure how to do so.**

If you have been contacted in relation to an operational legacy issue or are aware of someone who has and may need support, please contact the AOLB on the following means:

During normal working hours:

Telephone: 0300 1534300

Mobile: 07813 007392

Email: [APSG-AOLB-Legacy-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:APSG-AOLB-Legacy-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk)

Postal Address:

Army Operational Legacy Branch  
Army Personnel Services Group  
Ramillies Building  
Army Headquarters  
Monxton Road  
Andover  
SP11 8HJ

### **Scots Guards Club – Autumn News**

The Club has enjoyed a busy late summer period and looking at the coming weeks and months, the function room diary is filling up nicely, particularly into December. So if you are planning that festive event, please get in touch soon to avoid disappointment.

A busy Autumn beckons with four rugby internationals. As ever, we appreciate the patience and understanding of members in putting up with the disruption. To the Club, these days are helpful financially and in rugby terms, the Club has become a bit of an institution on match days.

Frustratingly, the match against New Zealand is a 2.30pm KO on 13 November, which is Remembrance Sunday! We will open early that day to facilitate those picking up wreaths from the Club and attending the service across the road. We will only open to the wider public after the Remembrance Service is finished.

Many of you have asked whether the piping knockouts will start again and the answer is 'yes'. The plan had been to kick off again where the semi-finals left off in March 2020 (a date we won't forget!) but pipers' diary commitments are making that plan difficult to deliver. It is hoped therefore to run a recital in the Autumn and then recommence the semis in the new year.

Staying on the subject of piping, the Club plays host every fortnight to The Eagle Pipers, a long established Edinburgh piping society. The Eagles recently held a competition for the composition of a Pibroch and honoured us by naming one of the winning tunes 'The Scots Guards Club'

Our bar prices today are the same as they were in 2015! Since then we have absorbed annual wholesale cost increases thanks to all you lovely members who keep the Club busy. Having been hit with two significant increases this year alone, we have no option but to pop our prices up a bit to ensure the Club remains profitable. This increase took effect from Monday 3 October.

On a similar note, the current membership prices of £20/£15 are less than they were in 2015 when they were £30 and £25. 2023 memberships will rise to £25 and £20 (over 65). Still less than they were seven years ago and members' discount on all drinks will continue to apply. Regrettably, we will no longer be issuing couples memberships.

Any new member joining from 3 October will pay the new membership price but will receive a 2023 membership card, with membership effective immediately. So, in effect, three months membership at no cost.

Previous newsletters spoke about the ongoing conversion of the top floor of the Club from a flat to Club rooms with work anticipated to complete this year. We have however postponed this work until we have a clear understanding of electricity costs over the winter.

Many will have been moved by the lone piper fading into the distance as HM The Queen was interred at Windsor Castle following the State Funeral. What many will not know is that the tune played was composed by our very own Chairman, Pipe Major Jimmy Banks MBE in memory of his late brother Willie who, following his time in the Scots Guards, worked for the Royal Household and who was very highly regarded by Her Majesty. Like all the music, the tune 'Royal Fendersmith' was agreed by The Queen in advance and what a magnificent thing it was that Jimmy's tune was requested by her for that final, poignant, moment.

We hope to see many of you over the coming weeks and as ever, we appreciate every single one of you who supports the Club.

**All the best from all the Team.**

## Memorial to 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards ~ By Colin Foster

Readers will, I am sure recall that, in July 2019, with the extensive and enthusiastic support (both financial and personal) of the survivors, widows and descendants of those who had served in 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards between 1943 and 1945 together with donations by branches of the Scots Guards Association, and a substantial grant from the Musée de La Percée du Bocage in St Martin des Besaces, enabled us to embark on an ambitious programme of commemoration to coincide with the weekend of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle. This culminated in the erection of a substantial new Memorial to the achievements of 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards in late July 1944 as one of the leading units of Operation BLUECOAT.



You will, I am sure, be pleased to read that the memorial that we erected in 2019 for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LES LOGES battle still looks as imposing as ever – in fact even more so now that it has had some time to “bed in”. The wife of the mayor of LES LOGES ensures that there are flowers on the memorial all year round and it is clear to see that they are still very proud of “their” piece of history.

During the Pandemic, only small services were able to be held at the site due to Social Distancing, however, this year there was a much larger attendance which I was able to also attend.

At the ceremony, Billy Leblond (president of the Musée de La Percée du Bocage) read out a short dedication in both French and English as follows...

*Dear friends,*

*Thank you for your present presence at this ceremony at Les Loges on hill 226.*

*For three years it was difficult to travel and attend this ceremony. This year we are happy to see the return of many families to Normandy to meditate on the places where their loved ones fought for our freedom.*

*We are gathered this morning to commemorate the memory of the young and courageous men who gave their lives in the hope of a better world.*

*On the morning of July 30, 1944, Operation Bluecoat was launched, the 6<sup>th</sup> Guards Tank Brigade set off to attack its objectives. Hill 226, where we are is devoted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards who lost in this action 11 tanks and 24 of their men. It is in the memory of these men and the tragedy that happened here that in 2019 this Memorial and Orientation Table was inaugurated so that we do not forget their sacrifice, and that they can thus continue to live in our memories.*

*Since the inauguration this place has become a key location in our tours of the battlefield.*

*We thank Colin Foster, Stéphane Jaquet, Mark Kentell, Jean & Jeanette Ménard, Joël Levert, his wife Maryvonne who puts flowers on this memorial as well as all the contributors and especially those of the families of those who fought and died in this battle*  
***We will never forget***



As Billy mentioned in his dedication, the Memorial and Orientation Table are now key elements in visits by school-children to the museum as, in addition to being a safe, off-road area, the view over the battlefield (together with the details that are on the Orientation Table) make an explanation of the battle and a discussion of the terrain involved and the achievements of the Battalion a much more straightforward process.



**L-R: Billy LeBlond (Museum President), Stéphane Jaquet (museum vice-President), Colin Foster, Mme Jeanette Ménard, M. Jean Ménard (museum Founder), Mark Kentell (museum past President)**

For those on Facebook, there is a video of the ceremony available at: <https://www.facebook.com/musee44/videos/563586655480180>

Finally, I am in the process of pulling together information and photographs for my second volume of the history of 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards which will cover their other battles in Normandy – in particular for the villages of ESTRY and CAUMONT, so if anyone has photographs or family history or information that they would be willing to share, please contact me at [colin@menintheshed.com](mailto:colin@menintheshed.com)

#### **An Honour & Remembrance**



**Left: Rab McIntyre Chairman & Leading Drummer Dunfermline Pipe Band. On Monday 3 October HM The King & Queen Consort made their 1<sup>st</sup> official engagement in Scotland a visit to Scotland to Dunfermline to formally make it the 8<sup>th</sup> city in Scotland. Dunfermline Pipe Band had the honour to play at the ceremony.**

**Right: LSgt Mark MacRae salutes at the opening of Glasgow Garden of Remembrance.**