

# 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

Neil Crockett  
Secretary & Editor

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

Palace of Holyrood 1965

October 2021  
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### Front Page Gathering Photographs:

**Top L-R:** Paddy McEnhill, Davie McCulloch, Jim McPherson, Pat Fowler, Graham Fowler, Mo McCulloch, Phil Murphy, Danny Minto, John Wallace, John O'Hanlon.

**Bottom Left L-R:** WO1 Gibson (Edinburgh Garrison), Micky Nutter, Steve Ramage.

**Bottom Right L-R:** Ian Girdwood & Graham Wilkie.

### WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING OCTOBER IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

#### Malaya Emergency

21 October 1949	Lieutenant RAC MacKenzie	Age 23	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards.
27 October 1949	Brigadier MD Erskine CBE DSO	Bde Comd 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gds Bde.	Missing presumed dead, aircraft crashed.

#### Northern Ireland

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

4 October 1971	24048571 Gdsm Brian Hall	Age 22	Right Flank, Killed Cupar Street OP, Belfast
17 October 1971	24185633 Gdsm George Hamilton	Age 21	Left Flank, Killed Ballymurphy. Belfast.
30 October 1971	24096917 Gdsm Norman Booth	Age 22	Right Flank, Killed Springfield Road OP, Belfast.

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

28 October 1972	24021239 LSgt Thomas McKay	Age 29	Recce Pltn, Killed Londonderry.
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#### Guards Depot, Pirbright

5 October 1974	24327747 Gdsm William Forsyth	Age 18}	Killed in bombing of Horse & Groom Public House,
	24327746 Gdsm John Hunter	Age 17}	Guildford

### REGIMENTAL GATHERING – 11 & 12 SEPTEMBER 2021 – SOMME BARRACKS, CATTERICK

Pictures paint a thousand words to a great weekend with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards.



**Left L-R:** Phil Neill, Ian Crockett, IP John Innes, Brian Harrison, Peter Sullivan, Ian Murphy, Willie Coffield.



**Right L-R:** Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor, HRH The Colonel talks to Alf Clempson (Armed Forces Champion for Lancashire Council) also Alan Howarth (Preston), John Findlay (Durham & Yorkshire). Alan Howarth & John Findlay enlisted together as Junior Leaders in Sept 1966 along with Neil Crockett.



**Danny Minto (Sec Edinburgh) Willie Urban (Chairman TV&FA) – Danny was Foreman of Poppy Factory, Edinburgh & Willie works there.**



**Lachlan McLean (Manchester) WW2 Veteran is presented to HRH The Colonel.**





**Joe Lee (New Secretary SGA Durham & Yorkshire) is presented to HRH The Colonel.**



**HRH The Colonel is briefed by Major Bull (OC HQ Coy)**

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### BRANCH DINNERS AUTUMN / WINTER 2021

Over the next two months SGA Branch Dinners take place as below. Why not contact the local Branch Secretary and find out how you can attend.

Sat 9 October	Pipers	Scots Guards Club	GOH Colonel JM Clavering
Sat 9 October	Dundee & Angus	Invercarse Hotel, Dundee	
Sat 16 October	Carlisle, Dumfries & Gall	Carlisle Golf Club	GOH Lt Col GGF Anderson 1SG
Fri 29 October	Aberdeen & NE Scotland	Althens Hotel, Aberdeen	
Sat 30 October	Durham & Yorkshire	Sgts Mess, Somme Barracks	
Fri 5 November	Ayrshire	RAF Club, Prestwick	
Sat 6 November	Corby, Central& Eastern England	Location TBC	
Fri 12 November	Fife	Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy	GOH Major WJ Inglis
Fri 19 November	Preston	Masonic Club, Preston	
Sat 27 November	London (St Andrews Dinner)	Union Jack Club	

### REMEMBRANCE EVENTS – SCOTLAND

Fri 22 October	Opening Inverness Garden of Remembrance.
Mon 25 October	Opening Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance.
Tue 26 October	Opening Glasgow Garden of Remembrance.

### Ayrshire Branch

The members agreed that future meetings of the Branch should be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

For more information about Branch events contact Secretary Jim Fraser on his **new Tel number:** 07765 490477 or email: [james.fraser279@gmail.com](mailto:james.fraser279@gmail.com)

## EARLY DATES TO SAVE IN YOUR DIARY FOR 2022

Fri 21 January	SGA Glasgow Burns Supper
Sat 19 February	The Rabbits Breakfast, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.
Sat 5 March	Swallae Ho, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.
Sat 2 April	SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks.
Sun 3 April	Regimental Remembrance Sunday Guards Chapel
Thu 2 June	Queen's Birthday Parade.
Sat 4 June	Drums Company 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.
10 – 13 June	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration & Reunion, Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association.
30 July (TBC)	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Op Motorman Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.

## Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Branch



The Branch held its dinner on Saturday 18 September at Datchet Golf Club. A full house of members, guests and their ladies enjoyed a great night.

Vice President Lt Col John Arthur presided over the dinner, Jim Simmonds looked after his first dinner as Chairman. Brigadier DV Erskine Crum was Guest of Honour, ASM Colin Kirkwood (RMA Sandhurst) attended.

## Durham & Yorkshire Branch

Due to the passing of the late Harry Marrs there have been changes to Branch Officials.

Current Officials are:

<b>President:</b>	Captain RJG Craib
<b>Chairman:</b>	Stewart Webb
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Findlay
<b>Secretary:</b>	Joe Lee

Joe is currently engaging in a Branch Recruitment campaign. His contact details and the details of the forthcoming Branch dinner are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

# SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

18 REGIONAL BRANCHES ACROSS THE UK

1 BRANCH IN AUSTRALIA - 1 BRANCH IN NORTH AMERICA

BRANCH	SECRETARY	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
SGA Secretary	Neil Crockett	<a href="mailto:sga@scotsguards.org">sga@scotsguards.org</a>	01383 721530
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Edinburgh & The Lothians	Danny Minto	<a href="mailto:e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk">e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk</a>	07758 193362
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Highlands & Islands	Harry Obern	<a href="mailto:hobc862@gmail.com">hobc862@gmail.com</a>	01463 717002
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Manchester	John Roache	<a href="mailto:johnroache@live.co.uk">johnroache@live.co.uk</a>	07577 992900
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Pipers	Dougie Watson	<a href="mailto:sgpipersbranchsecv@gmail.com">sgpipersbranchsecv@gmail.com</a>	07515 263716
Preston	Michael Nutter	<a href="mailto:mn3943@hotmail.co.uk">mn3943@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07976 909001
Surrey	TBC		
Tumbledown Vets & Fams Assoc	Heather McGrath	<a href="mailto:Jmhmcgrath72@gmail.com">Jmhmcgrath72@gmail.com</a>	07522 500365
Malaya & Borneo Veterans	Sandy Low	<a href="mailto:sandy.low57@gmail.com">sandy.low57@gmail.com</a>	01723 892049
SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)	Iain Lowther	<a href="mailto:iain-lowther68@outlook.com">iain-lowther68@outlook.com</a>	07484 637188

GIVE YOUR CLOSEST BRANCH A CALL & ASK ABOUT JOINING IN WITH BRANCH ACTIVITIES. MEET FRIENDS FROM YOUR SERVICE & MAKE NEW FRIENDS FROM ACROSS THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY.





## **Edinburgh & The Lothians**

Just a wee reminder that our Branch meetings will restart on 1900 for 1930hrs the first Wednesday of each month, the first being 6 October 2021. We look forward to seeing some new faces.

## **Preston**

Vice Chairman & Secretary Micky Nutter invited Branch members, 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tank) Bn veteran Ted Davidson (96) and Jason Bray to join him at his place of work at North Lincs Training Group. Micky's workmates also enjoyed the coffee morning which was in aid of McMillan Cancer Care.



**Jason Bray, Ted Davidson & Micky Nutter**

## **Glasgow Branch**

### **Burns Supper 2022**

You don't need to be a member of the Branch to attend this event, if you are a past or serving member of the Scots Guards you will be made most welcome. We also extend our invitation to all other branches of the Scots Guards Association.

The event will be held on Friday 21 January 2022 at The Loks Bar and Kitchen, 16 Newlandsfield Road, Shawlands, Glasgow, G43 2XU. Time 18:30 for 19:00hrs.

Dress for the event will be Highland or Lounge suits for the Gentlemen and the Ladies should be dressed in equivalent dress.

The tickets can be purchased direct from Ronnie Cook and the price will be £20 per head for that you get your meal a dram and limited wine at the table.



### **Gathering**

**IP John Innes & 2SG Malaya 1949 – 51 Veteran Eric Burgess from Preston.**



**HRH The Colonel meets SGA Members from BBO, Preston, Durham & Yorkshire and Merseyside Branches.**

## **NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT**

### **1SG October Update from Captain Tom Strachan Int Officer.**

The past 18 months, since the coronavirus pandemic began, has seen the Battalion deployed on 5 operational tours; Op SHADER (Iraq), Op ELGIN (Kosovo), Op ORBITAL (Ukraine), Op FIRIC (Falkland Islands) and Op CABRIT (Estonia). This has been an incredible achievement in this difficult time and duly reflects the Regiment's fierce reputation for professionalism. What is more, some members of the Battalion found themselves re-deploying from one operational theatre to another, with little time to rest between deployments.

With this in mind, the Battalion returned from some well-earned Summer leave at the start of September.

#### **Right Flank**

Right Flank has been busy re-forming the new 'Sterling Platoon' – the training innovation and experimentation platoon for the Battalion, their main focus has been to become night fighting specialists over the coming months. The Company conducted a medals parade on 23 September 2021 to recognise all those that deployed on Op SHADER between Dec 20 – Jun 21. GOC 3XX was the inspecting Officer.

#### **B Company**

B Company has been focussing on deepening and broadening its Anti-Tank knowledge with 2 weeks of Anti-Tank Concentrations within Somme Barracks.

#### **C Company**

C Company has been busy on the road to Ex Mayan Storm in Belize. The Company has also been flat out with vehicle courses - all in preparation for readiness in the new year.

#### **HQ Company**

HQ Company has been enabling all that the Battalion does as ever. The MT Platoon has been delivering constant driver and vehicle courses, alongside the REME Light Aid Detachment that has delivered the vehicle maintenance courses. The Signals Platoon delivered Ex STRIKE COMMUNICATE to improve the Battalions radio and voice procedure knowledge all with the focus of communication through the HF systems in the jungle.

#### **Left Flank**

Left Flank remain deployed in the Western Balkans on Op ELGIN. They will be starting their handover in October with the next Unit to deploy and will return in mid-October.

#### **1SG Patrols Competition**

The forecast of events was busy from the get go after Summer Leave with all Companies straight into a patrols competition on the Catterick Training Area. The route varied between 35-40km depending on the Patrol Sections route selection and saw each team attend stands covering an obstacle course, a section attack, battlefield casualty drills, armoured fighting vehicles, signals and a command task where points were up for grabs at each. A section from B Company, led by Sgt Chapman, came out on top as the victors.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- The Battalion sent 2 teams to the 1 Brigade Patrols Comp and as I write we keenly await the results. Watch this space...
- A team led by the OC LAD competed in the Commando Speed March in Scotland and performed extremely well.
- The Battalion Cricket team reached the Army Cup Final where they narrowly missed out on victory. A fantastic season and achievement.

#### **Look forward to....**

At the end of October the battalion will deploy to Belize for Ex Mayan Storm.





## **BITS & PIECES**

### **Scots Guards Magazine 2020 – 2021**

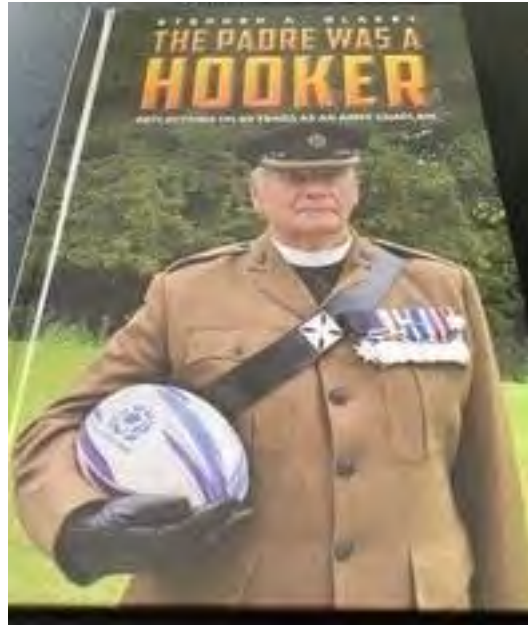
The last piece to be added to the new SG Magazine was the article about the Regimental Gathering showing a wide array of photographs of the day. The magazine is now at the printer and if you get a copy automatically every year it will soon be dropping through your letter box. If you want to be added to the mailing list to receive the magazine and pay for it annually you should contact Karen Johnstone [adminclerk@scotsguards.org](mailto:adminclerk@scotsguards.org)

### **Scots Guards Diary 2022**

When the 2021 Regimental Diary was on sale last year it was quickly sold out. Make sure you are ready to buy the 2022 SG Diary as soon as it goes on sale – Don't miss out – watch this space for more information.

### **The Padre Was A Hooker**

Reverend Stephen Blakey was the Padre of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards in Hong Kong in the early 1980s and has written his military memoirs which are available from Amazon in various formats.



**THE PADRE WAS A HOOKER**



**The Gathering started with the March Past of the Regiment Past & Serving – under command of Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor – Chairman of the Scots Guards Association & led by the Association Standards**



## Miniature Medals Free To A Good Home.



A memorial service was held on 22 September for former SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Branch member, the late Paul Duffie at St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock. Paul passed away on 3 April 2020. Paul's niece is now offering his miniature medals free to anyone who qualifies. 2 sets both are the General Service Medal 1918 – 1962 (1 set with Canal Zone Bar) & Long Service & Good Conduct Medal. His niece retains the full size medals.

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards served in Egypt (The Canal Zone) from 1951 – 1954, the medal was authorised for this service in 2003.

Please contact Rab Ritchie Secretary SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Branch if you would like a set of these medals and qualify for them. Tel: 07776 411120 or Email; [rab.ritchie@icloud.com](mailto:rab.ritchie@icloud.com)

## Gathering Raffle Prizes – Have You Claimed Your Prize

The Gathering was deemed to be a great success by all reports on the SG Facebook Groups and other feedback.

At the Gathering the programmes sold had an individual number for a raffle. The numbers drawn were called out by Captain John Craib, bizarrely only one prize was claimed on the day.

These are the Gathering Programme raffle numbers that were drawn:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 271 - £200 Cash                                   | – Won by Mark McKay SG Taxi Driver                 |
| 122 - - Bottle of Jura whisky                     | - Won by John Findlay – Durham & Yorkshire Branch. |
| 111- - Ltr Bottle of Gordons Gin                  | - Won by Phil Neill                                |
| 191 - Bottle Ben Bracken Single Malt Whisky       | - Won by Michael McCulloch                         |
| 319 - Bottle Harrison Handcrafted Gin             |  |
| 415 - Bottle of Napoleon Brandy                   |  |
| 200 - Bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Lable Whisky | - Won by Bob Steven – Dundee & Angus Branch        |
| 320 - Bottle Beefeater Gin                        |  |
| 330 - Bottle Johnnie Walker Black Lable Whisky    |  |
| 171 - Bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Lable Whisky | - Won by Fran Martin TV&FA                         |

Please share to your friends who attended and ask them to check their programme number which I'm sure they kept. If they can send me a photo of the programme cover page with the number we'll work out a way to get their prize to them. Send photo to email: [sga@scotsguards.org](mailto:sga@scotsguards.org)

## Gathering Photographs

Thanks for the many photographs shared across social media which illustrate a special Regimental weekend. Particular thanks to Kevin Wylie for all the photographs he took. Cheers All!





**IP John Innes shows the way to the Bn Picquet Officer.  
John knows the form, he's done lots of Picquet Sgt duties over the years.**



**Regimental Music – Front & Centre of the Gathering**



**Battalion Adventure Training - Captain John Ford with the Atlantic Guardsman Rowing Boat -  
Captain Jason Manassie with the Mount Denali Mountaineering Team**