

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



LAUGHS



MEETING FRIENDS



FUND RAISING



GOLF



SERVING FRIENDS



PARADES



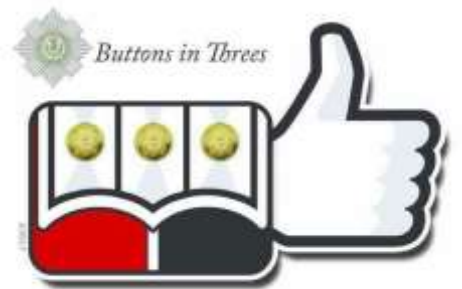
PIPING



OLD FRIENDS



REMEMBRANCE



PROUD SERVICE

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**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

THE ASSOCIATION

Scots Guardsmen and their families remain a part of the Regiment for life and this association helps serving and retired members to stay in touch, while coordinating support to our troops in the front line or members of the Regimental family in time of need.

Our Regiment takes great care in looking after our soldiers and their families, which costs an increasing amount of money every year from our Scots Guards Charity. We have been serving the Crown for over 375 years and we are immensely proud of our heritage and our ability to adapt to changing times both in the British Army and the country as a whole.

Please enjoy learning about our Association and if you are part of the family haven't done so already why not renew those ties and join your nearest regional Branch.

The Objectives:

- Maintaining and supporting the network of past and serving members of the Regiment. To promote friendship and association amongst those now in civil life. Continue to uphold in civil life the high standard and character of the Regiment.
- To foster an Esprit de Corps and promote the best interests of the Regiment.
- To bring to the attention of Regimental Headquarters any case deserving of assistance from Regimental Funds, and to give particular assistance to any member, wife, widow or children who may be in distressed circumstances.
- When requested to provide local knowledge on employment to those leaving the Regiment.
- To provide encouragement when opportunity arises to speak to potential recruits for the Regiment.
- To arrange meetings, social events and annual dinners.

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING OCTOBER IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

Malaya Emergency

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

Northern Ireland

1st Battalion

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

2nd Battalion

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

5 October 1974	Gdsm William Forsyth age 18 } Gdsm John Hunter age 19 }	Killed in bombing of Horse & Groom Public House, Guildford.
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GDSM GEORGE LOCKHART – REMEMBERED



On Saturday 26 September 2020 Gdsm George Lockhart was remembered by SGA Dundee and Angus at his resting place in Arbroath Eastern Cemetery. George died of his wounds three days after being shot in the Bogside, Londonderry when serving with Right Flank, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in 1972.

In the photograph are L – R: Iain Bryson (Secretary), Dave Duncan, Dave Cuthill (Vice President) Simon Roberts (RBL Standard Bearer). Good to see you back on parade Dave.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Covid restrictions continue to challenge how all Branches of the Association go about their business. Some have managed one or two low level meetings. Most of the effort by Branches has been focused on keeping in touch with members in so far it has been possible.

During the early summer the Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire Branch held their AGM by email and letter and found it worked remarkably well and they managed to get the important business proposed and passed. They have been able to hold a couple of monthly meetings albeit at a lower key.

The Surrey Branch held their AGM in the summer, held in their President's garden when he also kindly hosted members to lunch.

The Edinburgh and The Lothians Branch held a meeting at the Scots Guards Club which was low key but provided a chance to get together for the first time in five months.

The London Branch held a Zoom committee meeting to which Neil Crockett was invited to take part in and various plans were discussed, mostly for the early months of 2021.

The Ayrshire Branch held their first meeting in early September and will meet again on 5 October.

I've no doubt there have been low key meetings of members across the country and even the occasional game of golf or lunch by friends when SGA matters will have been spoken about.

The Borders Branch held their Annual Dinner in Hawick just prior to lockdown but nearly all other Branches have had to cancel and below is the list of cancelled dinners for the Autumn period:

Cancelled Dinners 2020.

For clarity the following Dinners have been declared as cancelled:

October

SGA Dundee & Angus
SGA Pipers
SGA Carlisle
SGA Durham & Yorkshire
SGA Aberdeen & NE Scotland

November

SGA Fife
SGA Manchester
SGA Preston
SGA London

I would urge all Branches and all individual members to make every attempt to keep in touch with other members by phone, email, letter or even a socially distanced knock at the door. Particularly to keep an eye on our vulnerable members.

Now all Branches are beginning to turn their attention to the planning for next year's activities. **2021 will be a good year**

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2020 - 21

OCTOBER

Mon 26	Opening Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street.
Tue 27	Opening of Glasgow Garden of Remembrance, George Square.
Fri 29	SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox Meeting, Datchet GC.
Sat 31	Dundee Festival of Remembrance, Caird Hall.

NOVEMBER

Fri 6 TBC	SGA Ayrshire Dinner, RAFA Club Prestwick.
Sat 7	Festival of Remembrance, Albert Hall, London
Sun 8	Remembrance Sunday.
Fri 27	SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox Meeting, Datchet GC.

2021

JANUARY

Sat 23	SGA Durham & Yorkshire Burns Supper / Annual Dinner C/F from 2020.
Sat 23	SGA London Burns Super.
Sat 30	SGA Berks, Buck & Ox Burns Supper, Datchet GC.

FEBRUARY

Sat TBC	Rabbits Breakfast. Scots Guards Club.
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MARCH

Sat 6	Swallie Ho, Scots Guards Club.
Sat 13	SGA Borders Dinner, Hawick Rugby Club.

APRIL

Fri 9	SGA London, Visit to Imperial War Museum.
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MAY

Sat 29	Major General's Review, QBP, London
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JUNE

Sat 5	Colonel's Review, QBP, London.
Sat 12	Queen's Birthday Parade, London by F Company Scots Guards.
Fri 11 – Mon 14	Tumbledown Veterans & Fam's Assoc Reunion, Blackpool.
Sat 26 June	London Branch BBQ, Sgts Mess Regents Park Barracks.

JULY

Sun 11	SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox Polo Day & Picnic, Guards Polo Club.
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SEPTEMBER

Fri/Sat 3 & 4	Infantry Junior Leaders Bn Reunion Weekend, Oswestry.
W/E 11 – 12	Regimental Gathering, hosted by 1 st Bn Scots Guards, Somme Barracks, Catterick.
Sat 11	SGA North America Dinner, Woodlawn Inn, Coburg, Ontario.
Sat 18	SGA London, Ladies Night.
Fri 25	SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox Annual Dinner, Datchet GC.

NOVEMBER

Fri 12	SGA Fife Dinner.
Sun 14	Remembrance Sunday.
Fri 19	SGA Preston Dinner. Masonic Hall.
Sat 27	SGA London St Andrew's Dinner.

REMEMBRANCE

It is obvious that restrictions will affect all Remembrance events big and small throughout the UK and all SGA Branches will need to consider carefully how they will pay their respects at Remembrance time this year. I asked Brian Ward (Events Manager Legion Scotland), who many of you will know, for information. Below are snippets of detail given by him to Royal British Legion Scotland Branches.

Both Edinburgh & Glasgow Opening of Gardens of Remembrance will go ahead but we need to comply with the Scottish Government's advice. There will be drastically reduced numbers, there was roughly 25 wreath layers at each opening ceremony in 2019. This year there will be no more than 6 at each, we will offer to lay wreaths on behalf of organisations that would normally be laying wreaths on the day.

We need to stress to everyone that they must properly risk assess each of the remembrance events that they are organising and also to keep the numbers in attendance to an absolute bare minimum. There is a 200 maximum for an outdoor event but I really think this number won't apply to remembrance events that our membership will be attending because they must be able to strictly enforce and meet the remainder of the rules for that to apply. If the remembrance service was in an enclosed area they would be able to restrict and control entry to and ensure that control measures are in place to ensure everyone is socially distanced. Parades are not allowed at the moment under current guidelines.

In short: Remembrance Services / Parades will be very different this year, find out the format at an early stage so appropriate plans can be made to attend.

Deaths

Third Guards Club

Colonel Adrian Seymour Died 12 September 2020 Age 102. He was born on 11th June 1918 and when he died he was the oldest living Third Guards Club member and one of our very few remaining Second World War veterans.

Colonel Seymour enlisted into the Army on 15th July 1939 and was posted as a Second Lieutenant to the Training Battalion on 18 February 1940. He was posted to 3SG on 18 August 1941 and deployed to North West Europe with 3SG on 19 July 1944. On VE Day he was Adjutant of the 3rd Tank Battalion Scots Guards.

After the war he was posted to 1SG CMF (Central Mechanised Forces) on 18 February 1946 and attended Staff College from 22 January 1948. Colonel Seymour deployed to Middle East Land Forces (MELF) 1SG on 1st December 1951 and on to MELF GHQ on 20 August 1953.

He was posted back to Guards Training Battalion 07 January 1954 and HQ London District on 11 January 1954. He was then posted to 2SG as a Major and as Second in Command on 07 August 1955 in BAOR

Posted to the Guards Training Battalion as a Lieutenant Colonel on 10 January 1960 and then on to RHQ SG as Lieutenant Colonel Commanding on 8th September 1962. Colonel Seymour retired from the Army on 15th October 1964.

Regimental Headquarters had the huge honour of sending him a birthday card in June 2018 to wish him a very happy one hundredth birthday from the entire Regimental family. On 8 May this year VE Day 75, he received a letter from the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel to commemorate his service during World War 2

Fife Branch

23908868 LSgt Ronnie Barlow. Died 31 August 2020. Served Left Flank 1SG 1963 Malaya/Borneo, Edinburgh, Chelsea, Sharjah (Recce), PTI Gds Depot to 1974. Lived Ballingry, Fife.

23517955 LSgt George Wright Died 26 September 2020. Served Left Flank 2 SG inc Kenya 1962 – 64. Lived Glenrothes, Fife.

Pipers Branch / Dundee & Angus Branch

23229504 Piper Henry Dyker. Died 4 September 2020. Age 85, Served 1956 – 58. Lived Forfar Angus

North America Branch

22551801 Sgt James Campbell Died 13 September 2020. Age 81 Served 1SG & 2SG 1954 – 1965 Lived Greater Toronto area, Canada.

Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway / Warrant Officers & Sgts Past and Present Association

23969084 Sgt William (Chad) Wightman. Died 20 September 2020 Served 2SG 1964 to early 70s, inc Aden with IG & S Company 1964 to early 70s.

Not Association Member

Gdsm John Stewart. Died early September 2020. Age 96. Served 1SG WW2 1942 – 1945. Lived Cawdor, Nairn.

SCOTS GUARDS DIRECTORY

If any former Scots Guardsman has a business which can be offered for the benefit to members of the Regimental family, I can share there details:

Medal Supply / Mounting: Tony Stevens Email: ts2453@gmail.com Tel: 07789 324621 Tony served for a short time in 2SG, then the 1st Battalion in Aldergrove, Hong Kong, Pirbright & Hohne. His hobby is medals and his business medal supply and mounting.

Kilt Making / Medal Mounting: George McKay Email: George@mckaykilts.com Tel: 01207 509674 Georges served for 25 years and was Master Tailor of 1st Battalion for 10 years.

Piper: Dougie Watson (see last page) Email: enquiries@piperonparade.co.uk Tel: 01463 870244 or 07515 263716

Piper: John Rae Email: enquiries@thepickledpiper.co.uk Tel: 0131 663 1863 or 07831 426752

**CAPTAIN GRAHAM FOWLER
CASEWORKER - SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN AND FAMILIES ASSOCIATION**

Captain Graham Fowler is a SSAFA Caseworker in Brighton, Hove & Lewes, Sussex where he lives. In February 2020 he was informed that he had been recognised for his service to this armed forces charity. Graham was honoured to receive SSAFA's Sir James Gildea Award.

The award was created to recognise the charity's volunteers and employees for their exceptional contribution and commitment to SSAFA's activities and values. The scheme is open to all, so that individuals right across the charity can nominate those who inspire them.



Captain Graham Fowler with his SSAFA Sir James Gildea Award

Citation

With over 11 years' service to SSAFA, this award recognises your unwavering professional commitment to providing essential support, both within your community and to your colleagues around you. In particular, you went above and beyond the standard call of duty when working with and supporting a particularly vulnerable young veteran through an incredibly challenging time in his life, undoubtedly providing life altering assistance. Through your expertise, persistence and calm yet direct approach to all your work, including that on the Judicial system process, you demonstrate that you uphold all of SSAFA's core values, and are truly an inspiration to us all.

I am delighted to confirm that you have been successfully nominated and chosen for a Local SSAFA Sir James Gildea Award. I would like to pass on sincere thanks and appreciation on behalf of the whole SSAFA team.

**Lieutenant General Sir Gary Coward KBE CB
Chairman
SSAFA**

What is SSAFA - Graham Fowler Caseworker

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (SSFA) was founded by Major James Gildea in 1885 at the time the Second Expeditionary Force was setting sail for Egypt and the Mahdi uprising. He appealed for money and volunteers to help the military families left behind.

At the outbreak of the First World War, the British Government called on SSFA, then the only charity of its kind, for help. Its volunteers cared for families when fathers and sons were enlisted, provided food for the hungry, housing for the homeless and clothing for those in need.

After the end of the war and the establishment of the RAF in 1918, the charity expanded to become the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association and is now known simply as SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity. It is needed more than ever and is relied upon by many sectors, including the Government.

Nearly six million people living in the United Kingdom are estimated to be part of the Armed Forces community at some point in their lives, about 2.8 million of them veterans.

What SSAFA provides can be boiled down to three very simple but meaningful words – personalised lifelong support. Just one day's service in the Armed Forces brings about a lifetime of support for service personnel and their families. Some army regiments and corps do have a service limit such as must have completed basic training, our regiment does not.

Armed Forces personnel's service might end when they leave but it is society's ongoing duty to support them and their families.

“SSAFA is in the front line of making this happen. Our thousands of volunteers, all of whom are professionally trained, assess the needs of those currently in the Armed Forces, veterans and their families when they need some help.

SSAFA caseworkers create comprehensive packages, accessing our and other charities' both service and civilian resources, specifically tailored to help their clients regain independence and dignity. The help might be from arranging debt counselling, assistance in housing providing disability adaptations such as a wet room, stair lift or as simple as providing a new bed or fridge. Most of the service charities will also help with an annuity if you are living on the minimum state pension with pension credit.

Although the number of veterans is reducing, the demand for our services is increasing – and the needs we are addressing are becoming more complicated.

SSAFA is evolving to meet these needs through our range of services. Our Norton Homes, our Adoption Service, our independent helpline Forcesline, and transition mentoring are just some of the examples of the way we provide help. “The public's support to veterans and their families has always been important and together we can provide the lifelong commitment that their service demands.”

If you want to get involved with mentoring, being a case worker or other volunteering opportunities with SSAFA, visit ssafa.org.uk/volunteer to find out what roles are available in your area.

If you are not sure I am happy to discuss with you either by email graham.fowler@sussex.ssafa.org.uk or PM me on face book with a telephone number and I will call you.

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT



Congratulations to Ppr Craig who picked up Best Class 2 Piper on his piping course at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming. He will join the 1st Battalion Pipe's and Drums who dual role as the Pioneer Platoon.



On the 8 September the Bn bade farewell to Brigadier Nickerson in his post as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel. To show their appreciation there was a full turnout by the Battalion, finishing with a Beating Retreat by the Pipes and Drums.



Right Flank Section Patrol Competition when junior leaders were put through their paces, The Gdsm were tested on the specialist skills they have recently practiced.

BITS & PIECES



Two former Right Flank Company Commanders held an impromptu reunion in Hemingway's Bar, Beirut on 14 August. Brigadier (Retired) Charles Page was supporting the Government's response to the Port Explosions and Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Giles Taylor is training and advising the Lebanese Army on border security matters, alongside several former Scots Guardsmen. They had both just tested negative for COVID-19 and were abiding by Lebanese pandemic laws!

The Returned & Services League of Australia

For information to any SGA Australia member who may be living in North Brisbane.

Recently I was contacted by the out going President of the Clayfield-Toombul Sub-Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia, which has been serving the veteran community since it was first established in 1919. Today they have some 65 members, all of whom have served in the Australian Army, the Royal Australian Navy, the RAAF, or the armed forces of one of our allies. Two of their members are former British Army, and another served in Afghan with the British Army, having been on Exercise Long Look.

They would happily welcome any members of the Scots Guards Association in Brisbane who would like to join the Sub-Branch. They have a fairly young demographic, and are very family oriented and meets monthly for camaraderie.

VISIT TO GLEN STRATHFARRAR

When they were on their travels SGA Fife Branch member Tom Paterson and his wife Karen came across this memorial in Glen Strathfarrar near Loch Ness. I'm sure others of you will have visited it but it is well worth showing.



Pipe Major WC Ross MVO, MBE a famous piper of the Regiment.

The world will come to an end but love and music will endure.

FOUR GENERATIONS WITH THE GUARDS

One Golspie family has given almost a century of service — 98 years to be exact — to the Scots Guards, that élite regiment of which Scotland is so proud. In four generations, their service to the Colours started in 1882 and continues today in a personable 19-year old soldier who is now serving as a trained soldier in Northern Ireland.



Dugald Watson of Golspie joined the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards in June 1882, at the age of 20. After seven years with his regiment, he went on to become an estate gardener in Assynt and finished as a P.T. instructor in the household of the 4th Duke of Sutherland.



HIS SON, John James Watson, served 21 years in the 2nd Battalion and finished up as Company Sergeant Major. He moved to Abu Dhabi for three years, and served in the Army there with the rank of Second Lieutenant. He now works with the Gas Board in Harrogate, Yorkshire.



HIS SON, John James Watson was six years a drummer in the training battalion of the Scots Guards, and ended his service as a corporal at Pirbright in Surrey, then won a long-service medal as a Territorial with the Seaforths.



HIS NEPHEW, Douglas G.C. Watson, son of Dugald and Annie Watson, Main Street, is now taking part in street patrols and peace-keeping in Northern Ireland. He is also a piper in the 1st Battalion band.

The photograph and article above appeared in a local Golspie paper recently.

Dougie Watson (photo bottom right) is now Secretary of the SGA Pipers Branch, he served with 1SG Aldergrove, Hong Kong, Pirbright. Later he was a policeman with Northern Constabulary and now lives 10 miles to the north west of Inverness.
Email: sgpipersbranchsecy@gmail.com Tel: 07515 263716.