

# 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.co.uk](mailto:sga@scotsguards.co.uk)**

**September 2019  
Volume 20 Issue 7**

**Tel: 01383 -721530**

## Front Page Photographs

**Top Photo Left:** Iain Lowther and John Fraser are introduced to HM The Queen after the National Army Cadet Force Pipes & Drums played a Beating Retreat at Braemar on 8 August 2019. Iain Lowther is Chief Instructor and Training Officer & John Fraser is a Pipe Major Advisor.

### Top Photo Right:

Proud Dad, Iain Lowther & son Cadet Piper Calum Lowther at the same event.

### Bottom Photo:

Shows the Pipe Bag Cover of the Scots Guards Association (Scotland) Pipes & Drums.

Iain Lowther is Pipe Major of the Scots Guards Association Pipes & Drums (Scotland) and John Fraser is Pipe Sergeant. Members of the ACF Pipes and Drums including Calum Lowther will be joining with the band to play in the arena at the Gathering for your enjoyment.

## REGIMENTAL GATHERING – SATURDAY 7 & SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

Please contact Neil Crockett by Email: [sga@scotsguards.co.uk](mailto:sga@scotsguards.co.uk) or Tel: 01383 – 721530 if you haven't booked your tickets yet.

### Saturday 7 September

**1130hrs** The Regimental Band & 1st Battalion Scots Guards Pipes & Drums will play at Kirkcaldy Town Square. 1SG Static Display & Vehicles.

**1400hrs** 1st Battalion Scots Guards Football team against Leslie Hearts at Fife Institute, Glenrothes.

**1900hrs** Regimental Band Concert with Pipers from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards in Dunfermline Abbey is now fully booked

The buffet supper is now fully booked.

### Sunday 8 September

The Gathering will be held at Fife Airport, Glenrothes.

**1030hrs - Gates open** Tea / Coffee & Bacon Rolls available

**Gathering Starts 1230hrs** - The Regiment Past & Present will march past The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel.

The Regimental Band, Static Displays & Vehicles from 1SG and the Regimental Support Team.  
Pipes & Drums from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and Scots Guards Association (Scotland) & More.

Entry into the Gathering is by ticket which will cost £2.00. Each adult needs a ticket - Children under 14 will be free.

Programmes will be available on the day.

Car Parking is no problem for either cars or coaches. I will provide passes for all vehicles including those disabled.

The onsite restaurant "The Topsy Nipper" will be closed during the day but it will open at the close of the Gathering should you want to have an evening meal. To book in advance phone: 01592 - 610436.

There will be food and drink outlets. If anyone is interested in pre booking a picnic lunch box please contact Neil Crockett for more information.

## Public Transport to Glenrothes

### Trains:

Catch the Fife Circle from Waverley/ Haymarket to Markinch or Thornton & then a short journey by taxi to Fife Airport

### Stagecoach Buses:

To Glenrothes Bus Stn then a short taxi journey to the airport.

From Glasgow (Buchanan Street) there is an hourly Bus (X24) at 0900 & 1000hrs journey time just under 2 hours.

From Dundee Bus Stn there is an hourly Bus (X26) at 0948 & 1048hrs journey time just under an hour.

From Edinburgh Bus Stn or Queensferry Street (X59 or X61) at 0940, 1010 and 1040hrs with a journey time of just over an hour.

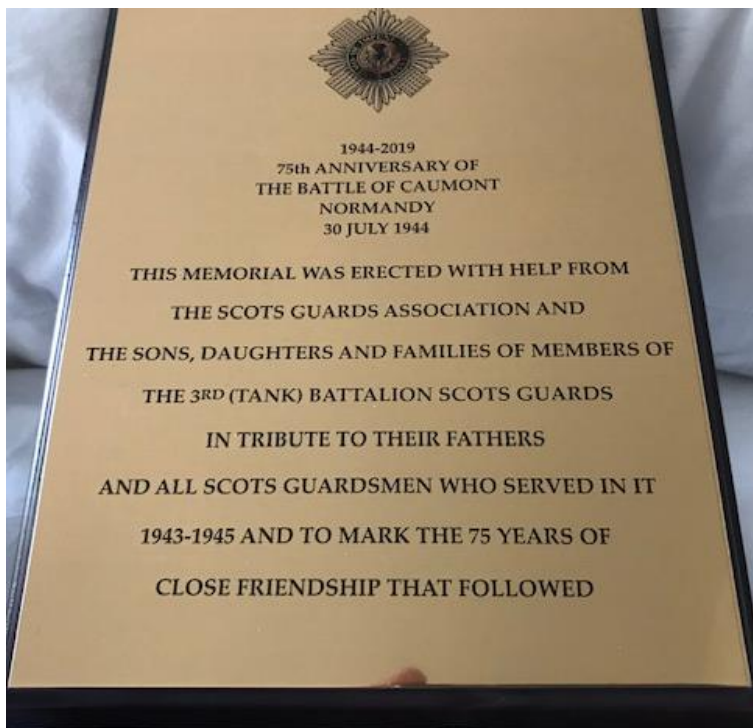
**NOTE: For security and planning purposes you need tickets to get into Gathering events. Please order them early. Cheques should be made payable to the "Scots Guards Association".**

## **THE SCOTS GUARDS CLUB - BIG GUARDS GET TOGETHER 6 - 7 SEPTEMBER**

Is timed this year to coincide with the Regimental Gathering to give Guardsmen, Friends & Family a chance to come together. On Friday 6 September Rugby Scotland V Georgia at Murrayfield at 1930hrs. On the TV at the Club. The Commanding Officer & Regimental Sergeant Major 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards will be in the SG Club during the early evening. Pop in and have a natter.

Saturday 7 September The SG Club will open from 1000hrs. Bagpipes, Beer and Banter will be in plentiful supply.

## **3rd (TANK) BATTALION - UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL - SCOTS GUARDS CLUB - THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2019**



In the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Battle of Caumont, Normandy a memorial plaque will be unveiled in the Scots Guards Club at 1800hrs on Thursday 5 September. The cost of the memorial was raised by donations by the SGA and other Scots Guards Groups.

You are invited to attend the unveiling.

A similar memorial will be unveiled in London later in the year

## **NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES**

### **Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire**

The Branch held a BBQ on 10 August at Datchet Golf Club.



**Branch Secretary Rab Ritchie on a Burger tasting mission.**

## Fife

The Branch held its annual Bowls Competition & Grand Draw at Markinch Bowling Club on Sunday 18 August. Always a good day with a great mix of family & friends joining in.



**Winners:** George Cameron & guest players



**Runners Up:** Led by John Innes (Skip)

## SGA BRANCH DINNERS 2019

### SEPTEMBER

Fri 13 SGA Highland & Islands Dinner, Inverness.  
Fri 27 SGA Durham & Yorkshire Dinner, Woodham Golf Club, Near Newton Aycliffe.  
Sat 28 SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox Dinner, Datchet Golf Club.

### OCTOBER

Sat 12 SGA Dundee & Angus Dinner, Invercarse Hotel.  
Sat 12 SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Dinner, Shepherds Inn, Carlisle.  
Fri 25 SGA Aberdeen & NE Scotland Dinner. Althens Hotel

### NOVEMBER

Fri 1 SGA Ayrshire Dinner, RAF Assoc Club, Prestwick.  
Fri 8 SGA Fife Dinner, Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy.  
Fri 8 SGA Manchester Dinner, Ukrainian Club.  
Fri 15 SGA Preston Dinner, Masonic Club.  
Sat 30 SGA London St Andrew's Dinner, Sgts Mess Regents Park Barracks.

Interested in attending? For further details see the Branch Secretaries contact details below and get in touch with them.

## REMEMBRANCE EVENTS 2019

### OCTOBER

Fri 25 Opening of Inverness Garden of Remembrance.  
Mon 28 Opening of Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens.  
Tue 29 Opening of Glasgow Garden of Remembrance.

### NOVEMBER

Sat 2 Dundee Concert of Remembrance.  
Sun 10 Remembrance Sunday.

Can Branch Secretaries let me know of any major remembrance events in their areas so they can be added to the list .

**WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOUR NEAREST SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION BRANCH IS  
LOOK NO FURTHER – GIVE THE LOCAL SECRETARY A CALL OR EMAIL**

| <b>BRANCH</b>                    | <b>SECRETARY</b>  | <b>EMAIL</b>   | <b>TELEPHONE</b>      |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| SGA Secretary                    | Neil Crockett     | <a href="mailto:sga@scotsguards.co.uk">sga@scotsguards.co.uk</a>                         | 01383 721530          |
| Asst SGA Secretary               | RQMS Steven Smith | <a href="mailto:steven.smith963@mod.gov.uk">steven.smith963@mod.gov.uk</a>               | 0207 414 3334         |
|                                  |                   |  |                       |
| Australian                       | John Linn         | <a href="mailto:john.linn@arasec.com">john.linn@arasec.com</a>                           | 00 61 (0)9438<br>6026 |
| North American                   | David Rennie      | <a href="mailto:drummie2ca@gmail.com">drummie2ca@gmail.com</a>                           | 001 613 680 4306      |
| Aberdeen & NE of Scotland        | Graeme Thompson   | <a href="mailto:gthompson246@btinternet.com">gthompson246@btinternet.com</a>             | 01224 317738          |
| Ayrshire                         | Jim Fraser        | <a href="mailto:jamesfraser279@gmail.com">jamesfraser279@gmail.com</a>                   | 01294 211319          |
| Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire       | Rab Ritchie       | <a href="mailto:rab.ritchie@icloud.com">rab.ritchie@icloud.com</a>                       | 07776 411120          |
| Borders                          | Alex Barclay      | <a href="mailto:eck01uk@yahoo.com">eck01uk@yahoo.com</a>                                 | 01450 370413          |
| Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway    | Tony Mason        | <a href="mailto:eamasons@aol.com">eamasons@aol.com</a>                                   | 07980 103804          |
| Corby, Central & Eastern England | Scott Morton      | <a href="mailto:piper.scott.morton@btinternet.com">piper.scott.morton@btinternet.com</a> | 07786 067878          |
| Dundee & Angus                   | Iain Bryson       | <a href="mailto:iainpiper@hotmail.com">iainpiper@hotmail.com</a>                         | 07447 700536          |
| Durham & Yorkshire               | Stewart Webb      | <a href="mailto:webb174@btinternet.com">webb174@btinternet.com</a>                       | 01325 319125          |
| Edinburgh & The Lothians         | Danny Minto       | <a href="mailto:e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk">e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk</a>                               | 07758 193362          |
| Fife                             | Neil Crockett     | <a href="mailto:neil.crockett@btopenworld.com">neil.crockett@btopenworld.com</a>         | 01383 721530          |
| Glasgow                          | Keith Norwood     | <a href="mailto:keith.norwood@hotmail.com">keith.norwood@hotmail.com</a>                 | 0141 577 6946         |
| Highlands & Islands              | Harry Obern       | <a href="mailto:hobc862@gmail.com">hobc862@gmail.com</a>                                 | 01463 717002          |
| London                           | Tom Ormiston      | <a href="mailto:t.ormiston@ntlworld.com">t.ormiston@ntlworld.com</a>                     | 01480 460727          |
| Manchester                       | John Roache       | <a href="mailto:johnroache@live.co.uk">johnroache@live.co.uk</a>                         | 07577 992900          |
| Merseyside                       | Jimmy Horne       | <a href="mailto:james_horne@btinternet.com">james_horne@btinternet.com</a>               | 0151 520 0229         |
| Pipers                           | Dougie Watson     | <a href="mailto:sgpipersbranchsecy@gmail.com">sgpipersbranchsecy@gmail.com</a>           | 07515 263716          |
| Preston                          | Steve Hills       | <a href="mailto:shills72@yahoo.co.uk">shills72@yahoo.co.uk</a>                           | 07971 043876          |
| Surrey                           | David O'Connell   | <a href="mailto:dandm.oc@talktalk.net">dandm.oc@talktalk.net</a>                         | 01483 233223          |
| Tumbledown Veterans & Fams Assoc | Bill McDowall     | <a href="mailto:billmcdowall@live.co.uk">billmcdowall@live.co.uk</a>                     | 07860 401434          |
| Malaya & Borneo Veterans Assoc   | 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          |

**MEDAL MOUNTING**

Are your medals in need of some TLC before the season of Remembrance ? Why not use the services of either of these 2 fine Scots Guardsmen:

Medal Supply / Mounting Tony Stevens email: [ts2453@gmail.com](mailto:ts2453@gmail.com) Tel: 07789324621 Tony served for a short time in 2SG, then the 1st Battalion in Aldergrove, Hong Kong, Pirbright and Hohne. His hobby is medals and his business medal supply & mounting.

Kilt Making / Medal Mounting George McKay email: [George@mckayskilts.com](mailto:George@mckayskilts.com) Tel: 01207 509674 George served for 25 years and was Master Tailor of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion for 10 years.

**PIPING SERVICES “ON PARADE & PICKLED”  
NEED A PIPER**

2 good Pipers offering their services:

Piper: Dougie Watson email: [enquiries@piperonparade.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@piperonparade.co.uk) Tel: 01463 870244 or 07515 263716.

Piper: John Rae email: [enquiries@thepickledpiper.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thepickledpiper.co.uk) Tel: 0131 663 1863 or 07831 426752

## **BITS AND PIECES**

### **SG VETERANS GOLF WEEKEND 5 – 7 OCTOBER 2019**

#### **NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE**

It's not the Forest Pines Spa and Golf resort in Lincolnshire anymore. The Berks, Bucks & Oxon. Branch Chairman Harry Slessor has moved the venue to Shrigley Hall, Shrigley Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 5SB: Two nights, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast and 3 rounds of golf cost £205.00. The dates are 5th - 7th October 2019. 1st round of golf will be afternoon on 5th October and the finish should be by 15.00hrs on 7th October 2019. So far 15 former Scots Guardsmen have put their names down and already paid for the event. If you would like to add your name to the list of attendees get in touch with Harry Slessor either on his mobile phone number: 07786362404 or via Facebook Messenger or e-mail. Any former Scots Guardsman who would like to be there or even serving Scots Guardsmen on leave, would be most welcome to attend. Shrigley Hall Hotel, just 15 miles south of Manchester city centre, is an impressive manor house in leafy Cheshire countryside.

### **2701084 GUARDSMAN JOHN SHIELLS, KILLED IN ACTION 21 NOVEMBER 1944 AT SEVENUM, HOLLAND**

#### **The story is from Piet Snellen**

This year the Dutch village of Sevenum celebrates the end of the German occupation exactly 75 years ago on 22 November. There will be several activities that weekend to commemorate this. One of these activities will take place on the Saardijk, a country road on the outskirts of Sevenum.

On 21 November 1944, one day before the liberation of Sevenum, a platoon of the 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regiment was patrolling in occupied territory near an area called De Vorst. The Churchill tank of Sergeant Brown of the 3rd Battalion Scots Guards who accompanied this patrol, hit a German anti-tank mine on the Saardijk. Tank driver Guardsman John Shiells was killed, he was only 21 years old at the time. John's body was buried near the place where he died in a field grave along the Saardijk.

His grave was adopted and lovingly tended by Mrs. Ida Pauwels, who lived on the Saardijk. John had his provisional resting place here until 1 August 1947. His mortal remains were then moved to his final resting place at the British War Cemetery in Mook. John Shiells became the first allied liberator who lost his life in Sevenum community for our freedom and peace during the liberation. He became a symbol for the other allied soldiers of the 15th Scottish Division who died in our village in the days of the liberation.

I shared this story last year with the board of the local Remembrance Committee. I said that a memorial at the spot where the incident took place would keep the story alive for years to come. This idea was met with great enthusiasm by the board of the Remembrance Committee. A working group was formed, and a memorial will be placed near the spot where John died, to honour and commemorate him. We also want to honour Mrs. Pauwels. She was a widow in the war and must have had a difficult time caring for her 8 children and her farm, but she made the effort to adopt and care for John's grave. She was a great example of humanity in the midst of the inhumanity of the war.

The unveiling of the memorial will take place in the military tradition on Saturday 23 November.

Scots Guards are very welcome at the ceremony.

Piet Snellen,  
E-mail: [pietsnellen@hotmail.nl](mailto:pietsnellen@hotmail.nl)

### **SCOTS GUARDS DIARY 2020**

The diary is now available at a cost of £6.00p plus £2.75 postage & packing. You can obtain one at the Gathering to save on postage. Phone the Admin Clerk at Regimental Headquarters Tel: 0207 414 3324

### **BLACK WATCH BOOK FESTIVAL – WORDS OF WAR.**

This event will take place at the Black Watch Museum, Hay Street, Perth 21 – 22 September 2019. There will be Authors, Lectures, Workshop and Book Signings. Interested check out the website [theblackwatch.co.uk](http://theblackwatch.co.uk)

## DEATHS

### Third Guards Club & North America Branch

Lieutenant CDL Mackintosh Died ..... Aged 84. Served 1954 – 1956 2SG BAOR.

### London Branch

2700940 Fred Marwick died 9 August 2019. Aged 96. Served World War 2.

### North America Branch

22215662 WO2 John Smith, died 23 August 2019. Aged 86. Served 1SG in 50s & 60s. Lived Ontario. Funeral is 6 Sept 2019. John was a long serving Secretary/Treasurer of the North America Branch.

### Dundee & Angus Branch

24048558 Gdsm John (Jake) Reid died 8 August 2019 Aged 69.

Jake joined the Scots Guards as a Junior Guardsmen in September 1966, he saw service with regiment as follows:

- 1968 - 2SG BAOR (Münster)
- 1969 - 2SG Libya
- 1970 - 2SG BAOR (Münster)
- 1970 - 2SG UK (Victoria Barracks Windsor)
- 1970 - 2SG Kenya (Nairobi)
- 1971 - S Coy independent 6 month tour of Brit Honduras  
Late 1971 – Served G Coy 1SG in Belfast.
- 1972 - 2SG UK (Redford Barracks Edinburgh)
- 1972 - 2SG (NI - Londonderry)
- 1972 - 2SG UK (Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright)
- 1973 - 2SG (NI - Belfast)

Jake Reid was released from service on the 29 Oct 1974 after 8 years of outstanding service to the Scots Guards. He re-enlisted into 23 SAS on the 12 Mar 1985 and reached the rank of Sergeant before he was discharged on the 8 Oct 1993.

Jake was an active member of the Dundee and Angus Branch, a keen photographer and a man of knowledge on things IT. He set up a very early Regimental social media group called the Heilan Laddie Club. He was the Webmaster of the association website and administrator of the Scots Guards Association Group on Facebook until about 3 months ago.

There was a large Scots Guards turnout at his funeral and there were many messages of condolence particularly on the Association Facebook Group. Here are a few:

You were a pain in the butt, but a true Scots Guardsman of the highest Calibre, you will, are missed by us all.

A man who did not suffer fools gladly and had a wonderful way of rubbing people up the wrong way. He always spoke his mind. A very loyal servant to the Regt particularly the Assn.

Jake your never ending dedication for the Scots Guards is appreciated and will be missed. Thoughts and prayers to wee Vi and your family.

## NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

### 1st Battalion Scots Guards



**Good Bye Mastiff.**

As a Protected Mobility unit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion use the Mastiff vehicle to transport themselves around the battlefield.

On return from leave the Bn will move from 12 Bde to 1 Bde, where they say goodbye to Mastiff vehicles and begin training with Boxer vehicle as part of the new Strike concept.

### **Regimental Band**

Under new Director of Music, Major Mark Aldridge the Regimental Band took part in the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo between 2 – 24 August.

After a few days leave the Band return to Scotland to play a full part in the Regimental Gathering in Fife.

**Hope to see you all at the Regimental Gathering 7 & 8 September**

