

Scots Guards Association Newsletter



THE ASSOCIATION

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 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 were founded.
General Sir Michael GowGCB

Major M M Davidson MVO MBE BEM
Secretary & Editor

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CHANGE OF ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

As from Tuesday 1st May **Neil Crockett** will commence the take over as Association Secretary from Major Munro Davidson. The handover will be complete as at 10th May.

Neil will have the email address sga@scotsguards.co.uk from 1st May and the telephone number 0845 230 1642 will close as from 1st May. All enquiries will be made through Neil's home number, **01383 721530**.

I would like to thank all those who are involved in the Association for your assistance and efforts during my time as Secretary. I wish you all every success in the future, although we are in difficult times with membership.

I have had a long association with the Regiment since joining in September 1964 when I first met Ron Clemison and Jimmy Banks who were in the same squad at the Depot.

I spent over 34 years with the Colours then had a short interlude of five and a half years at Windsor Castle, still on ceremonial occasions wearing the uniform of the Regiment. In August 2004 I was asked by Lt Col Johnny Stewart if I to take over as secretary of the Association. In the January of 2005 I joined the committee for the 2005 Gathering at Falkland Palace, and at the Annual General Meeting in April I took over from Ernie Marchant. this brings my time spent in the Regimental Family to over 50 years. I have enjoyed it most of the time, and have met many good people to name a few Jock Loudon, Paul Duffie, Campbell Graham, John Smith, Frank Hope, Frank Smith, Ernie Marchant, Tom Forrest, Jim Bunton, Ian Beck, Syd Carnegie, Duncan Cameron and many more who left an imprint in my mind for a long time. It is now time once again to go back to the fairways, or as I have to at the moment due to my ruptured Achilles Tendon, put my feet up.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch

Dining Club Ladies Night Out: This was held at The Cocket Hat Restaurant, Aberdeen on 23rd February when eighteen members and wives attended a very good evening with the usual excellent standard of food.

Ayrshire Branch

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on Monday 9th April in the Ex-Services Club in Ayr.

There were no changes to the Branch Officials, which are as follows:-

President	Major Peter Clapton	Chairman	Jim Dickie
	Secretary Jim Fraser	Treasurer	Tom Robertson

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Branch

The Branch will hold a Branch Picnic at the Guards Polo Club in Windsor Great Park on Sunday 15th July. This is the day of the Inter Regimental Polo Day.

The Branch will hold its Annual Dinner on Saturday 22nd September when the Guest Speaker will be Mr Max Benitz, who is the author of *Six Months Without Sundays* and *The Scots Guards in Afghanistan*. Max will be accompanied by his father, Bryan, who is a former Officer in the Second Battalion.

Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch

At the Branch Meeting on 6th April 2018 we had a new member enrolled in Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor who served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions between 1979 and 1997. He resides at Boreland, Lockerbie, and is at present Chairman of The Scots Guards Association.

On Sunday 22nd April 2018 the Branch held a Sunday Lunch at The Eskdale Hotel, Langholm. A total of 52 members and friends were seated for lunch and £133 was raised from the raffle, thanks to Phyllis and Brenda. Also thanks to the Management of the Eskdale Hotel for an excellent meal and to Donald for organising it.

The Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on 25th May 2018 at Carlisle Ex-Services Men's Club, Albert Street, Carlisle, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Death: 22127375 Fred Ewart died 16th April 2018. Fred was an Associate Member and served with Royal Scots Fusillers and Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) 1949 – 1953.

Dundee and Angus Branch

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 3rd April in the TA Centre, Dundee. There was no change to the Branch Officials, which are as follows:-

President	The Earl of Dalhousie
Chairman	Mr Gordon Peebles
Secretary	Mr Iain Bryson
Treasurer	Mr Brian Sully



Gordon Peebles Chairman Earl of Dalhousie President Iain Bryson Secretary
with branch members at the AGM.

Central Branch

The Branch held their 70th and last, Dinner on Friday 20th April in The Queens Hotel, Perth, where our Dinner has been held for over 20 years when they always provided a high standard of service.

Even with a large number of call offs, there was 50 who sat down to dinner. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Brigadier Nickerson, was Guest of Honour and he gave a very interesting and humorous speech.

Lt James Drummond Moray brought the assembled company up to date with what was happening in the serving part of the regiment, and Piper Jamie Bell played a very good pipe set.

The President, Lt Col. Johnny Stewart said “I am very sad that it has fallen on my watch to announce the Central Branch will close and tonight will be our last Dinner.

All good things come to an end eventually but I think we can all look back with some pride that the Branch, under its hard working Chairman, Secretaries and Treasurers have over the years, looked after old Scots Guardsmen in illness and in health and have followed the proud traditions of the Regiment in which we were all so proud to serve.

It is sad to close the Branch down after all these years, but it was always going to come to this at some time with the Army numbers in decline and with the younger guardsmen too busy to attend. I think the Branch has done its duty and done it well, but with our membership old and increasingly frail, there were no volunteers to take over as President, Chairman and Secretary. Four members turned up at the last AGM and about 10 at the last Christmas Draw. Too few to make it worthwhile.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President for the last 16 years.

I would like to pay tribute and thank a few people here tonight who have been hardworking and loyal members of the Committee:-

David Walter – Past President

Sid Carnegie – Who did stints as Secretary and Treasurer

John Robertson – Who did 23 years as Treasurer

David Niven – Carried out the duties of Secretary even though he was suffering from ill health.”

One other person served for 45 years and that is the present Chairman, Bob McIntosh, who was then presented with the Colonel's Certificate by Brigadier Nickerson.

Bob Mackintosh has been a member of the Perthshire and then Central Branch of the Scots Guards Association for 58 years since May 1960. He has always been a regular attender and is a loyal and keen supporter. He has been a member of the Committee for 45 years. In 1985 he was appointed Vice Chairman and then assumed the role of Chairman in 1995 and has carried out this role with distinction ever since. With few members from the Perth area, he has always carried the Branch Banner at all Regimental and Veterans' events and annually lays a Wreath in Perth on Remembrance Sunday. Bob is a very caring Chairman and visits those who are in hospital. The welfare of all those members of the association is uppermost in his mind.

The Secretary of the Branch has been ill for the last 5 years and with no other volunteer, Bob has undertaken most of his duties. He has organised the Annual Dinner, the Christmas Draw and the quarterly meetings. He has made every effort to find new members to join the Branch. He is a most charming and amusing man.

The Chairman then wound up the evening with a few jokes. The Past Secretary, David Niven, fell in the Queens Hotel car park and ended up in Perth Royal Infirmary, but the good news is he had no broken bones.

Each member who attended the Dinner received a Scots Guards Paperweight.

DEATHS

Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch

22730277 W C Christie died 20th February 2018 (REME attached).

Glasgow Branch

2703811 John McLean died 30th March 2018. He resided in a Care Home in Cumbernauld.

Highlands and Islands Branch

23349993 Donald MacGruer died 13th April 2018.

Manchester Branch

23229951 Kenny Waller died April 2018. He was a Piper in the Regiment.

Third Guards Club

461633 Lieutenant Christopher John Frank Madden OBE died 31st March 2018.

439398 The Hon. Charles Simon Sheller QC died 16th April 2018 in Australia.

Not Members of the Association

George Albert Whelley died April 2018. He resided in Berwick upon Tweed.

John Edwards died 26th April 2018. He resided in Montrose.

Amendment to last month's Death Notice

In last month's Newsletter I reported that Mr Tommy Turtle had passed away, **which was wrong.**

The person who died was Mr Ian Watts ex SG/SAS who resided in Hereford.

SCOTS GUARDS MEMORIAL PROJECT UPDATE

2697397 WILLIAM WILSON – KINGHORN WAR MEMORIAL. FIFE.

In November 2017 Sgt John McAulay's VC Paving Stone was unveiled in the shadow of Kinghorn War Memorial, Fife.

The only Scots Guardsman listed on Kinghorn War Memorial is L/Sgt William Wilson. He enlisted into the Regiment in early February 1940 one month before his 21st birthday. After recruit training William Wilson was posted in late August 1941 to 2nd Battalion

then in Egypt. He fought with 2SG in hard battles until the North African campaign finished in April 1943. 2SG landed in Italy at Salerno in September 1943, taking part in hard fighting until early 1944.

Some men from the 2nd Battalion had served in Egypt since 1938. In March 1944 both the 1st and 2nd Battalions gathered at Sorrento to re-organise when the longest serving men of a reduced 2nd Battalion returned to UK. After home leave the Battalion reformed at Stobs Camp, Hawick. 2SG was made up to strength with drafts and it was made ready to rejoin the battle.

In February 1945 the 2nd Battalion crossed the English Channel to Holland when it replaced 1st Battalion Welsh Guards as part of the Infantry element of Guards Armed Division. 2SG fought alongside 2nd (Tank) Bn Welsh Guards in the Celtic Battle Group during the final stages of the war in Northern Germany.

Outside of Lengerich in the early morning of 7th April 1945 2SG set off on the road with men riding on all but the leading tanks of 2WG. The advance was held up at a strong road block made of logs. A platoon of Right Flank was pushed forward to remove the block and clear the road. This was taking place when friendly Artillery put down a prolonged and accurate concentration of fire believing the block was still in German hands. A number of casualties were suffered including L/Sgt Wilson who was killed just one short month before the end of World War 2.

The Regimental history records that L/Sgt Wilson was an outstanding character in the 2nd Battalion from the Libyan and Italian campaigns.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he is buried at Sage War Cemetary in Northern Germany. Sage is a small village approximately 56 Km's west of Bremen.

The details for the Memorial Project are being collated by Neil Crockett and in the near future the intention is that the information will be added to the Regimental website – www.scotsguards.org

Neil is looking for all memorials to individuals or groups of Scots guardsmen, not only town war memorials but anything from plaques in churches to benches or stained glass windows. The most unusual so far has been a horse trough in Sussex.

Contact Neil Crockett if you find any memorials on your travels – email neil.crockett@btopenworld.com or by telephone on 01383 721530.

Dunfermline War Memorial

By Neil Crockett

I have been trying for a while through Fife Council to have Guardsman Brian Hall's name added to the War Memorial. Brian was Right Flank, 1SG on the 1971 tour of Belfast and was killed in an explosion at Cupar Street OP on 4th October 1971.

I heard from the Council last week that his name will be added in the next month. Once I know it is in place, I will arrange a small event at the War Memorial to commemorate this.

Sadly Brian's widow has passed away, but his daughter, who was only a baby when he was killed, and some other family are still in Dunfermline. His daughter Angela was presented with the Elizabeth Cross a couple of years ago by HRH The Colonel at Lechars.

I was at a Pipers' Branch lunch in the SG Club last Saturday and asked Angus Smith if he could take part. I also mentioned it to John Ford and he should be able to help and have some RST there, including Piper Bell.

I am just waiting to see that Brian's name is added and then will arrange a suitable date for all those involved. Quite a few of Fife Branch were on that tour.

Also, re the 2SG (1850s) Colours Laid Up in Falkland Palace, the event that the National Trust is arranging hasn't taken place yet and we are just waiting to hear a new date for this.

EDINBURGH ARMED FORCES DAY – Saturday 30th June 2018.

Form Up 10.30hrs - Charlotte Square

Step Off 1100 hrs - Parade Route along George Street to St Andrew Square

At St Andrew Square parade will be dismissed and there will be entertainment, stalls, refreshments and bar.

There will be a confirmatory date in the June Newsletter.

The Operation Motorman on Saturday 19th May 2018 at SG Club.

Organiser, Charlie Knott on email: cknott2424@aol.com

Smart Casual

Curry Meal £5.00.

SGA Fife Quarterly Meeting – Sunday 13th May 2018 at The CISWO, South Street, Glenrothes.

Refreshments 1315 hrs – 1345 hrs
Meeting starts 1345 hrs.

SCOTS GUARDS CLUB

HAYMARKET, EDINBURGH

Great news to start off this month's Newsletter, and that is to report that membership numbers are already up by over 50% on last year so a big thank you to everyone who has supported the Club in this way.

This year, we pledged to spend every penny of membership fees on physical improvements to the Club and that work is well under way. The upstairs function room has been completely re-painted along with several new, bright pictures to enhance the room further and work is booked in to replace the sections of laminate flooring in that room. By the end of April we will have new blinds on all the front windows, which should really sharpen up the look of the place and at time of writing, new flooring is being laid in the ladies toilet which has also been redecorated. We have a new rear fire door on order and on an ongoing basis we continue to put right defects throughout the building, work which largely goes unseen, including some significant plumbing work.

Again, thank you for your memberships and we hope you continue to see a real difference to the look of the old place.

The other good news is that despite a further price increase this year from our wholesale supplier, the increased volume of sales has allowed us to freeze members' prices on all alcoholic drinks. This, on the back of actually reducing prices last year means that as members you really do have some of the best prices around.

Events wise, Sunday 22nd April sees the culmination of our winter piping knockout series with the final between the Army's Ben Duncan and Jonathon Simpson from Boghall and Bathgate kicking off at 4pm. These events have attracted great crowds this year and the new £5.00 on the door (with pies available) seems to be well received.

On 5th May we have our comedy night in the function room from 8.30pm. We have five comedians coming along and there are still a few tickets at £7.00 available in advance at the bar.

Remember, there is live music every Sunday between 2 – 4 pm in the bar.

Scots Guards wise, we had a great Rabbits Breakfast in February and in April we welcome everyone back for a wonderful day of fun and frolics at the intriguingly named “Swally Hoe”. On 19th May it's time once again for the reunion known as “Motorman” and over the last weekend of September the Club will once again host a regimental weekend where up to one hundred comrades will get together and have fun. If you're not already in the loop for these, please contact the Club and we'll get you sorted. As ever, please let us know if you have any thoughts on how we can improve what we do here.

All the best from all the Team!

PIPING SUCCESS FOR JUNIOR PIPERS

(EAST OF ENGLAND PIPE BAND)



Pictures left to right - Amy Fuzzard 13, Emily Webster 10, Hannah Gregory 12, Siv Murugan 10.

For many years former Scots Guards Piper, Tom Fleming thought that the playing standard of many pipers in the Peterborough area had diminished. Tom had served with the late P/M Angus Macdonald and undertook a short term enlistment from 1968 to 1971.

Having retired from a career in engineering he decided to try and do something about the situation. With some adult students, a novice band was started (the East of England Pipe Band) but did not progress as required.

Teaching juniors was the answer as he had one very good junior student. To this end, several schools agreed to take up piping for 9 to 11 year old children. This did not work out as expected until he gained access to Heritage Park Junior School where all of his juniors in the Piping School come from.

After a small amount of success with Amy and Hannah the Regiment presented two sets of nitril pipes to the school (as pictures in the 2016 Scots Guards Magazine). This was to assist the project in making sets of loan pipes available for the juniors.

The ones pictured have just competed at St Albans, winning all the medals in two under 14 events. Amy has also entered her first under 18 competition, taking third in both events.

In the Quartet grade 4 march competition Amy, Hannah, Tom Fleming and P/M Rob Hall won 1st place. This is the band's third year in competition having gained some 4th places over the previous two years. It is hoped in future to have the juniors at a satisfactory level to compete in the Scots Guards junior competition run by P/M Jimmy Banks who has been a big supporter of this project.



Pat and Munro

Its good night from her and its good night from him