

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 Gow GCB

Major M M Davidson MVO MBE BEM
Secretary & Editor

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I wrote in my last Newsletter that there would be no Newsletter in March as I would be away on holiday.

Pat and I had a family bereavement last week and therefore could not go away.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 1st February 2018 when the following were appointed as Office Bearers:-

President Captain The Honorable Jonathan Forbes

Chairman Mitchell Pyper

Secretary/Treasurer Graeme Thompson

Along with the Secretary, four members of the Branch attended the Aberdeen Airborne Alliance Burns' Supper on Saturday 13th January 2018 at the Bridge of Don Barracks, when the usual programme of entertainment for a Burns Supper was of a very high standard.

A Memorial Service for Past President Captain Normile Elliot Baxter will be held at the Chapel of Garloch on Saturday 21st April at 1130 hrs.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Branch

The Branch held its Annual Burns Night on Saturday 27th January 2018 at the Datchet Golf Club. As always, in recent years, this has been a very popular evening with the venue full to capacity and mostly all paid up before Christmas! With almost 100 members and guests seated, it was yet another tremendous evening. Well done all attendees who managed to dodge the flu virus and ensure another good turnout.

Many thanks to the Branch Committee Members who planned and organised another superb function. Hats off to the Catering Staff who produced such an enormous Haggis that had Major Neal McClelland wrestling with for some time before he managed to kill it by several vicious stab wounds. The Golf Club, waitresses and bar staff looked after us as usual in fine style, the food was delicious and everyone so friendly and welcoming. It was a wonderful occasion to get together with old friends from days gone by and

make new friends in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

It was great to have some serving Officers and their ladies not only join us for the evening, but take an active part in the evening's entertainment. Lt Charles Longstaff added a surprise to the programme when he took to his pipes and gave us a few tunes as members and guests arrived at the entrance to the venue. It is understood that he was the Commandant's Piper at Sandhurst whilst undergoing his training there. The Branch Secretary, Rab Ritchie, welcomed everyone present and then Reverend Colin Paterson got the evening started with the Selkirk Grace. Major Neal A McClelland's performance of the Address to the Haggis, which was carried in by Tam Bates and piped in by Pipe Major Graham Waller, was superb and really entertaining. Lt Charles C Longstaff, who incidentally used to go to school in Datchet (not so long ago as well!) kept the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns alive in his own inimitable way, very sincere and amusing. Pipe Major Graham Waller played a few Pipe Tunes and lead us up to the interval, which included an American tune to welcome Charles's girlfriend Megan Felton, who hails from Texas. After the Pipe Tunes (by recent Branch tradition) Graham received his Quaich from the person who performs the Immortal Memory.

Following the interval, the Toast to the Lassies was given by Pipe Major Graham Waller who reminded everyone that it was at a previous Branch Burns Night, a couple of years ago, that was his first date with his now fiancée. Dr Maureen Galea. So Graham proved the ideal man to propose the Lassies Toast. The Reply to the Laddies was given by no other than Graham's betrothed, the lovely Maureen by giving her very own Toast to the Laddies in general but especially to her own fiancée. They celebrated their engagement and announced that their wedding would be held in February 2019.

It was great to have our very own Chelsea Pensioner and Branch Vice President present: IP Alan Hayter accompanied by his guests who looked after him for the weekend. It was also an honour to be joined by Major Munro Davidson and his wife Pat accompanied by their son Neil and Daughter-in-law Fiona for the evening in the year Munro hands over the role of Scots Guards Association Secretary at the Annual General Meeting in April.

The Branch Raffle at the Burns Night raised a whopping £383 for the Branch and Regimental charities. Thanks again to everyone for taking part and also to those who sold tickets on the night and of course, Trevor and Michael Elliott and Harry Slessor who supervised the draw itself. A truly enjoyable function, well attended with dancing into the early hours to music and songs provided by Tony Kearney who ensured a full dance floor with people singing there an' dancin' here!



Major Neal McClelland giving the toast to the Haggis with Tam Bates and Pipe Major Graham Waller.



The Pipe Major receives his Quaich from Lt Charlie Longstaff

Durham & Yorkshire Branch

The Branch will hold its Annual Dinner on Saturday 22nd September 2018 at the Sheldon Civic Hall. Please note the time for **Lunch** is 1300 hrs for 1330 hrs.

Sunday Luncheon Club - Nine members and guests dined at the Sheldon Civic Centre on Sunday 4th February where they enjoyed an excellent meal at a very reasonable price. This is the same venue where the Annual Dinner will be held.

Burns Night - The Branch held a Burns Night on January 20th at Woodham Golf Club where approximately 55 members and guests had a very enjoyable evening. With the tables all set and the candles lit, the Piper tuned up and we looked forward to a jolly Scottish evening of verse and song – but where was the Addresser of the Haggis? Was it traffic problems or the flu? A phone call found him sitting at home, having got the dates mixed up! Luckily he only lived about twenty miles away and so a quick shuttle around of the evening's programme saw us enjoying the main course with an interval and then a few members and guests recited some words from the Bard until the man himself accompanied by his wife, arrived in trews rather than the kilt and a kitchen knife rather than the traditional one! The Haggis was piped in and addressed, and not long after, devoured along with the neaps and tatties. Dessert followed, then the customary toast, our raffle and then everyone linked up to sing Auld Lang Syne.



The toast to the Haggis.

Dundee and Angus Branch

The funeral of ex Scots Guardsman Iain Bennett took place at Barnhill Cemetary, Dundee on Monday 22nd January. The funeral was attended by Vice President Dave Cuthill and Branch Members Les Mason, Tom Kerr and Branch Piper Iain Bryson.

The late Mr Bennet, who hailed from Dundee, had enlisted in the regiment in 1955 and served in the 1st Battalion, leaving in 1961. His family were very appreciative of the help given by the Branch in the organisation of the funeral arrangements.

The next Branch Meeting of 2018 is to be held on Tuesday 6th March at Oliver Barracks, Dalkeith Road, Dundee. Any new members would be made most welcome.

The Branch are to run a 16 seater mini bus to the Borders Branch Dinner on 9th March. Although we are expecting to pick up some folk from the Fife Branch en route, we still have some seats available. If you are in the Perth Edinburgh areas it may be possible to pick you up. If interested, contact Iain Bryson on 07447700536.

The Branch have some Regimental Magazines left for sale. These are priced at £8.00 and can be had from Dave Cuthill.

Fife Branch

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 18th February. There was no change to the Branch Officials.

President	Sir Robert Spencer Nairn
Chairman	Alex Gilchrist
Secretary	Neil Crockett
Treasurer	Gordon Dickson

Glasgow Branch

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on Monday 5th February at the Polish Club, Glasgow. There was no change to the Branch Officials.

President	Sir James Campbell Bt
Chairman	Captain Eddie Edmonstone
Treasurer	Jim McArthur MBE
Secretary	William Brockie

Captain Alastair Orr Ewing has now joined the Branch.

Surrey Branch

The Branch held their Burns Supper on Friday 26th January at the Clandon Regis Golf Club, Guildford.

Colonel Andrew Parsons, the Vice President of the Branch, stood in for Major John Whiteley who was unable to attend. The Chairman for the evening was Mr Derek Tasker who did a sterling job in keeping the programme flowing.

The Haggis was piped in by Mark Haynes and addressed by GSM Billy Biggar (REME Colchester) who also recited Tae a Mouse in his own inimitable way.



The Chairman Derek Tasker and his wife Carol.

The gathering was made up of members and guests of the Surrey Branch and representatives from the local branches of the Grenadier and Coldstream Associations. Sixty four sat down to a splendid tradition menu. After coffee, and the Piper's selection, there was a raffle run by our Treasurer Mrs Jo Clarkson and her sister Mrs Janet Davies. This raised in excess of £300 which helped to defray costs and anything over will go towards Branch funds. We were extremely grateful for the very generous donations of prizes by members of the three branches present.

The evening was much enjoyed by all and requests were made for tickets for our Annual Dinner on 11th May and for the Burns Supper in 2019!



GSM Billy Biggar, REME Colchester Garrison

DEATHS

Ayrshire Branch

23865938 C/Sgt James (Jimmy) Little died 26th January 2018.

Malay and Borneo Veterans' Association

Ian Thornton died 18th February 2018. He resided in Pembrokeshire.

Charles Saunders died 29th March 2016. He resided in Liverpool.

Not a Member of the Association

Mike Harden died 15th February 2018. He was a Pipe Sgt in 2SG and he resided in Leeds.

2696850 Guardsman William McLelland died 7th February 2017 aged 97 years. He resided in Wishaw.

RABBITS' BREAKFAST

With the sun shining, an exceptional gathering of C & G Company Rabbits broke cover from their warrens to come together at the Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh on Saturday 18th February 2018 for breakfast and much more. Well done to the organisers, Charlie McEwan, Tony Carter, Alf Clempson and Rab Russell (piper). Captain Graham White gave the Address to the Haggis and C/Sgt Michael Little reported on Regimental matters. Rabbits travelled long distances – Eddie McKay, Bill Anderson Ward and Willie Coffield hopped up from the south. Bill Nicol escaped from his hutch across the Irish Sea and there were more, too many to mention. A great day and it was especially good to see a fine gathering of “The Rabbits”.



G and C Company Members having a good time at the Rabbit's Breakfast.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ERSKINE AT THE IDEAL HOME SHOW SCOTLAND 2018

Erskine are once again the Official Charity Partner of the Ideal Home Show and we are looking for volunteers to help us out. This year the show is on 31st May - 3rd June and features property expert Phil Spencer, Chef Rosemay Shrager and designer John Amabile, as well as Ideal roomsets, Renovation Advice Hub, the popular Food and Drink Festival and much more. The Ideal Show Garden by Erskine will feature a replica nightingale ward and gardens of the original Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers.

We need volunteers throughout the full event and ask that you volunteer for a 2 hour shift between 10am and 6pm, or more if you are able. Volunteers can help with bucket collections, setting up and running the merchandise stand and plant market, handing out leaflets, balloons etc. In return for giving up your time you will receive **free access to the show.**

Please let us know if you are able to support this event and help raise vital funds for Scotland's ex-servicemen and women. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on 0141 814 4555 or email events@erskine.org.uk.

OBITUARY

2696850 Guardsman William McLelland
2nd Battalion Scots Guards
North Africa 1940-42
Prisoner of War June 1942- October 1944
Died 7th February 2017 aged 97 years.

Scots Guards 2nd World War veteran William McLelland died aged 97 years old. He lived in Wishaw but sadly had no family. Glasgow Funeral Directors, Anderson McGuire contacted the Scots Guards Association to explain the sad circumstances. The Scots Guards took part to give William the funeral he deserved.

William McLelland was born in Larkhall, Lanarkshire on 30th May 1939. After recruit training at Chelsea Barracks, London he served on active service in Egypt where he joined 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in January 1940.

2nd Battalion Scots Guards entered the desert in April 1941. The Battalion fought in abortive attacks against the Germans during the summer until in November 1941 it was re-organised as a Motor Battalion.

The 2nd Battalion took part in a British advance that was fiercely contested which relieved Tobruk and drove the Germans back to Aghelia. Later the Battalion had to withdraw hastily to the Gazala Line when the Germans, under General Rommel, advanced in January 1942.

In the big battle of Gazala in June 1942 2nd Battalion Scots Guards defended Rigel Ridge, north west of the strong point of Knightsbridge. The morning of 13th June 1942 time passed in exceptional quietness as the Battalion waited on its exposed ridge. It suffered heavily when companies and anti-tank platoons were overrun by tanks of the

German 21st Panzer Division. Many men were taken prisoner. It was estimated that the Battalion casualties were a comparable level to a 1st World War battle.

Guardsman William McLelland was reported missing on 13th June 1942, confirmed as a Prisoner of War. He was held in Italy for 2 years 130 days until he was repatriated to UK in October 1944.

2nd Battalion Scots Guards took part in the following actions during William McLelland's service in North Africa, Halfaya 1941, Sidi Suleiman, Knightsbridge. Gazala is a main battle Honour which is borne on the Colours of the Regiment.

William was discharged from the Scots Guards on 9th June 1946.

His funeral took place at Holytown Crematorium, North Lanarkshire ML1 5RU. A Piper played a Lament, members of the Scots Guards and the Association paraded to pay their respects.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Angus Smith and a Eulogy was delivered by Captain John Ford.

Neil Crockett, Fife Branch Secretary, who was closely involved in the arrangements for the funeral, said "The Scots Guards prides itself in being a family Regiment and the ethos – Once a Guardsman always a Guardsman – is at the heart of the Regiment.



The Bearer Party



The Four Standardards that were carried at the funeral.
Kenny Lawson SGA, Gordon Smith, Edinburgh & Lothians, Sandy Birnie, Glasgow,
and Kenny Harkness, Household Division- West of Scotland.

Forecast of Events 2018

March

Friday 9 SGA Borders Branch Dinner, Hawick.
Friday 23 SGA Glasgow Branch Dinner.

April

Friday 20 SGA Central Branch Dinner.
Friday 27 SG WO's & Sgts Past and Present Association AGM, London.
Saturday 28 SGA AGM Wellington Barracks, London.
Sunday 29 Regimental Remembrance Sunday, London.

May

Sunday 6 SGA, Fife Branch Meeting.
Friday 11 SGA Surrey Branch Dinner.
Tuesday 15 Handover of SGA Secretary complete.

Saturday 19 Op Motorman Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.
Saturday 26 Major General's Review, QBP, London.

June

Saturday 2 Colonel's Review, QBP, London.
Saturday 9 Queen's Birthday Parade, London. 1 Coldstream Guards.
Saturday 30 Armed Forces Day Edinburgh.

July

Sunday 1 SGA Fife Golf Competition.

August

Sunday 12 SGA Fife Bowls Competition and Grand Draw.

September

Friday (TBC) Regimental Golf Competition.
Friday 14 SGA Highlands & Islands Branch Dinner.
Saturday 8 SGA North American Branch Dinner, Cobourg, Ontario, Canada
Saturday 22 SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Branch Dinner.
Saturday 22 SGA Durham & Yorkshire Branch Dinner. 1300hrs for 1330hrs.

October

Friday 5 SGA Fife Branch Veterans Lunch.
Saturday 6 SGA Dundee and Angus Branch Dinner, Dundee.
Sunday 7 SGA Fife Branch Meeting.
Saturday 13 SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Branch Dinner, Carlisle.
Friday 19th SGA Aberdeen and North East Scotland Branch Dinner, Aberdeen.

November

Friday 2 SGA Ayrshire Branch Dinner, Prestwick.
Friday 9 SGA Fife Branch Dinner, Kirkcaldy.
Friday 9 SGA Manchester Branch Dinner, Manchester.
Sunday 11 Remembrance Sunday.
Friday 16 Preston Branch Dinner, Preston.

December

Saturday 1 London Branch Dinner, London

The Front Cover Photograph is of those who attended the Rabbit's Breakfast at the Scots Guards Club in Edinburgh.