

# *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  
Secretary & Editor

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## **NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES**

### **Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch**

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May eight Branch Members visited Branch Member Jim Christie at Ballater Golf Club where they had a very good and long lunch! This was much appreciated by Jim and the sunny weather added to the enjoyment of the trip up Royal Deeside.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June Branch Members went along to the Cemetery in Laurencekirk for a short service to remember L/Sgt Clark Mitchell who died on active service in the Falklands.

### **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Branch**

The Branch is holding a Branch Picnic on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July at the Guards Polo Club, Windsor Great Park.

It is hoped that Members from the Surrey and London Branches will come along and join them.

### **Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch**

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April the Branch held a Lunch at Eskdale Hotel, Langholm. Once again we have found a hotel where the food and service is excellent. A total of 51 were seated for lunch and £105 was raised from the raffle. The June Sunday Lunch is being held at Lakeside Restaurant, Brayton Park, Aspatria on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Everyone who travelled to London on the bus from 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 for the Presentation of New Colours thoroughly enjoyed the whole trip. On the way down we stopped at the Arboretum for two hours, where a Wreath was laid. Although it rained on the day of the Presentation of New Colours, it did not dampen the occasion in the slightest. It was a great show by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and "F" Company – well done!

On the way home on Friday, we had two and a half hours' stop at Windsor. We had a great three days – thanks go to the organisers.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 we had our Annual General Meeting. The Office Bearers are the same as the last two years:-

President

Major P.D. Johnson

Chairman	Malcolm Temple
Secretary	William A. Scott
Assistant Secretary	Sandra Ritchie
Treasurer	Alan L. Barry

### **Durham, Yorkshire and North East of England Branch**

The Sunday Lunch Club took a down turn this month as only five Members turned up. Those who attended enjoyed the meal and at £5 per head, was an added bonus!

The next venue is the Shoulder of Mutton at Bolam on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

### **Edinburgh and The Lothians Branch**

The Branch will hold its Annual Dinner on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in the Scots Guards Association Club, Haymarket, Edinburgh, 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs.

### **EDINBURGH GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE – 30 OCTOBER 2017**

This event is held annually and is supported by a small group of Scots Guardsmen on the day. Danny Minto, as Foreman of the Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, am responsible for the building and maintenance of the Garden. The Service is organised by Legion Scotland, again a Scots Guardsman is at the helm, Kevin Gray MM is CEO. It would be much appreciated if more Scots Guardsmen could turn out for this event and show the Cap Badge is strong in Edinburgh. The Opening lasts approximately 30 minutes, starting at 1100 hrs. If you wish to show your support and come along, the Garden is built in Princes Street Gardens, next to the Scott Monument and across from Waverley Station.

### **SICK PARADE**

Pete Moseley was admitted to the Western General Hospital on Monday. His legs gave way under him for no apparent reason so he is undergoing tests to investigate and identify any action required.

At present he is in Ward 56 and Jim McPherson will be visiting him soon. Visiting hours are between 2pm and 8pm and at present we have no idea how long Pete will be kept in.

## **Fife Branch**

It was agreed that the Branch will donate £150 to the sponsorship of Captain John Ford (OC SG RRT) from Cowdenbeath who completed the Sables des Marathon (ultra marathon across the Sahara Desert).

Well done to Kenny Lawson and Tam Marshall who have completed a Standard Bearers' course, run by Legion Scotland.

## **UNVEILING OF McAULAY VC DCM PAVING STONE, SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 2017 KINGHORN**

Sgt John McAulay was born in Kinghorn in November 1888. He was awarded a Victory Cross for his bravery on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1917. Since January a couple of meetings have been held led by the Chairman of Kinghorn Community Council (acting for Fife Council) . It is confirmed that the paving stone will be unveiled on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017, a day before the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The Community Council feel a weekend event will encourage local involvement, including from the schools.

It is hoped that Regimental involvement will be at the same level as the McNess VC paving stone last summer and the Regimental Adjutant has agreed this is in outline. There will also be attendance by other Scots Guards Association branches.

It is expected that there will be attendance by a senior Police Scotland Officer to acknowledge John McAulay's service in Glasgow Police before and after WW1. Quite a few McAulay ancestors are hoping to attend, including from Australia and USA. The Lord Lieutenant of Fife and local Councillors, including Fife Armed Forces Champion should be there.

Given that it will be late November, the format will be a morning Service in Kinghorn Parish Church. The Minister is on the committee and has already approached Revd Angus Smith to take part. Followed by a 300m walk to the War Memorial led by Regimental Piper and SGA Standards to the paving stone unveiling, a silence, laying of Wreaths etc. This will take no more than 15 minutes because a main route through the town will have to be closed and the War Memorial is at a particularly open place to catch the windy blasts from the Forth.

The event ends with a reception with buffet at the Community Centre when a commemorative presentation from the Regiment will be given over.

The War Memorial, McAulay birthplace and the Community Centre are within 75mts of each other and the Church is not far away.

## SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION CLUB, EDINBURGH

There will be a Burns Day with a difference on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Starting late morning with a hearty brunch, we will have an array of Scotland's finest Burns performers to entertain and inform. Less formal than a Burns Supper, the day is sure to be a fun and memorable event. Tickets are £10 and more details will shortly be published. All are welcome and if you fancy coming along, please email us or enquire at the bar.

We have now had five Sundays of live Scottish music between 2-4pm and these are really taking off. From what used to regularly be an empty bar on Sundays, we are now drawing a great number in to enjoy the music and company. We will be introducing more musicians to the Club over the summer to join our resident accordionist, Matthew MacLennan, who has done a wonderful job of getting these days established so quickly. If it's your thing, then please come along.

Food is always available at lunch times and we are currently reviewing our lunch options in an effort to tempt even more of you in during the day, so watch this space ....

Our flower pots and baskets are all planted up now and starting to bloom nicely. Thanks go to our Members John Robertson and George Smith who spend time looking after these and the outside areas in general. Thanks also to Member Brian Harris who grew many of the plants from seed in his greenhouse! Anyone else out there with particular skills that could benefit the Club then please shout out.

More painting work has been carried out during May along with continuing improvements to things that needed improved! A new carpet is being laid soon on the first floor, along with new cupboards etc.

We are also looking at a new till system which will allow us to offer members a discounted price on popular drinks. Again, watch this space on that one ....

There is a Scots Guards reunion planned for the weekend of 22/23 September 2017 which will basically be a big party for all involved so if you are a past or present Scots Guardsman, please come along. More details to follow on this event. Families welcome.

As ever, we are happy to hear any suggestions you might have to take the Club forward so please drop us an email if you want to contribute in any way.

## **SURREY BRANCH**

The Branch had a Members Lunch on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the Red Lion, Horsell which all those attending thoroughly enjoyed. This was in lieu of the Monthly meeting.



Photograph shows Branch Members and Ladies who attended the Lunch.

## **JOB VACANCY**

### **The Corporate Security Officer Job Details**

Company: City Security Services (Cambridge).

Rate: £9.64 p/h

Rotations: 3 days on – 3 nights on – 3 days off (3x3x3) continual. Shifts: 12 hrs.

## Brief Description:

Security cover of buildings, personnel and reception duties as part of a global Pharmaceutical research and development company based in and around the city of Cambridge.

Contact: Kevin Heaney, Billy Sharkey, City Security Services, William James House, Cowley Road, Cambridge CB4 0WX. Telephone: 01223 420225

Email: [kheaney@city-security-services.co.uk](mailto:kheaney@city-security-services.co.uk)

[sharkeyB@medimmune.com](mailto:sharkeyB@medimmune.com)

## **DEATHS**

### **Edinburgh and The Lothians Branch**

22551152 Adam Carruthers BEM died 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017.  
Adam was the Standard Bearer for the Royal British Legion in Edinburgh and also the Branch.

### **NOT MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Andrew Fraser Crichton died 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017. He resided in Blairgowrie.

Grant James Easson died 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017. He resided in Arbroath.

### **Third Guards Club**

Ian Vert Thompson died June 2017. He resided in Brisbane, Australia.

### **MEDICAL SERVICE FOR MILITARY VETERANS**

A Service for military veterans to have their hip or knee arthritis assessed and, if appropriate, have joint replacement surgery has been launched. It is led by Lt Col Carl Meyer, Military Consultant Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Surgeons at Oswestry's Specialist Orthopaedic Hospital.

Lt Col Meyer is a regular serving officer who is an Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon with 16 Medical Regiment, Colchester. The service is open to anyone who has been in regular military service, including National Service.



It is based at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAH), Oswestry, Shropshire; a centre of Orthopaedic excellence specialising in lower limb replacement surgery.

To obtain an NHS referral to Lt Col Meyer at the Veterans Hip and Knee Surgery Service in Oswestry, Contact info: Email [jones@nhs.uk](mailto:jones@nhs.uk) or [Rebecca.annjones@nhs.uk](mailto:Rebecca.annjones@nhs.uk) telephone 01691 44344 - Waiting time normally 4 to 6 weeks.

## **Forecast of Events**

### **July**

Sat 1 Armed Forces Day, Dundee.  
Sat 1 Falkland Conflict and Operation Banner Service of Commemoration, Cannongate Kirk, Edinburgh.  
Sun 9 Sunday Lunch – Topsy Nipper, Fife Airport, Glenrothes.  
Sun 30 WW1 Battle Passchendale Commemoration, Crieff.

### **August**

Sun 13 SGA Fife Bowls and Grand Draw, Markinch Bowling Club.  
Fri 25 SGA Fife Branch Golf Competition, Balbirnie Park Golf Club.

### **September**

Sat 9 SGA North American Dinner, Cobourg, Ontario  
Fri 15 SGA Highlands and Islands Dinner, Inverness.  
Sat 16 Berks, Bucks & Oxon Dinner, Datchet Golf Club.  
Fri 22 SGA Reunion, SGA Club, Edinburgh.  
Fri 22 SGA Fife Veterans (Over 65) Lunch.  
Fri 22 Past and Present Dinner, Aldershot.  
Fri 29 SGA Edinburgh & Lothians Dinner, SG Club, Edinburgh.

### **October**

Sat 7 SGA Dundee & Angus Dinner.  
Sat 14 SGA Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Dinner.  
Fri 27 SGA Aberdeen Branch Dinner.  
Mon 30 Opening of the Garden of Remembrance, Edinburgh.

### **November**

Fri 3 SGA Ayr Branch Dinner.  
Fri 10 SGA Fife Branch Dinner.  
Fri 10 SGA Manchester Branch Dinner.



Sun 12 Remembrance Sunday.  
Fri 17 SGA Preston Branch Dinner.  
Sat 25 SGA London Branch Dinner.  
Sun 26 Laying of WW1 Commemorative Paving Stone to  
Sgt McAulay VC, Kinghorn.

In Last month's Newsletter I reported that Lachlan MacBean was presented with the Colonel' Certificate.

The photograph shows Lachlan being presented with the Certificate by the Branch President Brigadier Kim Ross OBE.



### ARMED FORCES DAY

Across the UK SGA branches celebrated Armed Forces Day on Saturday 24 June when the national event took place in Liverpool.

It was celebrated in Edinburgh with a short parade down the Royal Mile to the City Chambers where there was a reception for veterans and their relatives. SGA members on parade then gathered in the Scots Guards Club for a chicken curry lunch, a natter and a pint or 2 which was arranged by Danny Minto when we were joined by the Royal Artillery Association.

Particular thanks to 3 who travelled a distance to parade in Edinburgh. Dave Maggs (Leeds), Jim Kynoch & Tom Robertson (Dumfries & Galloway).



Edinburgh – Major Ray Walker, Dave Maggs, Tom Tom Robertson, Jimmy Kynoch.



Edinburgh – Danny Minto, Major Iain Dalziel Job, Willie Urban, Alan Dalgleish, Stephen Simpson, Charlie Knott.



Aberdeen - Standard Bearer Jimmy Clunes

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## **FIFE BRANCH**

**COME FOR LUNCH**

**@**

**THE TIPSY NIPPER RESTAURANT, FIFE AIRPORT,  
GLENROTHES**

**SUNDAY 9 JULY 2017**

**1415 – 1430hrs**

**Lunch starts – 1430hrs**

**For a relaxing Sunday come along with your better half and family, we hope to see our single members well.**

**Cost is £12.00 each (maximum) and I'll collect it on the day.**

**Can you let me know if you'll be coming along by Sunday 2 July.  
Either phone, leave a message or email me.**

**Tel: 01383 721530**

**Email: [neil.crockett@btopenworld.com](mailto:neil.crockett@btopenworld.com)**

**JOIN US FOR GOOD FOOD AND A NATTER**





# VETERANS' GATEWAY

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

New service launched that aims to be the first point of contact for the Armed Forces community

### WHAT IS VETERANS' GATEWAY?

In November 2016, the Ministry of Defence announced £2 million of funding from the Covenant Fund to better support British Armed Forces veterans in need. On 20 June 2017, the service was launched in response to calls from veterans' charities and groups for help in navigating the immensely wide range of services and organisations set up to support those who have served in the Forces.

The service is the first point of contact for veterans, their families and carers to access information, advice and support on a range of issues including healthcare, housing and employment. It allows information and services from the Legion and its partners to be accessed from one place – and all enquiries will be followed up to ensure that veterans receive the right support.

Veterans' Gateway provides website, online chat, phone line and text message services available to any veteran, their family members or their carer, from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day.

### WHICH ORGANISATIONS ARE INVOLVED IN THE NEW SERVICE?

Veterans' Gateway is made up of a consortium of Armed Forces charities, including The Royal British Legion, SSAFA the Armed Forces charity, Poppyscotland and Combat Stress, as well as Connect Assist.

Their connection with additional key referral organisations – both within and outside the Armed Forces sector – means it can get people to the right organisation who can help.

Funded by The Armed Forces Covenant, Veterans' Gateway is the first time a group of this kind has come together formally to deliver a service to help the Armed Forces community.

Since its 'soft' launch on 3 April, there have been more than 14,000 unique visits to the website and more than 300 enquiries have been handled to date. The majority of

the enquiries received have been related to finance, housing, families and communities, and 10 different partners have received referrals through the service.

### HOW CAN PEOPLE GET IN TOUCH?

Veterans, their families and carers can speak to a member of the Veterans' Gateway team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, who will be able to put them in touch with the help they need, or direct them towards the information they are looking for.

#### Call: 0808 802 1212

– speak to an advisor at the contact centre

#### Text: 81212

– for support via text

#### Online: [www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)

– connect with an advisor online or get advice and support by email

### HOW CAN MEMBERS HELP TO SPREAD THE VETERANS' GATEWAY MESSAGE?

To help promote Veterans' Gateway, we would encourage you and the rest of your branch to like and share two new social media channels:

– [www.twitter.com/VeteransGateway](https://twitter.com/VeteransGateway)

– [www.facebook.com/VeteransGateway](https://www.facebook.com/VeteransGateway)

Both channels post regular updates that urge veterans, their families and carers to use Veterans' Gateway.

Veterans, their families and carers can access the service via the website  
[www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk),  
 by calling 0808 802 1212  
 or by texting 81212.