



# The Thistle

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I have been very encouraged by the way our Regimental family is embracing wholeheartedly the philosophy of The Royal Scots four vital pillars, i.e. The Association, the Club, the Museum and Benevolence as The Royal Regiment of Scotland, with its seven battalions, takes forward the traditions of its antecedent regiments with both pride and professionalism.

Over the last six months some very significant events in our long and distinguished history have taken place.

In January Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was clearly impressed by the Club's major expansion, centred on The Princess Royal Suite which she officially opened. Quite rightly it is becoming an Edinburgh venue of choice.

UK Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh in June gave the opportunity for the public to show their support for our Armed Forces and veterans. The occasion saw the Association, complete with Standard Bearers and the Pipe Band, providing the largest and arguably the best turned out veterans association on the march down the Royal Mile and past HRH The Duke of Rothesay. That evening the painting to commemorate the Association's privilege of being the lead contingent of the march past the Cenotaph after last November's Remembrance Sunday Service was handed over to our Regimental rallying point, The Royal Scots Club, to be displayed in the hall.



On the eve of the Presentation of New Colours to The Royal Regiment of Scotland, pipe banners from our Regiment, the Association and the Club were presented to the Colonel of the Regiment, and were carried by pipers of 1 SCOTS the next day.

In her address to the Colours Parade in Holyrood Park Her Majesty The Queen described the ceremony as "the turning point of a page in the history of a regiment" that signified "the closing of one glorious chapter for Scotland's Infantry". She paid tribute to "the courage, example and duty shown by Scottish infantry soldiers in the service of their country". For the Association party marching past the Sovereign immediately behind the old 1st Battalion The Royal Scots colours was a memorable occasion in our Regimental History; the end of an era. Arrangements are in hand for the laying up of the Colours in the Canongate Kirk, our Regimental kirk.

Ahead, we will continue to bond with 1 SCOTS and the wider Royal Regiment of Scotland, who carry forward the privilege of being Right of The Line, with their soldiers being very welcome at all our Association branches, whilst maintaining close links with our former Regimental recruiting area. And by building on the strength of our four pillars we are well prepared to maintain and support our strong Regimental family.

*Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL*

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Please ensure that you keep us up to date with your contact details:

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# The Royal Scots Borderers

## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

During the first part of the year 1 SCOTS enjoyed welcome respite after the rigours of operations during 2010. Nevertheless, it was not a period of



HRH Inspecting the Quartermaster's Guard

inactivity. Sport played a prominent role with notable successes in football, both Rugby and Association with another great charge at the short games. The Dreghorn Sevens were held after an interval imposed by deployments and the footballers had singular triumph in Army Sixes. Boxing was prominent with C Coy winning the inter company novices tournament and Pte Frame winning through in Aldershot to become an Army novices champion.



LCpl McColm - Best student on the JNCO's Cadre

Closer to home, the swimmers and basketball players topped the competitions in Scotland.

Sport gave way to ceremonial, first with the Freedoms of West Lothian

and the Scottish Borders being granted during ceremonies in Livingston and Melrose respectively.



Cpl Kerr receiving his LS & GC medal

Both are great honours and the former has particular resonance to Royal Scots to whom the freedom of

Linlithgow had been granted previously. 1 SCOTS took part in Armed Forces Weekend and stood at the Right of the Line when the entire Royal Regiment of Scotland, less 4 SCOTS in Afghanistan, were

presented Colours at Holyrood by HM The Queen. Both events are featured later in the edition.



A Posie fit for a Princess

A highlight was a visit to the battalion at Dreghorn by HRH The Princess Royal on 15th April at the close of the JNCO's Cadre. She had previously visited the battalion during pre-deployment training for HERRICK 12 and B Coy during last summer's Royal Guard.

### Honours and Awards

#### 1 SCOTS Operational Awards 25 March 2011

Mention in Dispatches.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service.

Chief of Joint Operations Commendation.

LCpl C E Burns, LCpl S H Henderson and LCpl J Raduva.

LCpl D R Skinner.

Lt Col C L G Herbert OBE and Captain A J Akerman.

Maj J Thornton, Maj A R Forsyth, Sgt R H Fleming and Pte S R Richardson.

### Queen's Birthday Honours List

#### Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of The British Empire

As an Officer. Colonel Alexander Alderson MBE.

As a Member. Major Philip Anthony Keetley.

# THE ROYAL SCOTS Association

The Association has had an active spring and summer, supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated team of office bearers in all Branches.

We have in excess of 250 active members and others who are able to attend events when other commitments permit. The new Northern Ireland Branch is thriving and it is most encouraging that the North of Scotland Branch, now known as The Highland Branch, has been revived under the leadership of Tam Cornwall and Bill Jeans. They and others who have brought the Branch back into being deserve the support of all Old Royals in the Highlands – so rally round and become involved. Their meetings are at RBLS Inverness in Huntly Street. Liz Kyle is about to relinquish editorship of the Scotland Branches Newsletter, having steered it onwards following the passing of Charlie McGrogan. We thank Liz for her patience and persistence and welcome Mags Allan of the Edinburgh Branch as Liz's worthy successor.

After the harsh winter, a gentleman phoned HHQ to advise that the 7 RS Gretna Memorial in Rosebank Cemetery had suffered damage and "This would not do!". Immediately Association member Rab Dickson who works for the City of Edinburgh was contacted and investigated. A column flanking one of the

bronze tablets had been separated from the wall by frost although no damage had been done to the masonry. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was alerted and initiated a complete survey and commissioned repair in time for Saturday 21st May. Attendance included strong contingents of the Association, Cadet Forces, civic leaders from Edinburgh and Leith, Masonic Lodges and members of the public. Rev Ray Williamson led the service of remembrance and we were very pleased to be joined by Iain Anderson of CWGC and Mr Les Howie who had reported the damage in the first place. We hope they will join us again next year at 1000 on Saturday 19th May 2012.

It is really good to be seeing so much of 1 SCOTS. Although enjoying a respite from operations, it will not be too long before they embark on the next round of training. Meanwhile, they are engaged in sport and ceremonial. We have been pleased to see them taking part in the Association's Fallen Comrades golf trophy and at the excellent boxing dinner organised by Tony Reid, formerly 1 RS Mor PI WO and now much involved with Leith Victoria AAC, Scotland's oldest boxing club. The proceeds of that event in the Carlton Hotel early in June netted more than £3,600 for The Royal Regiment of Scotland Benevolent Fund and was well supported by the RS Association and the RS Club.

## The Royal Scots Museum

**Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard** is now on sale at HHQ for cash sales at £45 for all three volumes and at £55 via PayPal to cover postage.

**Visitors** included Lt Col Don Stedeford and CWO Randal Evans of the Canadian Scottish Regiment. Descendants Peter and Linda Murray came to see Joseph Prosser's VC. John Ford, nephew of Douglas Ford GC visited to research his uncle.

**The Best Soldier** is an historical novel by Elizabeth Scott of the Hepburn family who has been researching Sir John Hepburn. A book launch is being planned at the Museum in the autumn.

**Musselburgh Museum** at 65 The High Street is now open with a display of items from the RS Museum's reserve collection. It will be well worth a visit as we approach the annual RS Race Day at Musselburgh on 25 September. [www.musselburghmuseum.org.uk](http://www.musselburghmuseum.org.uk).

**The Museums Galleries Scotland Accreditation** Scheme has granted Full Accreditation status to the RS Museum.

**Museum Assistant Tom Gordon** attended the National Army Museum Regimental Museums Curators Course in May and has also been active with his TA duties.

## The Royal Scots Benevolent Society

Please remember that there continues to be a pressing need for disbursement of grants from The Royal Scots Benevolent Fund. Last year the Fund issued grants totalling nearly £40,000 and anticipates a similar sum this year. Giving to the Fund is easier than ever before via a new on-line option. Just key in [www.charitychoice.co.uk](http://www.charitychoice.co.uk) and then search for Royal Scots for The Royal Scots Benevolent Society.



# ARMED FORCES WEEKEND 24 – 26 JUNE

Although a whole weekend of activity was on offer with Edinburgh hosting the event, the highlight was the parade down The Royal Mile on the Saturday with the Duke of Rothesay taking the salute outside the Scottish Parliament.

Veterans Scotland and RBLS organisation of the event was impeccable. The RS Association mustered in Johnston Terrace amid the Veterans of all three services while the serving element, including a company of 1 SCOTS, mustered on the Castle Esplanade. The Royal Mile was thronged with spectators.

The RS Association was by far the largest and the smartest Veterans contingent and drew applause from the crowd all the way. The Association Band led

On arrival at Holyrood, the parade mustered for a Drumhead Service which was followed by displays in the arena and stands in various parts of the ground. The opening of the beer tent seemed to be the cue for a downpour of rain but spirits were far from dampened.



In the evening the painting to commemorate the Association marching past the Cenotaph was unveiled in The Royal Scots Club.



the way for the entire Army Veterans contingent with the RS Standards immediately behind and followed by six files of Old Royals in a solid phalanx taking up the width of the street.







The RS Association Marching Down the Royal Mile



A Fine Body of Men



The Drumhead Service at Holyrood



The RS Association Pipe Band



# PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND 2 JULY 2011

With the new regiment now five years old and all battalions having distinguished themselves on operations, six of the seven battalions were on parade at Holyrood for HM The Queen to present Colours, 4 SCOTS being in Afghanistan.

A highly significant occasion for The Royal Regiment of Scotland it was also a sombre one for The Royal Scots as the 1 RS Colours were marched off parade for the very last time. It was very much appreciated by antecedent regiments that parties of 50 veterans from each Association were invited to march off their respective Colours. The parade was followed by a reception at which the following were presented to HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh: Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson, Mr Paul Cassidy, and Mr and Mrs Andy Kyle. Old Royals on parade and those who had watched from the stands met afterwards for refreshments in the marquee provided by The Royal Regiment of Scotland, with the new Royal Regiment of Scotland Colours on display. It is anticipated that the 1 RS Colours will be laid up in the Canongate Kirk, Regimental Kirk of both The Royal Scots and The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Meanwhile they remain in the safe custody of 1 SCOTS.



The Royal Regiment of Scotland marches on



1 SCOTS with RS and KOSB Colours





1 RS Colours are marched off in slow time



HM The Queen inspects the parade



HM The Queen presents 1 SCOTS Colours



1 SCOTS march past HM The Queen with their new Colours





1 RS Colours and RS Association await the order to march on



1 RS Colours and the RS Association march onto the parade ground



First of Foot, Right of the Line, Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard



378 years service to the Crown





Southern Branch



Soliders Three



Paul Cassidy



Jock Marr and Robbie Scott- Bowden



Lieutenant Colonel Wallace, Brigadier Scott-Bowden, Brigadier Ritchie, Lieutenant Colonel Charteris, Major Delacombe and Major Dickson



# The Royal Scots Club

All Old Royals should remember that the RS Club is their Club and are encouraged to join, or at very least use the Club, including by booking it for functions.

The Club's Trustees are looking to the future by encouraging the new Royal Regiment of Scotland to become involved. This is entirely logical as not only are there former Royal Scots still serving in battalions of the new Regiment but also because with the passage of time, those serving in Scotland's new Royal Regiment will take over from those who served in Scotland's original Royal Regiment.



HRH The Princess Royal with Mr Thomas Haggerty

Of particular note has been the opening of splendid new facilities, including a function suite capable of seating 160 at table, two new bars and a lift that serves all levels of the building. On 27th January, HRH The Princess Royal gave her name to the new function suite in an informal breakfast ceremony attended by staff and members of the Club, the wider Royal Scots family and contractors.



HRH The Princess Royal with Mrs Shona Mathews

Prior to the opening, HRH presented Elizabeth Crosses to the next of kin of Pte Thomas Haggerty who died during the liberation of Kuwait in 1991 and Sgt Jonathan Mathews who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2008.

Two Operation Granby 20th anniversary dinners were held in the Club. The first was attended by members of the 1 RS Officers and Sergeants Messes, presided over by Brigadier Iain Johnstone who



Colonel Edward Cowan at the unveiling of the Cenotaph Painting

commanded the Battalion at the time of the liberation of Kuwait. The second was a wider Association event coinciding with the annual Regimental Day Dinner. Guests included Mr Thomas Haggerty, and the CO and RSM of 1 SCOTS and their ladies. For both occasions, CO 1 SCOTS kindly allowed the 1 RS Colours to be on display, which was much appreciated by those in attendance

who had helped place the final RS Battle Honour, Gulf 1991 on the Regimental Colour.

On the eve of Presentation of Colours to The Royal Regiment of Scotland by HM The Queen on Saturday 2nd July, the Club hosted a Royal Regiment of Scotland cocktail party with The Royal Regiment of Scotland Band and the massed Pipes and Drums of the Battalions beating retreat in the gardens opposite. Immediately beforehand, pipe banners were presented to 1 SCOTS on behalf of the Regiment, the Association and the Club.



Royal Scots Pipe Banners presented to The Royal Regiment of Scotland



# Domestic Occurrences

## Deaths

### BARKER

On 25 March, suddenly at the ERI at the age on 89, James (Jim) Duncan Barker, of 8RS, (son of James Duncan Barker of 16 RS).

### BERNARD

On 20 February, John Wallace Bernard died at Whiteford House. Former RS.

### CHRISTIE

On 23 May, Andy Christie (Flipper). Former 1 RS, 1961-1976, B Coy and MT Platoon. Served with his brother Jack in Tidworth, Libya, Aden, Osnabruk, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Kirknewton.

### CLARK

On 25 December 2010, aged 71, Pipe Major Charlie Clark, former 1 RS. He played at President John F Kennedy's funeral at Arlington Cemetery in Washington in 1963.

### FINLAYSON

On 7 August, Cpl Robert Finlayson of Forth in Lanarkshire. Former 1 RS Mortar Platoon 1960s-70s.

### FLOCKHART

On 22 January, Ian James Flockhart, aged 77 years at Prestbury in Cheshire. 1RS National Service Officer then 7/9 RS.

### GRANT

On 19 January, Major Graeme Stewart Grant, aged 66, former 1 RS and 10GR and international property developer. 1 RS boxer and rugby player. 1 RS and 10 GR captain of shooting.

### HANNAH

On 9 May William Miller (Billy) Hannah, at home. Formerly 1 RS 1961-73. Served in Tripoli and Aden.

### JOHNSTONE

On 6 February, after a long and spirited battle, Verity Johnstone, the much loved wife of Iain and friend to many.

### KEEL

On 2 February, peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, Fred Keel. Enlisted in 1 RS before WW2, served in Palestine, then 2 RS Hong Kong. Although a non-swimmer he managed to get ashore after the sinking of the Lisbon Maru.

### LAING

On 9 March, Alexander Laing, died at Ellen's Glen House Nursing Home. Born 14 May 1938. 3 years regular and 4 years reserve service.

### LAWRIE

On 29 December 2010, Allan John Harker Lawrie, at Erskine House, Edinburgh. Former Sergeant Pipes and Drums 1 RS.

### MACDONALD

On 3 August, M S (Malcolm) Macdonald, age 82. Joined 1 RS from RMAS in 1949 and carried the Queen's Colour at the Coronation. After Korea left the Army for a career in architecture.

### MALLOY

On 26 December 2010, suddenly at St John's Livingston, Daniel (Danny) Glen Malloy, of Addiewell, West Calder. 1 RS and a very staunch member of the Association.

### McGREGOR

On 7 February, aged 91, at Longniddry, Lt Col Charles MacGregor CVO MBE, soldier and public servant. 1 RS Palestine 1948, Malayan emergency, career in Public Information at MOD, NHS, Scottish Office and latterly PR Consultant.

### McLAREN

On 20 January, Malcolm McLaren, at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, formerly 2 RS and former employee of The Scotsman.

### McLOCKLAN

On 4 April, Harold McLocklan, aged 92. 1 RS 39-45, POW for 3 years in Austria and Italy. Worked at the Fish Market in Hull.

### MILLAR

On 9 March, peacefully at Ferryfield House, Walter Scott (Scotty) Millar, aged 92. 8 RS during WW2.

### MORTON

On 14 January, George Stewart Morton, in Suffolk. Former WW2 RS.

### PIRIE

On 19 December 2010, Major Douglas Patrick Pirie, aged 87, Association member. Served with RS from school until 1960s. Benghazi, Tripoli, Tobruk, Suez, Cyprus 1955.

### PROCTOR

On 5 January, aged 84, Arthur Proctor. Former CSgt RS, 1945-62.

### RENNIE

On 7 August, John MacLaughlan Rennie, 8 RS. Composed a poem for the RS Christmas card. Uniform displayed in Jenners window during campaign to save the Regiment.

### RUTCLIFF

On 15 December 2010, David Rutcliff of Wallyford.

### SCOTT

On 8 August, Robert Lowrie Scott, of Taunton

### SOUTAR

At Edinburgh on 20 February 11, Thomas (Tom) Souter aged 21, son of Major N G Soutar MC, formerly 1 RS.

### SWAN

On 29 April 2010, John Ninian (Nin) Craig Swan, served with RS in Germany. Retired school teacher, resident of Rotherwick.

### WILD

On 28 February, Thomas (Marty) Wild of Poltonhall. Served 22 years 1 RS.

### WHITE

On 12 February, peacefully at Western General Hospital after a long illness, aged 72, John (Chalky) White. Member of the Association.



## FORECAST OF EVENTS 2011

### SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3rd RS Association NI Branch AGM.  
Saturday 24th RS Association Autumn Dinner.  
Sunday 25th RS Day at Musselburgh Races.

### OCTOBER

Monday 3rd RS Club Evening Lecture; Sun, Sea, Sand and Spies.  
Wednesday 19th RS Club Speakers Dinner; A Long Affair with Russia.  
Friday 21st RS Association Scotland Branches AGM in the RS Club.  
Friday 28th RS Museum Committee Meeting at HHQ RS.  
RS Benevolent Fund Trustees meeting in the RS Club.  
RS Benevolent Society Meeting in the RS Club.  
RS Officers Dinner Club Regimental Dinner in the RS Club.  
Joint RS/KOSB Officers and their Ladies Lunch in the RS Club.

### NOVEMBER

Sunday 6th 1 SCOTS v Hearts Veterans Select at Tynecastle.  
Monday 7th Opening of the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens.  
Friday 11th RS Club Evening Lecture; The Travels of Isabella Bird.  
Opening of the Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance.  
Glencorse Memorial Gates.  
Sunday 13th National Cenotaph Parade.  
Edinburgh City Chambers, RS Club, Hepburn House, Hearts Memorial, and elsewhere throughout Edinburgh, the Lothians and Peeblesshire.  
Friday 25th RS Club St Andrews Night Dinner.  
Saturday 26th RS Association St Andrews Night Dinner.  
Monday 28th Scottish National Portrait Gallery Re-Opening. Some RS photographs.

### DECEMBER

Monday 5th RS Club Evening Lecture; Edinburgh Crystal (TBC).  
Tuesday 6th RS Club Members Christmas Lunch.  
Saturday 10th RS Association Christmas Disco.  
Wednesday 14th /15th RS Club Members Carol Service TBC.

### 2012

#### JANUARY

Monday 9th RS Club Evening Lecture; Montrose - a Candidate for Immortality' TBC.  
Monday 16th RS Club Burns Lunch.  
Friday 20th RS Club Burns Supper.  
Saturday 28th RS Association Burns Supper (Edinburgh & East of Scotland).

#### FEBRUARY

Monday 6th RS Club Evening Lecture.  
Sunday TBC RS Club Speakers Dinner.  
Tuesday 14th RS Club Valentine's Dinner.

#### MARCH

Monday 5th RS Club Evening Lecture  
Thursday 8th Highland & Lowland Brigades Club Bonspiel.  
Monday 12th RS Club Themed Dinner.  
Sunday 18th RS Club Mother's Day Lunch.  
Thursday 22nd RS Association Southern Branch AGM.  
Saturday 24th RS Association Regimental Day Dinner in the RS Club.  
Wednesday 28th RS Regimental Day. Also SCOTS Regimental Day.  
RS Club Regimental Day Lunch.

#### APRIL

Monday 2nd RS Club Evening Lecture; The RS Museum.  
Saturday 7th RS Association Annual Reunion.  
Sunday 8th RS Club Easter Sunday Lunch.  
Wednesday 18th RS Club AGM.  
Friday 20th RS Benevolent Fund Trustees meeting in the RS Club.  
RS Association Committee AGM in the RS Club.  
Wednesday 25th RS Club Speakers Dinner.  
Saturday 28th RS Association Spring Lunch in the RS Club.

#### MAY

Wednesday 2nd RS Club Speakers Dinner.  
Sunday 6th RS Association Golf - Fallen Comrades Trophy.  
Saturday 19th 7 RS Gretna Commemoration at Rosebank Cemetery in Leith.  
Fri 25th - Sun 28th 1 SCOTS Sevens at Dreghorn.  
Le Paradis pilgrimage.

## Regimental Association Events

### Branch Meetings & Contacts

#### EDINBURGH

Last Friday of each month at 8.00 pm  
Ex-Servicemen's Club,  
7 Smith's Place, Edinburgh.

#### CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Last Friday of each month at 7.30 pm  
Royal British Legion,  
Whitburn, West Lothian.

#### EAST OF SCOTLAND

Last Saturday of each month at 7.30 pm  
Royal British Legion,  
Prestonpans, East Lothian.

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

Contact  
jacarlisle@btinternet.com

#### HIGHLAND

Monthly at 7.30 pm  
Royal British Legion,  
Inverness, Huntly Street.  
Contact  
william.jeans@btinternet.com

#### SOUTHERN

Contact  
edward.cowan@blueyonder.com  
weetam0571@sky.com

#### PIPE BAND

Contact  
Captain Torquil Corkerton on:  
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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT HOME HEADQUARTERS

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