The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

Volume 43

Summer 2023



The Royal Scots contingent in Princes Street Gardens after the Armed Forces Day 2023 parade. Photo by Malcom Ross.

Foreword

Brigadier GE Lowder MBE

Chairman of the Regimental Trustees, President of the Regimental Association and Chairman of the War Memorial Fund Trustees.

I sincerely hope that this edition of The Thistle finds you well and thriving. It's been a busy Summer, with Edinburgh packed again for the peak Festival period. During the Festival many of you will have enjoyed "Warriors", a musical written by Alex Shannon, Peter McKinlay and Danny Muir, adapted from a book written by Alex. Warriors tells the story of young Royal Scots soldiers embarking on a six-month tour in Afghanistan after recently passing their basic infantry training. It's broadly based on the authors' experiences as young Jocks and their subsequent operational experiences. The performances in Hepburn House, as part of Army at the Fringe 2023, authentically cover family and domestic relationships as well as being a soldier on operations and received rave reviews. Shirley and I thought it was brilliant. It is hoped to bring further performances back to Edinburgh later in the year and possibly to the Club. The Lord Provost continues to take a keen interest in Royal Scots matters and took the salute at the Beating Retreat in early June in pleasant weather, after which we enjoyed a delicious supper. It was fantastic to see so many of you turn out for the Armed Forces Day Parade in late June and to be able to catch up afterwards in the Gardens over refreshments. I wonder if we should make more of this gathering, perhaps with a follow-on buffet lunch in the Club? I would welcome your views on this idea.

Governance. The Regimental Secretary has again demonstrated that he has the patience of a saint, ploughing through the bureaucracy related to getting the SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) up and running, not least in dealing with the banks to open new accounts for the SCIO. You would think that banks are wary of dealing with Royal Scots for some reason, perhaps derived from their previous experience? All the required authorities are now in place, and we are up and running as a SCIO of three pillars (Association, Trust, and Museum/Heritage), with the fourth pillar, the Club, under consideration. I remain hugely grateful to the Trustees of all the pillars, the Association Office Bearers, the Board of Directors of Royal Scots Club Management (RSCM) Ltd and the Club Members' Committee, for all they do to provide oversight, advice, good governance, and support. We are fortunate to have such a capable, well qualified, diverse, and effective group of people supporting our Regiment. I am also grateful to Ray Thomson for his support to the Regimental Secretary in the office and with The Thistle. We are still seeking a volunteer to help with our Regimental Communications. The role would require competence on all social media channels and sound IT skills to support the Regimental Secretary in getting our messages out to the widest possible Regimental audience. If you are interested, please let David Jack know.

The Association and Associating. I am delighted that Drummie Black and Pipey Burns have now found time to devote to the Association Pipes and Drums, a Werl pairing that will help reinvigorate that Branch of the Association, ably supported by the Regimental Secretary, as a former Pipe President. I am conscious that two formal Association events, the Regimental Reunion and the Nagpur Dinner, have been cancelled this Summer due to projected low attendance. It is clear to me that we need to review our forecast of these events and tailor the programme to focus and prioritise events that you want to attend. The cancellation of the two formal events is more than compensated for by other associating. Much of this happens on the golf course and there are different cohorts who play, bringing different groups of ex-Royals together. There is some crossover although of course not every ex-Royal is a golfer, and there are other social gatherings of peer groups and these are to be encouraged and where possible grown. We are considering what more can be done, Company, campaign or themed gatherings have been suggested, but we would welcome your thoughts. What would you like to attend?

The Museum. The dialogue with The Royal Regiment of Scotland continues regarding what might happen when we lose all MOD funding support in 2030. You should be aware that the current funding support does not cover all the costs of our new Curator, who is providing a fantastic service, so we already cover the delta in costs. In the next few years, we must crystallise our strategy for the period beyond 2030, for our Collection and to preserve our Heritage. That work is ongoing.

Heritage. The film about the LISBON MARU was previewed in London and, particularly for the Regiment, in the Club. There is more on this topic later in this edition, but it is a gripping and moving documentary with personal accounts from survivors, relatives of others involved and local Chinese people.

The producers are intending to put it on general release in the near future and it is highly recommended viewing. We look forward to Team 373's "Pop Up" heritage event in November at Dalkeith Palace.

The Club. The War Memorial Fund Trustees have appointed two new Trustees. Rob Dickson is a former Royal Scots Platoon Commander and international rugby referee, who served as a senior civil servant and is now a Director of Visit Scotland. Rob brings a wealth of public and private sector experience to the table. Stuart Montgomery is an accountancy graduate with a career in property and property management. Stuart has made an immediate impact on joining the Trustees and we warmly welcome both Rob and Stuart to the Team. I am also delighted that Guy Richardson has been appointed as Chair of the Club Members' Committee. Guy has spent much of the summer working closely with the Committee Members to ensure that they provide an effective conduit for Club Members between the Board and Trustees and vice versa. I know that Members' views are being heard and more importantly acted upon, key fobs being a prime example. Other benefits of membership are being developed and promulgated. The recent Club Newsletter confirms the current incumbents of the Members' Committee, all of whom have specific responsibilities in support of the Management Team and Members. I would like to thank those Committee Members who have recently stood down for their outstanding contributions, some for over fifteen years; namely John Purves, Tam Douglas, Graham Lyall and Suzanne Batchelor. Finally, you will be pleased to hear that following a very busy Summer, the Club is in a reasonably healthy financial position thanks to Adrian, his Team, and the Board.

Southern Branch Visit To Royal Hospital Chelsea

On the afternoon of 2 August 2023, a somewhat wet and gloomy day, the Southern Branch held a highly successful visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The Regiment currently have three In Pensioners at the Hospital, Andy Kay, Danny Dempsey and Vic Lucas. In addition, the Battalion's Paymaster from 1978 to 1983, Roger Thompson, is also an In Pensioner. The morning offered an opportunity for those who wished (as all did!) to visit the National Army Museum (NAM) next door to the Hospital and have lunch. After a thoroughly enjoyable tour of the Hospital which included the State rooms, all repaired to the bar for and a great opportunity to catch up and tell a few stories!



Braving the rain at the museum: Left to Right: Mike Cran, Danny Dempsey, Jimmy Collins, Rakeem Peebles (back), Alan Blamire (front), Suzanna Stuart-Monteith (back), Christopher Delacombe, Rab Johnstone, Monty Stuart-Monteith (back), Fiona Campbell (front), Vic Lucas, Nikki Blamire (back), Lucy Delacombe (back), Brian de la Haye, Peter Fraser-Hopewell.

Lieutenant Colonel Brian de la Haye OBE

It has been a busy Summer and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the November Remembrance and commemoration services and our other planned events this year.

Yours Aye,

George Lowder

Brigadier George Lowder MBE Brigadier Chairman of the Regimental Trustees

Trustees

With the creation of the new Regimental Trust as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) there have been some changes of trustees. Brig George Lowder, Maj Gen Bob Bruce, Maj Norman Soutar, Lt Col Dickie Donovan, Lt Col Gordon Rae, Maj Stu Marshall and Capt Alex Dockar will continue as trustees, while Brig Robbie Scott-Bowden and Mr David Nisbet have relinquished their position as trustees. We welcome Capt Nick Edwardson, Mrs Jandy Stevenson, Mr Keith Oliver and Mr Allan Carswell as new trustees.



Mr Keith Oliver OBE WS.



Roger Thompson entertains Alan and Nikki Blamire in the bar!



Vic Lucas and Suzanna Stuart-Monteith share a moment.

Notes from the Museum Archive

For the past several months I have been conducting a refreshed audit of the Old Provost Marshal's House Library, and it seems this project could be lasting several months more. To those of you who have visited the office, you may remark that it is a small room and ideas of mountains and molehills may come to mind. However, as I am less than halfway and nearing entry 1000 in my list, it seems we have established quite the hoard.

I think, more accurately, it should be described as our library and archive, as the contents within range from the latest edition of *The Thistle* to what I believe to be an early 1600s copy of *Letters writ by a Turkish Spy*. So too, perhaps the speed at which I am going is not due to the number of books, newsletters, and diaries, but for the number of rabbit holes you find yourself going down when conducting such a task. I wish I could say I was militant in my auditing and get simply the information required before moving onto the next entry, but some of the records you come across are far too tempting to open and do a bit of investigating. I try to justify it as being for the benefit of my 'Royal Scots Education'.

One article which drew my attention for far too long was the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots: The Officer's Mess Suggestion Book 1946-1957. A far cry from the meticulously historically accurate books in which I have been buried in for so long, the suggestion book reads more comparatively to a modern-day Facebook group chat of passive aggressive university roommates.

Whilst a fairly unassuming book from the outside, when you sift through the pages you get small snapshots into the past. Very quickly, scenes of disgruntled officers are conjured in the mind and, coming from not an ex-royal but a civvy, it has been one of the more 'relatable' archives I have seen. I cannot claim to understand what it has been like to be on active service, nor do I have funny tales of fellow soldiers. I do, however, know what it is to be served a truly terrible cup of tea.

I thought, for this edition of The Thistle, I would share some of my favourite entries from this Suggestion Book with you.

The suggestion book starts out strong, leading me to wonder if this person had been itching for the opportunity to air out their grievances, pouncing on the book the moment the pages were laid bare.

DATE	SUGGESTION
28 sept 46	It is suggested that innectiste shep be taken to ensire that some namber of this ness staff is made responsible for the removal of dist (inforficial + ignized) from the bath of the downstais bathroom (restration).
× 1 1 4*	some nemeral of this neese staff is made responsible for the
	remarce of dist (supplicial + ignoriad) from the tath of
	the downstains tatheroom (- 1)
	flethalus.

" 28/ Sept' 46 - It is suggested that immediate steps be taken to ensure that some members of this mess staff is made responsible for the removal of dirt (superficial + ingrained) from the bath of the downstairs bathroom".

Clearly this suggestion did not have the desired results, as six months later:

	and the the alonging - we
2/5/49.	It is aggeted that more be taken with the claiming - up
111	I the bath rooms in the allers as they dave been in a discussing
	alt eventy the dearlines of the majority of the officers' bedrooms
	of the batt norms in the allers as they dans been in a discussing of the batt norms in the allers as they dans been in a discussing other presently the chandium of the majority of the offices' badrooms also have much to be discuss.
	des servo much to a water.
	W. an

"2/6/47 - It is suggested that more care be taken with the cleaning-up of the bathrooms in the Mess as they have been in a disgusting state recently. The cleanliness of the majority of the Officers' bedrooms also leaves much to be desired".

Whilst assurance was made they would be cleaned, they also had the response:

3/6/47.	13 The tathrooms will be taken care of though this does not excuse
	" The tabhrooms will be taken care of though this does not exerce officers from seabling the balk down after they have used it.
1	
	(1) An officer who is accustored to having a servert, should know to inform his server of his requirements this includes lideness of his room so well as can of
	ki
	PI.

"3/6/47 - An Officer who is accustomed to having a servant, should know to inform his servant of his requirements. This includes tidiness of his room as well as care of kit."

Oh, how times have changed.

Food and drink are often hot topics for the book, with the contents within frequently making suggestions to what should be served, when it should be served and whether people prefer marmalade or jam with their breakfast meal. However, there is one entry which is just so quintessentially British it is not a surprise we earned our tea-drinking stereotype.

26 /11/47	I sugget that ten should be made should not be made so strong	with	biliz	water, and	,
- Mar	should not be made so strong.			Ur.	
		gi	light	Ur.	

"26/4/47 - I suggest that tea should be made with <u>boiling</u> water, and should not be made so strong"

Reply:

		ith bailing water				
no infusio	n the tip would	I not be stron	q !! Jongges	Vyou ask for has	vatur toot	putt

"Tea is made with boiling water, otherwise there would be no infusion. If there was so infusion the tea would not be strong !!! I suggest you ask for hot water. These two complaints contradict each other. "Nuff Said" "

It is hard to argue with the science of tea making, but I do hope the officer in question was eventually able to get his piping hot perfectly weak cup of tea.

It is also clear sometimes suggestions are not taken seriously, at least to the officer's standards, and leads to the growing resentments in the ranks.



"24 Nov 52 - Suggested that my earlier (30 July) remarks about curry be followed up. We are still being given the same old curried raisins "mush" which besmirches the fair name of curry."

Curry is indeed a serious matter which should not be taken lightly. The earlier comment was in reference to a request for Pipe Major Lalbahadur Rai, of the $1^{st}/10^{th}$ (Princess Mary's Own) Gurkha Rifles, to give the cooks instruction on the making of curry and cooking of rice, which he (according to the remarks) did agree to.

Suggested that Pyferlager hellsalader Rai 10GR be asked to give the cooks instruction in
making curry and cooking rice.
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Astam. Pipe Hazi halleshadur Rai has aqueed to do this providing to cover ingredult are abtainable in Editing.
the conset ingredient are optimized in Edition a
P-

I am guessing Chef didn't take as kindly to the request.

The billiard room also makes frequent appearance, with one complaint giving looney-tunes visions of officers slipping and sliding across the scene.

and the second sec
may I argues that the limbur in the biblied norm should not in the
fine be lighty polaid. Aligns fit it actuary last to here this feet. I had
of the usual complaint that played by any line on the the is a to be
of the word constant that players by one bright on the table it press to be that too many one now progrady the table.
I agricult in server. spirithing it.

"26/1/48 - May I suggest that the linoleum in the billiard room should not in the future be lightly polished. Players find it extremely hard to keep their feet. Instead of the usual complaint that players are <u>lying on</u> the table it seems to be that too many are now <u>lying under</u> the table"

If I'm playing poorly, I too might have started looking for an out – it's not me, it's the slippery floors!

I like to think the officers of years gone by would not mind us taking a retrospective look at their very serious complaints. When you are in the midst of communal living, much like me and my library, small molehills can feel like mountains. Whilst some of the pages contain genuine concerns with clear backing from fellow officers, the good-natured humour of the occupants and the well-versed sarcasm always comes through.

His byghed that the use should in the cank - room should can	een H
	His Suggeded that the wike shound in the ank - room should could some some wike. D.K. Has D.L. 27

If you wish to visit the Royal Scots Museum to see the suggestion book or any of the other archives then free access to Edinburgh Castle can be arranged for members of The Association and The Regimental Family. Please call 0131 226 2688 giving at least two working days' notice. This <u>will not</u> allow wider access to the Castle.

Ms Sophie Lenihan Museum Curator



The 2023 attendees.

No sooner had the last putt been made and the last divot replaced on the fairway in 2022 the wheels were put in motion for the eagerly anticipated 2023 Stewart Snedden Memorial Golf. Negotiations started with ever helpful Liberton Golf Club Club Secretary Richard Fyvie and the amazing team of catering and bar staff. The date was set and using the power of social media and good communications everything was in place for a 2023 record attendance. A true testament to our friend Sneds.

The morning 19 May came and we woke to a glorious sunny day in Edinburgh. Big Sneds must have once more had a word with the good Lord. Everyone arrived at Liberton Golf Course in fine fettle with the reigning champion Ian Horribine setting out to defend his crown against a very talented field of would be champions aiming to take home the silverware.

Opening speeches and rules were delivered along with some fantastic RS Banter. This was broadcast live on Facebook and ex Royals from as far as Australia tuned in to listen to Bob Bruce deliver fantastic toasts to "absent friends" and "Sneds". Bob also shared two hilarious stories about Sneds. Who will ever forget "Honchos coming through".

At 0955hrs and with the St Andrews flag at half mast, the skirl of the pipes echoed around the fairways and surrounding area of Liberton. Our current champion was piped from the clubhouse to the 1st Tee box with all attending lining the route and heartedly cheered him on as he strode alongside Allan McIntyre our piper for the day. With a full swing the ball was despatched straight down the first fairway and the competition was on.

60 players in 4 ball groups fully enjoyed the day and many comments were given about the very high standard of the course, especially the greens. This was echoed in the closing speech and thank you to the club secretary and his staff.

The golf was followed with a delicious and varied choice of excellent food, that all enjoyed. A huge thank you was passed to the catering team who had only just started at Liberton! This being their first event, however the way the delivered on the day, you would have never guessed. Well done.

Once all the scorecards were handed in and counting done it was time to deliver the sought after and hard fought prizes. All this was made even more special on the day as it was done in the presence of Robert Snedden, Stewarts brother. The one thing that was very plain to see on the day for all the Snedden clan attending was how much the big man meant to all who served with or knew him.

Results

Nearest the Pin Most Golf Played **Best Female Player** Most Handsome Player Longest Drive Best Dressed

Cliff MacAuley Amanda Crosbie Amanda Crosbie John Lothian Mark McLeod Mark Renton

Best Gross 3rd Place 2nd Place 1st Place "Champion Golfer" Team Winners

Zander Russell Mark McLeod Mark Renton Ian Horribine Team 3 - Mark Renton, Eck Wind, Bob Bruce, and Iain Smith.



The Winners; I to r: Cliff MacAuley, Amanda Crosbie, Mark McLeod, Eck Wind, Ian Horribine, Spike Mulligan, Mark Renton, Zander Russell, and Iain Smith.

A massive congratulations and thank you must go to all who participated and caddied on the day. Oh did I mention, it was a record attendance of "86". The event was oversubscribed and when the dates for 2024 go live make sure you quickly let the organising committee know you want take part or you may be disappointment.

The final word is an echo to Bob Bruce's speech. "We as Royal Scots do things the right way and when we get it right we really pull off something special". The hard work that goes on behind the scenes speaks volumes and without everyone giving up there precious time and travelling miles to attend proves that in Stewart Sneddens name, "we really are doing something right".

See you all on 31 May 2024. "Fore Right".

Mr Eck Wind MBE



Mark McLeod practising for the "Longest Drive". As ever Paul Crosbie is supervising.





Dave Goodacre getting into the swing of things. Wait a minute! Is that the "Shortest Drive"?



David Milne.



John Lothian making a great shot or maybe not!



Best Female Player -Amanda Crosbie.



Best Dressed - Mark Renton.



Most Handsome Player -John Lothian.



Best Gross - Zander Russell.

Team Winners; I to r: Iain Smith, Mark Renton, Eck Wind and Bob Bruce.



John Miller.

Arthur Frame with a limited swing is





Stevie Guest.



Sandy Mack putting. Stevie Gibson using thought control to push the ball away.



Wow, a banana shot or did the wind catch that one John.....not.



Most Golf Played -Amanda Crosbie.



2nd Place – Mark Renton.



An unexpected gift of a "nut and bolt golfer" to Derek Notman from his caddie Graham Brash.



Nearest The Pin -Cliff MacAuley.



1st Place – Ian Horribine.



1 2 10

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Longest Drive -

Mark McLeod.

^d Place – Mark McLeod.

A Royal at the Royal College of Defence Studies

The Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), located in the heart of Belgravia, was the brainchild of Sir Winston Churchill. In 1922 he recommended the formation of the College, known initially as the Imperial Defence College, to function as the central brain for formulating strategy in future wars. Prescient then and now. Alumnus from the first course, Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke's statue outside the MOD is adorned with words 'Master of Strategy' on its plinth. Clearly, he soaked up the teaching.

RCDS's aim today is to:

"Prepare future leaders who understand the international strategic context, are skilled in analysis and able to work across national, cultural and ideological boundaries to lead or contribute to developing strategy at the highest level."

For the last year, I and other 'members' of RCDS have been part of the Global Strategy Programme, seeking to understand global challenges to security, stability and prosperity in their own context, in breadth and in depth. It has been a fascinating year.

Being a member of RCDS is an amazing privilege; we have been able to travel extensively around Europe and the world. I have visited Belgium, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Uzbekistan. Other members have travelled from Brazil to Bangladesh, and Guatemala to South Korea, and pretty much every were else in between. For me highlights were visiting Kazakhstan, and the site that the Soviet Union tested 456 nuclear bombs between 1949-89, that's one a month. This included the detonation of two nuclear bombs to create a freshwater reservoir. This was contrasted with visiting the Inguri Dam in Georgia, the world's highest arch dam (272m); the guides had no idea how many people died building it, merely shrugged their shoulders and said it was during Soviet times. Linking both Soviet projects was a complete disregard for the environmental and human costs that authoritarian political systems inflict and their long-term legacy.

What makes RCDS unique is the breadth of cross-government and international attendees. This generates multiple perspectives and prisms through which to view global challenges and the best way to solve or manage them. Debating the future of the international order with members from Malaysia, Canada, Kenya, India and Jamaica threw up some very different conclusions, which at times were difficult to balance (or agree with). But that is the essence of the time spent here, to have an environment to understand other points of view, and if necessary, disagree agreeably. Invaluable for the strategic leaders of the future.



Royal Scots have attended the College from its inception. although relatively few in numbers, which is more a reflection on the limited places available: only nine of 110 members came from the British Army. The first Royal to attend was Lt Col HJ Simson MC (left). Commissioned in 1906 he saw service in Japan, China, the Western Front and Siberia. He attended the Imperial Defence College in 1929, then became the Military Attaché to Japan before assuming command of the 2nd Bn in 1932, in Quetta. He retired from the Army five years later as a Brigadier.

Next up is Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw MC of the Indian Army. Commissioned from the Indian Military Academy in 1934, he joined C Company of the 2^{nd} Bn in Quetta, it is unlikely that he crossed over with Lt Col Simson. He served a year with the Royals before moving onto the 4^{th} Bn /12th Frontier Force. After Partition he was commissioned into the Gurkhas, commanding the 3^{rd} Bn / 5th Gurkha Rifles. He attended the Imperial Defence College in 1957 and commanded the Indian Army 12 years later! I am sure many generations of 1 RS Officers recall his name from the Adjutant's Christmas Card list.

Brigadier Nick Wight-Boycott OBE

Other notable Royals that have attended both Brigadiers James Stevenson MBE and Graeme Wearmouth OBE. Who both reflect positively on their time as members.

- 1929 Lt Col (later Brig)(HJ Simson MC
- 1957 Brig (late Field Marshal) SHFJ Manekshaw MC Indian Army
- 2012 Col (later Brig) JIS Stevenson MBE
- 2022 Brig GC Wearmouth OBE
- 2023 Brig NM Wight-Boycott OBE



CAPTAIN T.P. CALVERT, D.S.O., R.N. CAPTAIN A.B. CUNNINGHAM, D.S.O., R.N. COMMANDER V. H. DANCKWERTS, R.N. CAPTAIN J.W.S. DORLING, R.N. L.G. DUKE, ESQ., BOARD OF EDUCATION. BT. LIEUT. COL. A. B. HAIG, M.C., 14TH PUNJAB R. COMMANDER G.C. JONES, R.C.N LIEUT. COL. A.P.Y. LANGHORNE, D.S.O., M.C., R.A. BT. LIEUT. COL. W. G. LINDSELL, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., R.A. SQDN. LDR. C. J. MACKAY, M.C., D.F.C. SQDN. LDR. C.E.H. MEDHURST, O.B.E., M.C. G. S. OWEN, ESQ., MINISTRY OF LABOUR. BT. LIEUT. COL. B. C. T. PAGET, D.S.O., M.C., OXF. & BUCKS. L.I. WING COMDR. C.W. H. PULFORD, O.B.E., A.F.C. WING COMDR. C. F. A. PORTAL, D.S.O., M.C. WING COMDR. J.C. QUINNELL, D.F.C. BT. LIEUT. COL. T. S. RIDDELL-WEBSTER, D. S. O., THE CAMERONIANS BT. LIEUT. COL. H.J. SIMSON, M.C., THE ROYAL SCOTS. CAPTAIN J.G.P. VIVIAN, R.N. BT. COL. H. E. WEEKES, O.B.E., INDIAN ARMY.

Members board from the third course in 1929.



Commonwealth War Graves Memorial in Batumi. Two Royal Scots are recorded on the roll; I was honoured to pay my respects to them and the others on Memorial. A reminder that the Russian Empire and former Soviet Republics are well trodden by the Regiment.



The home of the Royal College of Defence Studies: Seaford House, 37 Belgrave Square, London.

Kohima Memorial Service 2023 -York

On Thursday 6 July, Brian de la Haye represented the Regiment at the annual Kohima Memorial service at the Kohima Memorial in the Dean's Park at York Minster followed by the traditional luncheon hosted by the Kohima Educational Trust (KET).

2024 will mark the 80th anniversary of the battle of Kohima and it is planned to mark the occasion both at the York Minster and at the National Arboretum.



Lieutenant Colonel Brian de la Haye OBE

Lt Col Brian de la Haye (r) was joined by Mr Paul Crompton (I), Associate member of the Southern Branch, who was representing the Durham Light Infantry (DLI).

Royal Scots Golf Club 2023

For the uninitiated, the following is a very brief history of the Royal Scots Golf Club.

Back in 1922 a few serving members of the Royal Scots, while partaking in a few drams within the Royal Scots Club and all of them being keen golfers, hit on a plan to form a golf club within the RSC (There were many different clubs within the RSC at the time). So it was that the Royal Scots Golf Club was formed.

The inaugural match took place in March of that same year at the Glencorse Golf Club, fittingly attached to the Glencorse Barracks, which was The Royal Scots training depot at that time. As you can probably all see by now the RSGC has been going for over 100 years and celebrated its centennial year last year, 2022.

This was celebrated by a Centennial Golf match played at Glencorse Golf Club appropriately in line with the inaugural match in 1922. The year was ended by holding a Centennial Dinner in the Royal Scots Club in November, which was very much enjoyed by all who attended.



I to r: Maj Cliff McAuley, Mr David Morris, Mr Norman Gregor, Mr Douglas Ogilvie, Maj Arthur Frame, Mr David Milne ,Mr Brian McGeachie, Mr Noel Martin, Maj Zander Russell, Mr Ewan Campbell, Mr Larry Gilbert and Mr Walter Hutchison.



Maj Arthur Frame (I) receives the Pikeman Trophy from Mr John Hope (r) of the 8:30 Club.

Going from strength to strength this year, 2023 sees the club at full membership as per laid down in the Constitution. At the minute, there are a few on the waiting list, but this never takes long to dwindle. Membership is open to Male, Female and "everyone in between". At £20.00 per year, it must be the best value for money on the golfing circuit. Anyone wishing to apply for membership please email the Secretary, David Morris (bampots1@gmail.com) and he will send the relevant details. Serving, non-serving, ex members and civilians all welcome

So far this year we have completed three outings and one of our regular Team Matches, The Pikeman Trophy, against our auld enemy The Corstorphine 8:30 club. I am pleased to inform that RSGC retained The Pikeman with a team score of 4 - 2 so very well done to the 12 man RSGC team.

Apart from very windy and cold conditions at Longniddry earlier in the year we have been very lucky with the weather and "nearly" managed to miss all the heavy rain apart from the dreaded Fife monsoon that hit two thirds through the outing at St Michaels. Unfortunately, there were a few wet souls and even soles and maybe undergarments before all players were safely in the clubhouse.

More news on the RSGC in the next episode of The Thistle.

In Golf, there is never bad weather....only inappropriate clothing!

Mr Jim McConnell - Captain RSGC

Notes from Scottish Veterans Residences (SVR)

Former Royal Scots CSgt Danny Sutherland begins his journey to a new home in Inverness. Danny who has been supported by Legion Scotland's Veterans Community Support Service (VCSS) and @Unforgotten Forces Co-ordinator Tony Hooman has been a resident in SVR's Whitefoord House in Edinburgh for the last few years and will now be moving closer to his daughter. He was accompanied on his journey by another former Royal and now the Veterans Community Support Manager, Tam Douglas. Tam says "I have known Danny for almost 50 years and remember him from my time in the Regiment. In fact Danny refereed the last inter-company final I played in giving a dodgy penalty decision which ended up costing me a winner's medal......I'm never slow to remind him. Danny always tells me it's time to get over it and get rid of the dummy...!!!!!!" He will be sorely missed by the SVR Staff who gave him a tremendous send off, including a birthday cake to celebrate his 87yrs. We all wish Danny well on his new adventure and look forward to hearing from him in the future. Good luck & best wishes Danny.



Saying farewell to Danny. I to r: Tam Douglas, Danny Sutherland and Tony Hooman.

Mr Mark Doig

Notes on serving Royals

Brig	Graeme	Wearmouth	DA Training
U			3
Brig	Nick	Wight-Boycott	COS SJFHQ
Col	Piers	Strudwick	DA Netherlands
Lt Col	Ross	Brookfield	SO1 J5 Op TANGHAM Somalia
Lt Col	Toby	Bunney	Army HQ
Lt Col	Jeremy	Giles	Army HQ
Lt Col	Andy	Lumley	BLO Germany
Lt Col	Frank	Reeves	PJHQ
Lt Col	Sean	Semple RAPTC	HQ RAPTC Aldershot
Maj	Billy	Garrick	ITC Catterick
Maj	Stevie	Gibson	3 SCOTS
Maj	Tam	Lindsay	QM MRTC
Maj	Cliff	McAuley	APC
Maj	Zander	Russell	XO 5 RRF
Capt	Stephen	Dawson	QM (T) 1 RANGER

	WO1	Steven	Paterson	RSM 2 SCOTS
	W02	David	Williamson	D Coy CSM 1 RANGER
9	SSgt	Ray	Basalaia INT CORPS	PSI Int Coy, Dundee
	CSgt	Steven	Gibb	HQ Regional Command (CQMS NIGSU from Apr 2024)
	CSgt	Gus	Maclver	PSI 2 R IRISH
	CSgt	Barry	McIntosh	PSI A Coy, 6 SCOTS
	Sgt	Jone	Leweni AGC (MPS)	MPS Lisburn, NI
	Sgt	Peter	Paterson	PSI A Coy, 6 SCOTS
	Cpl	Euan	Jardine	Pipe Sgt, SCOTS DG
	Cpl	Viliame	Kama	HQ COY 1 RANGER
	Cpl	Joeli	Raduva	NIGSU
	Cpl	Thomas	Shute RAF	BFSAI Falkland Islanda
	Cpl	Steven	Thomas	QM Dept 1 RANGER
	LCpl	Mosese	Makasali	HQ Coy 1 RANGER

We have endeavoured to ensure that we have recorded all those currently serving in the Regular Army, but we are keen to know if there is anyone who has been missed.

Lt Col Ross Brookfield was dined out as the departing Commanding Officer of 1 ITB at the School of Infantry, Catterick, on Wednesday 21 June 2023. Amongst the current officers in his Battalion was Maj Billy Garrick (Coy Comd) and the guests included Lt Col (Retd) Brian de la Haye OBE, Maj (Retd) Stuart Cochrane and the previous 2IC of 1 ITB, Maj Cliff MacAuley MBE. Maj Billy Garrick entertained at dinner with an excellent rendition of two Jacobite songs including "Ye Jacobites by Name"!.



Officers and guests at the Dining Out of Lt Col Brookfield. Maj Billy Garrick (front 2nd from left), Maj (Retd) Stu Cochrane (front 4th from left), Lt Col (Retd) Brian de la Haye OBE (front 5th from left), Lt Col Ross Brookfield (front centre) and Maj Cliff MacAuley MBE (front 5th from right). Photograph courtesy of "Studio 19" Catterick Garrison.

Promotions and Honours

We wish to congratulate the following on promotion:

Nick Wight-Boycott on promotion to Brigadier and assumption of a new appointment as Chief of Staff, Standing Joint Force HQ in the Permanent Joint HQ, Northwood. Nick joined was commissioned in 1997 and joined the 1 RS. He filled a



number of appointments at regimental duty, deploying on operations to Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq. He then commanded 16 Air Assault Brigade Pathfinder Platoon, leading it on operations in Afghanistan in 2006. He commanded a company in 5 SCOTS, which included another operational deployment to Afghanistan. After serving as COS HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade and attending the Advanced Command and Staff Course, he took command of 1 SCOTS taking the Battalion on a UN tour in Cyprus and through conversion to the specialised infantry role. After a series of staff appointments he was a member of RCDS before assuming his current appointment in Aug 2023. Sean Semple on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and assumption of the senior position in the Royal Army Physical Training Corps (RAPTC) as the Senior Master at Arms. Sean enlisted in the Army in Jun 1989 and on completion of basic training joined 1 RS in Werl. Over the

next 12 years he served in Germany, UK, France, Belize, France and Cyprus and deployed on operations to the Gulf on Op GRANBY and Northern Ireland on Op BANNER, before transferring to the RAPTC IN 2001. A variety of mainstream and exercise rehabilitation appointments, including deployment on operations to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 11, culminated in his promotion to WO1 and appointment as Corps RSM. He was commissioned in 2012 and has served in a variety of positions including commanding the Army Adventurous Training (AT) Centre in Inverness, the Joint Services AT Centre in Cyprus and the Joint Service Mountain training Centre in Wales and staff appointments at RMA Sandhurst and Arny HQ. He assumed his new appointment in Sep 2023



Barry McIntosh on his promotion to Colour Sergeant and assignment as Permanent Staff Instructor at A Coy 6 SCOTS in Hepburn House, East Claremont Street in Edinburgh. Barry completed his basic training and joined A Coy 1 RS in Dreghorn in 2002. He completed operational tours in Iraq on Op TELIC 3 and 7 with 1 RS and then Op TELIC 11 and tours in Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 12 and 17 with 1 SCOTS. He has completed assignments at ITC Catterick as a section command and

a platoon sergeant, the latter including appearing in the BBC documentary *Soldier*. Other appointments have include platoon sergeant in Balaklava Coy 5 SCOTS on ceremonial duties and team 2IC in the specialised infantry role with 1 SCOTS. He assumed his new position in Aug 2023.



We wish them all success in their new assignments.

Lieutenant Colonel David Jack

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Film Review

The Sinking of the LISBON MARU

On Christmas Day 1941 Hong Kong fell to the Japanese and all surviving members of 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots (2 RS) became prisoners of war (POWs). On 27 September 1942 the LISBON MARU, an unmarked 7,000 ton freighter, sailed from Hong Kong for Japan carrying 1,816 British POWs, 778 Japanese troops and 25 guards. Of those POWs 373 were members of 2 RS. It was spotted on 1 October by a US submarine, the USS Grouper; the freighter had no markings denoting it was carrying POWs and a gun was clearly visible on the foredeck and was thus deemed a legitimate target. The LISBON MARU was struck by a single torpedo near the engine room which disable the ship and it subsequently sank early on 2 October. Of the 373 members of 2 RS who had embarked 183 died either by shooting or drowning.



The film, inspired by the 2006 book by Tony Banham *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru: Britain's forgotten Wartime Tragedy*, is the brain child of the Chinese film maker Fang Li, with heavy involvement over recent years by Brian Finch, late the Middlesex Regiment. The screening at the British Film Institute, London, to a packed audience of 450 on Tuesday 15 August was a preview aimed at the families and relatives of those involved, but also include the entire film crew and representation from the Chinese Embassy. The show concluded with a question and answer discussion led by Fang Li, and was followed by a reception with drinks and canapés. The event started at 13.00 and ended at 19.00. The whole event was attended by the Chinese Ambassador, Zheng Zeguang, who spoke to praise the film and emphasised how important it was in a time of strained relations to have things like this which had the power to bring our respective peoples closer to each other. The ambassador reminded us that Denise Wynn, daughter of Dennis Morley 2 RS, the last survivor of the tragedy, had written a personal letter to President Xi of China requesting that a memorial be built in China to remember the courage of the fisherman on the island of Zhoushan. He had, in turn, been tasked by the President to deliver his response to Denise Wynn in person.



The film showed how the Japanese guards tried to batten down the holds of the sinking ship to prevent any escape, how many of those in the holds managed to breakout of them and overpower the guards but only at the expense of some loss of life, how the Japanese crews of surrounding vessels shot at those who had escaped the sinking ship to ensure there were no survivors, and how the fisherman of Zhoushan Island, at great risk to their own safety, had sailed out in their small boats to rescue swimmers from the water. These actions had forced the Japanese to cease firing and then, in turn, pick up survivors rather than shoot them in the water. Among the characters the film makers managed to track down the Japanese Captain of the Lisbon Maru, the US captain of the USS Grouper, and many of the fishermen involved and their families. This is a powerful film and in the packed gathering of 450 guests at the showing there were many very damp eyes.

In addition to the many members of the families of those in 2 RS who were involved the showing it was also attended by Robbie Scott-Bowden, Peter Fraser-Hopewell, Andy Kay (currently an in-pensioner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea), Christopher and Lucy Delacombe, and Cathy Tucker who had done much of the research into 2 RS families, both to build up a good database and to help the interviewing team for the film, and was therefore as emotionally involved as anyone there.

In writing this brief account from a Royal Scot perspective it must be remembered that the 2 RS contingent represented just over 20% of the POWs on board and suffered just under 22% of the fatalities, so, as a regimental family we are far from being alone.

The main preview in London was followed by a series of smaller shows including one in The Royal Scots Club. The purpose of the series of preview events was to seek reaction and comments before the film is finalised. Fang Li now intends to finalise the film and put it on general release. Further details on this will be promulgated in due course.

Major Christopher Delacombe and Lieutenant Colonel David Jack

Museum Update September 2023

During this period, the Museum Committee has focused on the infrastructure of the Museum to ensure that all systems are kept up and running to minimise disruption to the visitors. Several systems have been showing their age and were getting close to the end of their useful life. The following systems have now been replaced:

- The heating system has been replaced with a complete new system.
- The dehumidifier has been replaced with a new state of the art system that is now plumbed in thus negating the need to empty it once a week.
- A number of lamps providing illumination for the display cases were reaching the end of their life. New lamps were purchased and the failing lamps replaced. Several spare lamps were also purchased in order that we have immediate replacements for when we need them.
- The lighting system for the medals display also needs replacing. We have now received an estimate for the work and will now be applying for a grant to cover the costs.
- Now that the Tattoo is over, we will be repairing the floor in October following the water ingress problem. Whilst the outside stonework has been repointed, it was not possible to carry out the work on the floor during the Tattoo due to the disruption it would have caused within the Castle. The problem has been surveyed and will require the museum to be closed for a week in October whilst the work is conducted.

Following the return of more pictures and silver from 1 SCOTS/1 RANGER Battalion, a number of pictures are now on display in the Royal Scots Club. In addition, several items of silver and shields have been displayed in the bar area of the Royal Scots Club. These items will shortly be joined by some old 1 RS drums, cougar skin and pipe banners to complete the display.

The project to install two display cases in the Douglas room in the Royal Scots Club is now compete. The cases were installed on Tue 29 Aug and the silver added the following day. A further small amount of silver will have been added to the top shelf by the time this edition of the Thistle is printed.

We have received a full grant (\pm 4.6K) to allow us to migrate the Museum Artefacts list from ADLIB to MODES. Both are bespoke museum computer programmes designed specifically for museums for registering and tracking, (information, location, etc.) museum artefacts. We moved to ADLIB some years ago but this programme is now becoming unsupported. The grant covers the full costs of moving to MODES; MODES license, training, and migration of our existing data base from ADLIB to MODES.

The project to add information boards covering the Gretna rail disaster and Archangel will be installed during the period of closure in October. The information and pictures are ready but it was decided to install them in October to again minimise the number of days the Museum was closed to the public.

During the reporting period Lt Col Rae visited our In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC). In addition, I also managed to meet up with Rodger Thomson. For those who served in Munster, he was our Pay sergeant and later he returned to the battalion as Pay Master. All are in good heart and would be delighted to host any ex-Royal who is in the area to visit them. More on this in Mr Andy Kay's RHC article.

During the visit, we had an excellent tour of the Hospital and I saw the original portrait of Sgt William Hiseland, *(right)* which hangs prominently in the RHC's Museum. A copy of the portrait is on display in the RS Museum as part of the Battle of Malplaquet diorama. He was born in 1620, had fought in the English Civil war and the Irish Campaign, (1689-1691). He subsequently joined The Royal Regiment and was present at the Battle of Malplaquet aged 89. He was admitted as an In-Pensioner to the RHC in 1713, and married in 1723, aged 103. As a married man, he had to leave the RHC, but when his wife died, he once again became an In-Pensioner until he died in 1732, aged 112.



In April, whilst the Curator, Ms Lenihan, was attending her Curators Course at the National Army Museum in London, she visited the In-Pensioners at the RHC to present them with a copy of Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard for the main library at the RHC. Again more on this in Mr Andy Kay's RHC article.

Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Rae

Despatches from the Royal Hospital Chelsea 2023

The last two Despatches from The Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC) have concentrated on what we get up to down here, and while this is a very important part of our life, I don't want to just repeat myself; apologies if I do.

Let me give you a little bit about how the Hospital is set up and operates. The RHC is made up of four Companies each led by a Captain of Invalids, the Company Commander, who is there to support and lead In-Pensioners (IPs) in their respective Companies. Nos 1, 2 and 3 Companies are based in the original Wren buildings and No 4 Company is in the Margaret Thatcher Infirmary, which although titled Infirmary, also hosts 2 Long Wards for independent living as well as medical wards. IP Victor Lucas (former RSM and former Yeoman Gaoler at the His Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London) is in No 1 Company, IP Andy Kay is in No 2 Company and IP Danny Dempsey is in No 4 Company long ward. It must be stressed that the RHC is not a care home but a retirement home for army veterans where we are expected to, and do, live independent lives on our Wards. There is care when needed and the Margaret Thatcher Infirmary (MTI) has medical wards and wards for those requiring domestic help. Medical care is second to none and we have our own GP practice in the Hospital.



A view down one of the Long Wards with some nosey visitors peeking in an IPs Berth.



Victor Lucas and Ms Sophie Lenihan. With the copy of *Pontius Pilates* Bodyguard to present to the Hospital.



(I to r) Mrs Jennifer Marshall, Major Stuart Marshall and Mrs Lucy Delacombe.



Pearly Queens at Founders Day.



(I to r) Major Stuart Marshall, Mrs Jennifer Marshall and Major Christopher Delacombe at the statue of the RHC founder Kings Charles II.

www.theroyalscots.co.uk





The wheelchair contingent start their March Past or is it a "Drive Past".



The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III was quite an event in London and while the RHC were not part of the formal parades, we had a contingent of 50 IPs who marched on Kings Road, Chelsea to Duke of York Square. IPs Victor Lucas and Andy Kay were members of this contingent, so Royals marched for the new Monarch.

Without repeating too much from previous Despatches, this just about covers life here in Chelsea. Again, anyone passing the gates, please pop in and say "Hello". If any former soldier, Regular, TA or National Service is thinking that RHC may be something they would consider, have a look at their website on <u>https://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/</u>, scan the QR code or get in touch with any of us here in Chelsea, contact details via the Regimental Office.



Finally, and just to demonstrate how varied life is here and how things have changed for me, recently I was asked to take part in an event but had to decline as I had a previous appointment -I was going to the ballet! Not something I would have said two years ago!

Up the Royals!

Mr Andy Kay

Another In-Pensioner currently in the RHC is Roger Thompson RAPC, former Paymaster of 1 RS who finished his army service as a Lt Col, but still remembers his time with the Royals fondly. Many may remember him from Werl and other postings.

We are known as In-Pensioners (IPs), not patients, and are expected to wear Hospital uniform during the day up to 1630 when people can change into civilian clothes if they wish. We are also encouraged to wear uniform outside the RHC, Blues within 2 miles of the Hospital then Scarlet coats for further distances. When representing the Hospital we always wear our Scarlet coats (Scarlet **not** Red).

This year Victor Lucas, represented the RHC at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Earlier this year Victor used his connections at the Tower of London to arrange for a party of IPs to attend the Ceremony of the Keys, preceded by a tour of the Tower by one of the Yeomen and then hosted in the Yeoman's Bar, an excellent evening. There have been many other trips and visits organised but as I say, some have been previously mentioned so I won't dwell on them, they are very enjoyable and informative though and are an integral part of Hospital life.

The main event of the Hospital year is Founder's Day to which IPs invite guests and Regimental Associations are also invited. This year the Regiment were represented by Major Christopher Delacombe and his wife Lucy and Major Stuart Marshall and his wife Jennifer. Lovely to see them and show them part of our life in the Hospital whereas they in turn keep us up to date on RS events. The Reviewing Officer this year was HM King Phillippe, King of the Belgians accompanied by his wife Mathilde. Victor and Andy marched in their Companies and Danny was part of the wheelchair contingent passing the Reviewing Officer.

In February WO2 Tom Gordon (former RS Museum attendant) visited while he was on strike duty at Heathrow Airport; in March we were also visited by Lt Col Gordon Rae, and in May by Ms Sophie Lenihan, the new Museum Curator who brought a copy of *Pontius Pilates Bodyguard* to present to the Hospital; it is now in the RHC Library reference section. Lt Col Peter Fraser Hopewell has visited a few times for events and always makes a point of meeting us. Just prior to writing these notes we had a visit by the Southern Branch who had an official tour of the Hospital – more on that elsewhere. Our most recent visitor has been Lt Col Jim Blythe and Mrs Mhari Blythe. It is always wonderful to receive visitors and with three of us here there should always be a Royal to welcome you at the gate.



(I to r) Vic Lucas, Danny Dempsey and Andy Kay.

The Regimental Prize

The Regimental Prize, initially known as the Purves Memorial Prize, was established with a legacy from the late William George Purves, made on 9 Sep 1976, in the memory of his brothers, the late Alexander James Lang Purves and the late John Sibbald Purves, both of The Royal Scots.

The prize was announced in a short article in The Thistle (May 1977 p156) with a further notice in The Thistle (Nov 1977 p222-223, which lists the objects. The prize became known as the Regimental Prize at some point between 2010 and 2013 (first reference to the Regimental Prize is in The Thistle Summer 2013 p3).

The Prize was first awarded in 1977, initially being awarded on 1 Jun each year for service to The Royal Scots in the preceding year. On occasions it was not reported until the following year, thus causing some confusion over the year for which the award was made. Starting in 2021 it is now awarded and presented in the same year, the presentation being made at the Officers' Regimental Dinner in late Oct or early Nov. The Prize was initially awarded for specific contributions in the previous year, but there have been cases where it is clear that the award was made for dedicated service over a considerable period and this is now an acceptable basis for the award.

Regimental Prize Winners

From 1977 to 2019 the Prize was awarded for contributions in the previous year. The individuals are shown against the year for which the award was made.

			2002	
2023	Maj Christopher Delacombe	RS Association Southern Branch	2002	Maj MB A
2022	Mr Paddy Cuthbert	Press Releases (Littlehouse Media)	2001	Col Rober
2022	Lt Iain Laird	Le Paradis 80th Anniversary commemoration	2000	CSgt (P/M
2021	Capt Jimmy Springthorpe	Regimental Administrator	1999	Lt Col Bob
2020	No award	Pandemic	1998	Capt Rod
2019	Maj David Dickson	Le Paradis	1997	Mr Charlie
2019	Mr Billy Rutherford	RS Association Pipe Band	1996	Maj Adam
2018	Mr Adrian Hayes	RS Club General Manager	1995	Lt Col Mo
2017	Mr Thomas Logan	RS Association	1994	Capt Bill S
2016	Col Martin Gibson	Trustee of the Regimental Trust	1993	Capt Jim F
2015	Mr Jim Anderson	RS website and IT	1992	Col Stuart
2015	Maj David Beveridge	RS Museum and Heritage	1992	WO2 Davi
2014	Mr Tam Douglas	RS Association Standard Party	1991	Col Mike A
2014	Mr Andy Kay	No Association Standard Farty	1990	Mr Bill Bo
2013	Maj John Dent	Regimental governance	1989	Maj Eddie
	Mr Harry Wright	RS Association Pipe Band	1988	Maj Bob N
2011	Maj Eddie Smiles	RS Club	1987	Mr Brian A
2010	RS Club Staff	RS Club	1986	WO2 Tony
2009	Maj Ronald Ironside	Regimental finances	1985	Mr Ted Co
2008	Mrs Sue Brown	RHQ RS	1984	Maj Adam
2007	Mr Tam Millar	RS Association Southern Branch	1983	Col Bill Fa
2006	Col Robert Watson	RS Museum & Heritage	1982	Maj Tom S
	Col Martin Gibson	Regimental Media	1981	Capt Padd
2005	Maj lan Johnstone	RS Memorial Glencorse	1980	Capt Lauri
	Mr Charlie McGrogan	Save our Regiment campaign	1979	Mr John C
2004	Capt Bob Welsh	1 RS Rugby	1978	Mr Dunca
2004	Capt Gary Tait	RS RRT	1977	Mr Bill Ch

•	2003	Maj Gordon Vevers	1 RS QM
		Maj Eddie Smiles	RS Association Pipe Band
	2002	Maj Kenny Douglas	1 RS Presentation of Colours
		Maj MB Adams	RS Association London Section
	2001	Col Robert Watson	Regimental History
	2000	CSgt (P/Maj) Al Cuthbertson	Pipe Major 1 RS
	1999	Lt Col Bob Paterson	RS Club Membership Director
	1998	Capt Rod Bryce-Stafford	OC RRT
	1997	Mr Charlie McGrogan	RS Association Young Royals Section
	1996	Maj Adam Lothian	RS Association Chairman 8 RS Section
	1995	Lt Col Morren Warrack	RS Association 1 RS (1939-45) Section
	1994	Capt Bill Sutherland	OC RIT
	1993	Capt Jim Ford	RS Association 2 RS (Hong Kong) Section
	1992	Col Stuart McBain	Save the Regiment campaign
	1992	WO2 David Henderson	OC RIT
	1991	Col Mike Ashmore	Save the Regiment campaign
	1990	Mr Bill Boag	RS Museum
	1989	Maj Eddie Smiles	RS TA units
	1988	Maj Bob McDonald	1 RS QM
	1987	Mr Brian Adair	RS Club
	1986	WO2 Tony Reid	1 RS Boxing Team
	1985	Mr Ted Coffey	RS Association Secretary London Sect
	1984	Maj Adam Lothian	RS Association 8 RS visit to Normandy
	1983	Col Bill Fargus	Regimental Secretary RS350
	1982	Maj Tom Simpson	RS Benevolence Society Secretary
	1981	Capt Paddy Morecroft	Piping
	1980	Capt Laurie Gilbert	RS Careers Team
	1979	Mr John Cockburn	RS Association Young Royals Section
	1978	Mr Duncan Hogg	Golden Lions
	1977	Mr Bill Chapman	RS Association London Section

The Purves Family

AJL Purves MC. *(right)* Alexander James Lamb Purves; 28 Apr 1898 – 22 Mar 1960. Alexander Purves was commissioned into the Regiment on 26 Jan 1916 and joined 2 RS. He was promoted to Lt on 27 Jul 1917 and was awarded the Military Cross on the western front with 12 RS. The citation in the London Gazette stated; *During operations at Ledeghem on October 1st, 1918, owing to very heavy enemy fire from an exposed flank, and consequent casualties, the battalion line had to be slightly withdrawn. He covered the withdrawal and hung on till all was complete, beating off the enemy attack, and, although severely wounded in the head himself, refused to go back till the new line had been established. He showed great courage and devotion to duty. He subsequently served in 1 RS and a series of staff appointments and was assigned to HQ 8 Div in Palestine at the outbreak of the Second World War. He commanded the re-formed 1 RS 1940 – 42, 2 Gibraltar Brigade 1942 – 43 and 28 Brigade in Gibraltar, North Africa and Italy 1943 – 44. He was promoted to Brigadier in Feb 1950 and he retired in Mar 1952.*



JS Purves. John Sibbald Purves; 12 Jun 1902 – 24 Nov 1969. John was a younger brother of Alexander Purves. He was commissioned in Mar 1941 and joined 1 RS in India in 1942. He subsequently served in 1 RS and a series of staff appointments. He retired in Oct 1956 in the honorary rank of Lt Col.

WG Purves OBE. William George Purves; 03 Mar 1904 – 15 Dec 1976. William was a younger brother of Alexander Purves. William was commissioned in Jun 1940 and served in 8 RS and staff appointments, attaining the rank of Capt.

WAL Purves. *(left)* William Alexander Lamb Purves; 18 Aug 1928 – 13 Jan 1989. William was the elder son of Alexander Purves. William was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in Dec 1948. He retired as a Capt in Nov 1957.

GL Purves. Graham Lamb Purves; 18 Sep 1936 – 13 Feb 2023. Graham was the younger son of Alexander Purves. Graham was commissioned in Jul 1956 and served with 1 RS and in staff appointments until he retired as a Maj in Feb 1974.



Officers, W.O.'s. and Sergeants of HQ Wing, C and D Companies who took part in Trooping the Colour 4 August 1924. Lt AJL Purves MC Second Row 7th from left The Thistle Oct 1924 P379.



Visit of the Princess Royal to 1 RS in 1941 AJL Purves MC front row 4th from right.



Officers 1 RS Poona 1942 2Lt JS Purves second row 3rd from left The Thistle Apr 1946 p46.

Lieutenant Colonel David Jack

RS350 (1983) Reunion

The informal lunchtime Gathering took place at the Royal Scots Club on 30 June, exactly 40 years on to the day from the series of high profile events that were organised to mark the significant milestone in the First of Foot's unique heritage: 350 years of unbroken service to our Sovereign and country, which was the brainchild of the then Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson.

66 members of the Regimental Family, who rallied to the call - all ranks, wives, children and widows (some made possible by the generosity of the veterans charity Fares4Free) who had travelled from as far afield as Kent and Inverness really enjoyed the get together as they viewed memorabilia from the time and the newly edited film that had everyone thinking back to the special train to the London Reception on the 28 March; the Royal Review by Her Majesty The Queen of the Battalion, and affiliated regiments, in Holyrood Park; the Rededication of the Princes Street Gardens Monument and the March, including a large Association presence, along Princes Street past HRH Princess Anne GCVO who had just become our Colonel in Chief.

The commanding officer, Mike Ashmore, adjutant, Robbie Scott-Bowden, and RSM, Ian Johnstone, from the Royal Review were all at the Gathering, as was the youngest Royal, Stuart Marshall, who was a junior leader at Bridge of Don.

Memories flowed at the very special Gathering; the spirit of strong Regimental comradeship was flowing.



l to r: Col Robert Watson, Lt Col Alan Blamire, Morag Watson, Lt Col Jim Blythe, Maj David Dickson, Nikki Blamire, Brig Robbie Scott-Bowden, Mhairi Blythe, Maj Mike Cran.



l to r: Maj David Beveridge, Jane Beveridge, Jo Macfadyen, Mr Peter Macfadyen, Lt Col David Jack, Maj Paddy Waugh, Paula Waugh, Claire Waugh.

Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL



The four panels of *The Marching Men* were drawn and painted by Douglas N. Anderson. They show 76 Royal Scots in the uniforms of 1633 to 1983.

www.theroyalscots.co.uk



Dougles N. Anderson .



Royal Hospital Chelsea Adjutants Lt Col Sir John Moryllion Wilson CB KH 1st of Foot

The Royal Hospital Chelsea has been around for 330 years yet with little input from the 1^{st} of Foot. Not totally though as in 1822 Capt (Brevet Lt Col) Sir John M Wilson 1^{st} Foot became adjutant of the Royal Hospital. He had a long, 40 year, career at the Hospital starting as Adjutant then later becoming the Major or second in command at the Hospital in the rank of Lt Col. He died at the hospital in 1868.

His time at the Hospital was not without comment on his eccentricities as told by a lampoonist of the time on attending chapel at the RHC:

"Long Sir John Wilson was present for a wonder. He appeared to have got up in a hurry that morning, and had forgotten to manipulate his thatch, and mow the down in the neighbourhood of his mouth. A gentleman so fond of humbugging the great folks, or at least, making an awkward attempt at that same, should know better than abandon his person in this manner."

"The Royal Hospital Chelsea" p279, by Capt CGT Dean (1950)

ADJUTANTS Ensign EDWARD PHILLIPS 1702 Capt. SYLVANUS TOMPKINS 1st Guards 1717 Lieur. ROBERT LAWSON 1720 Capt. THOMAS STUART 9th Foot 1750 Capt. JOHN WARD 1761 Capt. JOHN WARD 1761 Capt. LEWIS GRANT 42nd Foot. Black Watch 1791 Lieut-Colonel THOMAS DAWSON, The Buffs 1794 Capt. GEORGE ACKLOM 1818 Capt. WILLIAM ROYCRAFT, 50th Regt. 1822 Capt. & Bt Lieut-Colonel Sir JOHN M. WILSON 1st Foot 1856 Lieut. JOHN J. C. IRBY, 47th Regt. 1896 Major H. C. B. GRAY, Royal Welch Fusiliers

Pontius Pilates Bodyguard also has a note about Sir John in which his eccentricities were exposed to the full resulting in a Court Martial:

"Captain, later Colonel, Sir John Moryllion Wilson CB KH was one of the more colourful officers in the Regiment's history. Born in 1783, he joined the Royal Navy in 1798 and saw action off Egypt in which he received three wounds. The last was a severe head wound which resulted in total deafness; in consequence he was invalided out of the navy in 1803. Having recovered sufficiently he entered the army in 1804 and saw action with the 3rd Battalion at Walcheren in 1809, where he was twice wounded in command of the Grenadier Company during the siege of Flushing. In September 1810 he was brought before a General Court Martial for using language subversive to discipline, and disrespect to the character of Colonel Barnes, his Commanding Officer. Though acquitted of conduct unbecoming the character of a gentleman, he was found guilty of using language which was disrespectful, for which he was sentenced to be publicly reprimanded. He later served in the Peninsular War before being posted to the 1st Battalion which was then involved in the American War of 1812. He died in 1868, aged eighty-five still serving as a Staff Officer at the Royal Hospital Chelsea after a total career of seventy years during which he received thirteen wounds, and carried two musket balls in his body to his death."

PPB Vol 1 p112, note. R H Paterson

The Regiment have not been short of characters and Colonel Wilson was one, with lengthy service to the Crown to his credit. However, his entry in the National Biography shows that this was a brave officer who saw service in Europe and the Americas, being wounded 13 times and carrying two musket balls in his body up to his death. He also served at the Court of Queen Adelaide for nearly 20 years, resulting in being awarded the Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic order (KH).

Mr Andy Kay

Deaths

Maj Graham Purves Mr Kevin (Budgie) Greene 16 Feb 2023 1 RS Mr John Fitzpatrick Mr Robert Howitt Mr John Scott Mr George Wilson

13 Feb 2023 1 RS 25 Feb 2023 1 RS 1 Mar 2023 1 RS 21 Mar 2023 1 RS 29 Mar 2023 1 RS Mr Stevie Mallin Mr Alfred Stuart Mr Andy Jackson **Mr Thomas Crow** Mr David Blane **Capt Paddy Morecroft** 10 Apr 2023 1 RS 14 Apr 2023 2 RS/1 RS 20 Apr 2023 1 RS 22 Apr 2023 1 RS 13 May 2023 1 RS 24 May 2023 1 RS

Mr George Parker Mr Steph Mathie **Mr William Thorburn** Mr John Canning Mr Tam Buchanan Mr Andrew Hogg

25 May 2023 1 RS 21 Jun 2023 1 RS 17 Jul 2023 1 RS 29 Jul 2023 1 RS 19 Aug 2023 1 RS 25 Aug 2023 1 RS

Obituaries

Colonel Francis Farquharson Gibb CBE

25 September 1939 to 11 January 2023

Colonel Francis Gibb was born in Quetta, now Pakistan, on 25 September 1939, (just three weeks after the start

of WW2) where his father was a Colonel (and later Brigadier) in the Indian Army Sappers. They returned to the UK at Partition and lived in Blairgowrie. Francis went to prep school at Ardvreck followed by Loretto before entering Sandhurst in 1957 where he was a Junior Under Officer. He was commissioned in 1959 and joined the 1st Battalion in Berlin. His early service took him to Troon, Benghazi, Tripoli and the combined RS/KOSB Depot at Berwick. On returning to the Battalion in 1963 he took command of the Recce Platoon and led them in Aden in 1964-65. It was during this time that he married Shelagh, and that his son Charles, who was later to follow his father into the Regiment, was born.

After Aden he was posted to Singapore as an instructor with Malaysian Army but spent much time improving his polo! Following Singapore he moved, via a short tour in Osnabruck with the 1st Battalion (during which his second son Colin was born), to train junior officers in the US Infantry School at Fort Benning in Georgia before their deployment to Vietnam. He was very much a field soldier who challenged the system, expressed his strong views, and fought for his soldiers. Bureaucracy, pomposity and stupidity were his enemies and he challenged then all with equal passion.

In October 1978 he took command of the 1st Battalion in Munster as they approached the end of their tour as the Nuclear Convoy Escort Battalion. They moved back to Edinburgh in April 1979 for an exceptionally busy period of Public Duties, including the Royal Guard, before beginning training for the first tour of Northern Ireland since April 1976. They deployed into West Belfast from February to May 1980 on a tour described by Commander Land Forces as "four gruelling, yet impressively successful months" for which Francis was Mentioned in Despatches. The return to Edinburgh saw an immediate commitment to another busy period of Public Duties including the installation, on 18 July, of Lieutenant General Sir David Young as the first Royal Scots Governor of Edinburgh Castle since 1821, and just two weeks later on 31 July the Presentation of new Colours by HRH The Princess Anne. September saw the Battalion deploy to the Continent as the Lines of Communication Battalion assisting the reinforcement of 1st British Corps in Exercise CRUSADER. Immediately on return, on 10 October, the old Colours were laid up in Edinburgh City Chambers. The winter of 1981-82 saw the Battalion training to deploy on a two-year residential tour in Northern Ireland, involving considerable reorganisation and restructuring. It was during his period, in February 1982, that Francis handed over command to Mike Ashmore. Very few Commanding Officers could have had such a varied command tour, and no-one could have carried it out with greater success.

After command Francis went to the Directing Staff at the National Defence College at Latimer and then served as Chief of Staff, first in Gibraltar and, finally, in Berlin, before retiring in September 1988. He was appointed CBE for his work in Berlin. On retirement he served first as Chief Executive of the Fife Health board and then as CEO of the Scottish NHS Common Services Agency.

Outside of work, and much of his time during it, Francis was a keen, and highgrade, sportsman. He was an excellent rugby player at school, Sandhurst and for the Battalion. He introduced the Commanding Officer's weekly runs, he was an outstanding golfer, playing off four, a member of the Committee at Muirfield, an enthusiastic squash player and, in his younger days, a determined polo player - again off a handicap of four. He enjoyed fishing, particularly in the company of friends, and was a generous host to all.

His death on 11 January 2023, at the age of 83 and after a long illness, came far too early. A packed Canongate Kirk for his Memorial Service reflected on his full life, wide interests, and many friendships. Our sympathies go to Shelagh, Charles, Colin, and their families.

WO2 George Parker



2 November 1943 to 25 May 2023

WO2 George Parker and his twin brother lvie were born, brought up and educated in Peebles. A robust lad, he particularly enjoyed football and rugby and represented his schools in both sports. Upon concluding his education, he trained and qualified as a butcher, but it soon became clear that he was only marking time until he was able to realise his long-held aspiration to join the Army and his local regiment, The Royal Scots.

After completing his basic training at the Training Depot in Berwick upon Tweed he went on to serve in Tripoli;

on active service in the Radfan and Aden, Germany, Norway, Greece, Denmark, and Cyprus at the time of the Turkish invasion of the island. He also completed several emergency tours in Northern Ireland, the last of which was as Company Sergeant Major of D Company in West Belfast in 1980.

During his progression through the ranks, he became an accomplished instructor and completed tours at the Scottish Infantry Depot at Glencorse and also at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in Oswestry, Shropshire. At both these training establishments he was able to impart his knowledge and experience to adult and junior recruits alike.

George met his wife Shirley under a table in the County Hotel in Peebles on Beltane Saturday and those who came to know them in later years would say, "of course they did". Shirley's father was aware of the reputation of the boisterous behaviour of George and his twin but, despite his misgivings, she and George were married in Innerleithen in 1967. Their first son George was born in 1969 and their second son David was adopted in 1976. David remembers a happy childhood with fond memories of their times together in the Sergeants' Mess with their fun-loving parents.

Soon after the West Belfast tour in 1980 Sergeant Major Parker was heavily involved in preparing his Company for their participation in the Presentation of New Colours Parade at Holyrood in the July of that year. He was involved again in 1983 when the Regiment celebrated the 350 years of its existence with a number of events, the culmination of which was HM The Queen's Review of the Regiment in Holyrood Park in Edinburgh.

George retired from the Army soon after the 350th Anniversary celebrations, having completed 22 years with the Colours and he and Shirley decided to enter the licensed trade. Their first pub was the Elm Bar on Elm Row, Edinburgh followed by stints in bars in Morrison Street, Haymarket, Aberdeen and the Borders. On leaving the pub trade George took a position with the Edinburgh Woollen Mill in Walkerburn where he remained for some years before transferring to Heather Mill in Selkirk becoming Area Manager prior to his retirement.

When Shirley became unwell George was devoted in his care of her and was devastated when she passed away in 2010. It wasn't long after this that he resigned from his position as Tenant Representative on the Board of the Scottish Borders Housing Association, a post he had held for five years.

As his own health began to deteriorate, he moved from his home in Innerleithen to Dovecot Court in Peebles and later to Hay Lodge Hospital until his passing.

George was a kind and caring man with a great sense of humour, loved and respected by his family and friends. He is survived by his sons, George and David and grandchildren, Courtney and Angus.

Major David Henderson

I remember David joining 1st Battalion The Royal Scots from the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers in Redford. I think we may have been just about to go to Belfast (yet again) or we had just come back. From the outset, he impressed with his boundless enthusiasm and total professionalism. Both were the hallmarks of his career throughout his Royal Scots service and he very soon became - and remained - a very, very loyal Royal.



Big and powerful, he was a formidable rugby player and the opposition found him hard to stop. But he was generous and warm hearted too, although he demanded - and obtained - the highest standards from those under his command and he set the finest example to all around him. I remember him, I think in the Assault Pioneer Platoon, and certainly in the Reconnaissance Platoon, at that time equipped with CVRT. The latter demanded quick thinking at 30 miles per hour and mastery of map reading, gunnery and radio voice procedure.

He was hardy too. No wonder he earned the nickname "The Rock". David was impervious to the cold and wet. Woe betide anyone in the Recce who was enough of a big lassies blouse to wear a jersey heavy wool, even on the most wintery days high on the wind and rain swept moors of Otterburn.

I think the last time we met, was on the touchline of an Army Cup rugby match at Dreghorn. The weather was wild. Gale force rain driving in off the Pentland Hills. The pitch was unplayable and the match would have been called-off but for the opposition having travelled from considerable distance. I was wrapped up in at least three jerseys heavy wool and two layers of waterproofs. I heard a voice above the howl of the gale and looked round to see David striding towards me with a hearty greeting. Typically, he was disregarding the weather, soaking wet, dressed in combat suit with the jacket open at the neck, without waterproofs and, of course, no jersey heavy wool.

Memory Lane

42 Years ago Waverly Station, Edinburgh

On 21 July 1981 future young Royal Scots were piped to their train taking them to the Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don (SID BOD), Aberdeen to start their training. They were ably trained by the following Royal Scots Permanent Staff; Lt David Cargin, W02 Tom Hindle, CSgt Billy Scott, Sgts Dykes McKinnon, Stevie Szymendera, Cpls Jimmy Bain, Terry Hancock, Scotty Reid, Wullie Martin, Bead Mercer, Harry Pitchforth, Geordie King and LCpl Eddie Quigley. Our CSM during training was a Gordon Highlander who later defected to the Royals in 1988 and joined A Coy as the Warrior Captain, Mick Low MBE.

21 new Royal Scots Passed Out in June 1982 but sadly because of their age they spent some time with the Gordon Highlanders in Kirknewton before joining the 1 RS in Ballykinler once they reached the age of 17%.



Some of those in the photograph – John (Rossco) Ross, Ronnie Pryde, Stewart (Sneds) Snedden, George (Dev) Deverick.

Mr Ray (Halfchat) Thomson

Item of interest

Back in July, I found a Royal Scots bugle up for auction. Being interested in military research and as the bugle had the owner's details on it, I decided to dig a little bit deeper into 8450 Bugler R Drummond. Luckily, I was able to find part of a service record along with some other paperwork.

Robert Drummond was born in Leith, Edinburgh 26 May 1887. He attested 26 May 1903 with 1 RS at Blackdown Barracks/Camp Aldershot as a Boy on his 16th birthday. On 01 Nov 1903 he was appointed Drummer and started his man service having attained the age of 18 years on 26 May 1905.





Robert moved with 1 RS to India 09 Feb 1909. Whilst there he earned his 3rd Class Certificate of Education in Bareilly India 29 Jan 1910, which was also recorded in the Thistle of 1910 page 87. Robert was appointed to the unpaid rank of LCpl on 06 Jan 1911 but reverted to Pte for misconduct on 13 Sep 1911. No information on this misconduct was found.

1 RS were still stationed in India at the outbreak of WW1 arriving back in England Oct/Nov 1914. Robert entered France 19 Dec 1914 with 1 RS and he was wounded 09 May 1915 with a GSW to the right leg. This was stated in the Casualty List issued by the War Office on 18 May 1915. On 14 May 1915 Robert was posted to Depot to recover and then moved to 3 RS 11 Sep 1915.

On checking 1 RS War Diary for 09 May 1915 it mentions the Battalion was in Sanctuary Wood. 4 men killed that day.

Finally Robert transferred to 2 RS 01 Oct 1915 and was sadly reported "missing presumed killed" 21 Jan 1916 near Saint-Éloi. Roberts's body was found and he was buried in Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, which is about 5km South West of Ypres, Belgium. One piece of CWGC paperwork mentions his date of death as 14 Jan 1916 but the rest states 21 Jan 1916.

Robert had £26 s2 d6 in credit and an £8 War Gratuity. This was given to the Kings' and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. This normally happens when no will or next of kin is found or claim it. Robert had some other personal possessions such as a cane, handkerchief, cigarette case and photo that were sent to a Lady living at 11 West Adam Street, Edinburgh.

Robert service timeline; Home 1 RS 16 May 1903 to 19 Jan 1909 – 5 Years, 239 Days. India 1 RS 20 Jan 1909 to 15 Oct 1914 - 5 Years, 269 Days. Home 1 RS 16 Oct 1914 to 18 Dec 1914 – 64 Days. Expeditionary Force, France 1 RS 19 Dec 1914 to 13 May 1915 – 146 Days. Wounded GSW right leg 09 May 1915. Home Depot and 3 RS 14 May 1915 to 30 Sep 1915 – 140 Days. France with 2 RS 11 Oct 15 to 21 Jan 1916 – 113 Days. KIA 21 Jan 1916. Total 12 Years 241 Days.

Robert was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War and Victory Medal but these were returned to the Medal Office as Robert had no next of kin recorded to receive them.

Then a strange thing then happened; I ended up winning the Bugle at auction!

Mr Ray (Halfchat) Thomson

Visit to Contalmaison 2023

This year's pilgrimage to Contalmaison on the Somme included the dedication of a bench in the memory of the late Lt Col Gary Tait MBE and Patricia Leroy, former Maire of Contalmaison.



With the bench in the memory of Lt Col Gary Tait MBE and Patricia Leroy. I to r: Mr Tam Douglas, Mr Jamie Colquhoun, Mr Paul Robertson.

On 29 June we embarked on our annual pilgrimage with the McCrae's Battalion Trust to Contalmaison in France. The Standard Bearer Party and Wreath Layers, led by Mr Tam Douglas, were fully briefed and ready to go. The journey to Arras in France via overnight stay at Maidstone, although lengthy, went without a hitch apart from sore backs and numb backsides. On the anniversary of the commencement Battle of the Somme offensive, we gathered at the cairn dedicated to the Fallen of McCrae's Battalion. As always, the ceremony was a very sombre and moving affair. After the main ceremony the bench, commemorating both the late Lt Col Gary Tait MBE and Patricia Leroy, former Maire of Contalmaison, was unveiled and we all had a wee dram in their memory. The residents of Contalmaison then laid on a hearty meal with refreshments on tap. In the afternoon we headed over to Beaumont Hamel with the The Royal Newfoundland Regiment (RNFLR) to join the annual ceremony of our Canadian friends. On conclusion of the formal ceremonies we visited several of the war graves commission sites concentrating on several personal graves that the historians had been researching but paying our respects to all of the fallen. On a lighter note, we spent several days as a Royal Scots family having breakfast, lunch and some memorable dinners together. One story that must get a mention was when Tam Logan walked into the foyer of the hotel looking a bit hot under the collar. As it turned out, so as not to be caught out and in a different coloured polo shirt, he had only gone and put five polo shirts on, all different colours. Before heading home, we had our usual visit to Ypres and the picturesque market square for several hours then off to Rotterdam and the overnight ferry to Hull then home. Many thanks to McCrae's Battalion Trust for putting up with us, yet again planning a fantastic 5 days.

Mr Paul Robertson



I to r: Mr Tam Douglas, Mr Paul Robertson, Mr Jamie Colquhoun, Mr Stu Aitken, Mr Tam Logan.



Standing I to r: Mr Paul Robertson, Mr Gerry Stryker, Mr Sonny Walker, Mr Willie Hoy, Piper Mike Pretsell, Mr Tam Logan Sitting I to r: Mr Jamie Colquhoun, Mr Tam Douglas, Mr Stu Aitken.

Summer 2023

www.theroyalscots.co.uk

Donations and Legacies

Until 2006 the Regiment received a relatively healthy income, mainly from the One Day's Pay Scheme, to which the majority of officers and soldiers contributed, and had limited expenses as the Regimental Headquarters was funded by the MoD. Since then the balance has shifted; there is additional expenditure in maintaining a Regimental Office and income is greatly diminished and will reduce further in 2030 when MoD ceases the provision of funding for the Museum Curator. While sufficient funds exist to support Benevolence and Association activity in the short to medium term, and this activity is expected to diminish over time, securing the display of the Regimental Collection as part of The Royal Scots enduring legacy will require funds that currently exceed those held by the Regiment. Donations to the Regimental Trust to support Benevolence, Heritage or Association activities are always greatly appreciated. Donations can be made monthly or annually by standing order or as single donations. Legacies from wills will also be greatly appreciated.

With the creation of a new charity as part of the our governance streamlining process we now have new bank accounts. Further details can be obtained from the Regimental Office on 0131 557 0405 or admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

Readers articles invitation – "Jock" anory

We would like to invite you, "The Royal Scots Family", to submit articles to your journal, The Thistle. Write a story of some event, a good time had or something funny you were involved in. If possible, support it with a photograph/s with name/s.

Please send them to admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

Kindly put THISTLE ARTICLE in the email subject heading.

Winter Edition of the Thistle

The Winter 2023 edition of the Thistle (Vol 44) will cover events during the period 1 Sep 2023 – 29 Feb 2024. We aim to publish this edition by 31 Mar 2024. All items for inclusion should be submitted to the Regimental Office via admin@theroyalscots.co.uk no later than 6 Mar 2024, although it would be appreciated if contributions are submitted as soon as possible after events have occurred rather than leaving it to the last minute. <u>All photographs should be accompanied by a caption, which includes names of all people in the photograph</u>.

Kindly put THISTLE ARTICLE in the email subject heading.

Volunteers Required

The activities of the Regiment rely heavily on volunteers, whether organising and running the Association, assisting with the administration of the Regimental Trust, or helping at the Museum either routinely or for specific projects. We are seeking more volunteers; tasks will be matched to skills and experience but we are particularly seeking assistance with communications managing social media platforms and the website, photography, compiling The Thistle, historical research in the Museum archives and assisting with Museum events and projects. Anyone interested is requested to get in touch with the Regimental Office on 0131 557 0405 or admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

Association Details

President:
Chairman:
Vice Chairman:
Secretary:
Treasurer :

Brig George Lowder MBE Maj Stu Marshall Mr Paul Robertson Mr David Milne Mr Jamie Colquhoun

Highland

First Sunday of the month at 6.00pm at Raigmore Recreation Rooms, Inverness Contact: Derrick Cameron derrick1974@hotmail.com

Edinburgh

The Royal Navy Club 1 Broughton Road, Edinburgh Contact: Mick McCann mikemccann4130@hotmail.co.uk

Pipe Band

Contact: Torquil Corkerton torquil@corkerton.com

East of Scotland

Last Saturday of the month at 7.30pm at RBL Prestonpans Contact: Jamie Colquhoun Jamie_colquhoun@hotmail.co.uk

Northern Ireland

First Tuesday of the month at RBL Ards Contact: David McKendrick davidsmck1@sky.com

Southern

No regular branch meetings, but events organised throughout the year. Contact: Monty Stuart-Monteith monty@shawsequestrian.com

Central Scotland

First Sunday of the month at 2.00pm at Hillcroft Hotel, Whitburn, West Lothian Contact: David Milne david.milne3343@live.co.uk

Fijian

Quarterly Meetings Contact: Peni Ravutia bogiravutia0506@gmail.com

For more information contact:

The Royal Scots Regimental Office

The Royal Scots Club 29 - 31 Abercromby Place Edinburgh EH3 6QE Tel: 0131 557 0405 Email: admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

Royal Scots Go	olf Club Details	Captain:	Arthur Frame	Secretary:	David Morris
President:	Jimmy McConnell	Vice Captain:	Zander Russell	Contact:	bampops1@gmail.com

Forecast of Events – as at 01 Sep 2023

The Forecast of Events is published on the Regimental website and updated at the beginning of each month. Details of specific events can be found on the regimental website under Upcoming Events.

Many of the events included in the Forecast of Events are routine annual events. Some specific events for 2024 and those with particular priority are listed below:

Gretna Memorial Service. This will be held in Rosebank Cemetery on Sat 25 May 2024.

Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. It is anticipated that Founder's Day will be held on Thursday 6 Jun 2024. It is likely that The Royal Scots will be allocated 2 or 3 pairs of tickets. Anyone interested in attending this event should submit their name to the Regimental Secretary no later than 29 Feb 2024.

Armed Forces Day 2024. This is normally held on the last Saturday in June so we anticipate this taking place on Sat 29 Jun 2024. We are hoping for a strong contingent to join the parade.

80th **anniversary of the Battle of Kohima**. The Battle of Kohima was fought from 4 Apr to 22 Jun 1944 and 1 RS earned the battle honour "Kohima" which is carried on the Queen's Colour. We are planning a parade and remembrance service at Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh, date TBC but probably in Jul 2024.

Day/Date	Event	Time	Remarks		
Fri 22 Dec 23	Regimental Office closes for the Festive period				
Fri 22 Dec 23	Regimental Museum closes for the Festive period				
Wed 3 Jan 24	Regimental Office reopens				
Wed 3 Jan 24	Regimental Museum reopens				
Sat 27 Jan 24	East of Scotland Branch Burn's Night Supper	1900	RBL Prestonpans		
Sun 4 Feb 24	Association Quarterly General Committee Meeting	1100	Royal Scots Club		
Tue 20 (TBC) 4 Feb 24	RSRT Executive Meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club		
Fri 23 4 Feb 24	Association AGM		Royal Scots Club		
Fri 22 Mar 24	The Royal Regiment of Scotland Black Hackle Dinner				
Sun 24 Mar 24	The Royal Regiment of Scotland Muster and Kirk Service		Castle Esplanade and Canongate Kirk		
Thu 28 Mar 24	The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) Regimental Day		391 st anniversary		
Thu 28 Mar 24	The Royal Regiment of Scotland Formation Day				
Sat 30 Mar 24	Regimental Day Dinner	1900	Royal Scots Club		
Tue 7 (TBC) May 24	RSRT Executive Meeting		Royal Scots Club		
Fri 24 May 24	RSRT Trustees' Meeting		Royal Scots Club		
Sat 25 May 24	109 th Gretna Memorial Service	1030	Rosebank Cemetery		
Fri 31 May 24	Stewart Snedden Memorial Golf Match	0730 TBC	Newbattle Golf Club		
Thu 6 (TBC) Jun 24	Royal Hospital Chelsea Founder's Day	1000	RH Chelsea		
Tue 18 Jun 24	Riding of the Marches Linlithgow		Linlithgow		
Sat 29 (TBC) Jun 24	Armed Forces Day	1000	Edinburgh		
TBC Jul 24	80 th anniversary of the Battle of Kohima	TBC	Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh TBC		
Tue 13 Aug 24	Southern Branch visit to Blenheim Palace		Blenheim Palace		
Tue 17 (TBC) Sep 24	RSRT Executive Meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club		
TBC Oct 24	Opening of the Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens	1030	Princes Street Gardens		
TBC Oct 24	Remembrance Service at Royal Scots Monument	1200	RS Monument		
TBC Oct 24	RSRT Trustees' Meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club		
Fri 1 Nov 24	Officers' Golf Match		ТВС		
Fri 1 Nov 24	Officers' Dinner	1900	Royal Scots Club		
TBC Nov 24	Opening of the Field of Remembrance Westminster	1030	Southern Branch		
TBC Nov 24	Remembrance Service at the Scottish National War Memorial	1045	The Castle		
Sat 9 Nov 24	Remembrance Service at Glencorse Gates	1045	Glencorse Barracks		
TBC Nov 24	Regimental planting of crosses at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster, followed by a	1800	Southern Branch		
	Remembrance Service in the Abbey Cloisters				
Sun 10 Nov 24	Remembrance Sunday				
	Cenotaph	1030			
	City Chambers	1045			
	Canongate Kirk	1045			
	The Royal Scots Club	1200			
	Haymarket	1045			
	Peebles	1045			
	Whitburn	1045			
	Prestonpans	1045			
Tue 19 Nov 24	RSRT Executive Meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club		
Fri 20 Dec 24	Regimental Office closes for the Festive period				
	Regimental Museum closes for the Festive period				



-ROYAL SCOTS CLUB





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