



ISSUE 55

Colonel William Gordon's Regiment of Foote Cock o' the North

The big and mighty organ

JUNE 2017



Plaid up people, this season has well and truly started and we have a reputation to maintain both on and off the field!

Karen P, Editor



Adjutant's Corner

Well Lads, Lassies and weans, Gordon's now have 105 members - a record to date!

Let us welcome Michael and Lyn Johnson and Tag (Tim Andrew) and Janet Gordon. All have joined from Blews Regiment and have also supported us as Mackays at Wallenstein last year and TAG who has supported us in many a Scottish Muster.

Welcome too to David Wilton, who decided to join us after his fun-filled weekend with us at Charlton Park as a drummer, smashing guy!! (So we didn't frighten him off!)

We are going from strength to strength but we really need more pikemen in the Brigade, so if you know any fine big laddies try and hook them in!

All the best
Globags

The C.O.'s Briefs



Gordons,

Several years ago, under difficult circumstances, I found myself in the position of having to become CO of Gordons after Stevie Langan was unable to continue for personal reasons. It has, for the most part, been my pleasure to serve as your CO. Gordon's is very dear to me and I continue to take pride in and support you all. We have a terrific bunch of people as members and do not underestimate the difference each of you make with your individual contributions.

However, as I recently announced at Charlton Park, I have taken the decision to step down as your CO. The time is right to pass the mantle onto others to take up the challenge in continuing to lead the Regiment onto bigger and greater things. I did try to relinquish leadership and return to the rank and file a couple of times before but no-one wanted it.

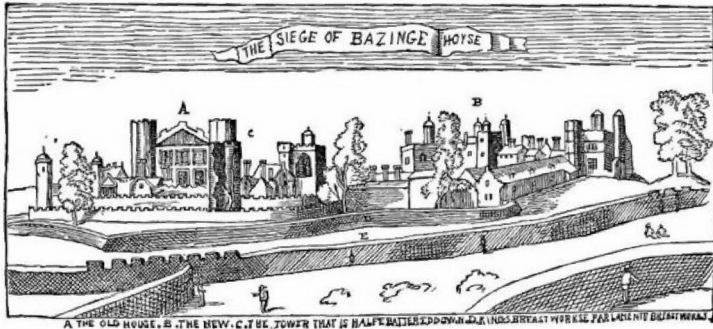
However now, after speaking privately with several likely candidates within Gordon's, two very able persons have put their names into the hat (or should that be bonnet!!) and shown willing to take up the reins; Declan McCabe and Nick Proudman. Both have lots of experience, knowledge, enthusiasm plus the right attitude and aptitude for such a senior position. They have also agreed that whatever the result, the other is prepared to act as the 2iC, so for you ladies and gentlemen, it's a win-win situation. I will need to liaise with Kevin Westwood our Brigade Commander in Chief as to the right way to proceed and hand over. Each candidate will undergo an interview with myself, Kevin and Steve L and we will then decide who to award the command to. It is my intention that come the August Bank Holiday, you will have a new CO in place. I shall of course remain on hand to ensure a smooth transition of power - and administration! I would also like to take this opportunity to allay any concerns that I am leaving Gordons; I am not so you'll have to put up with me for a long while yet.

As a Regiment we have grown in strength, numbers and reputation since the early days of a handful of members as Minimores Company of Foote. You should all be proud of what we have achieved and I trust you will continue to support your new CO and give him as much hassle as you have me over the years :)

I salute you all.
Digger

Frontline Despatches

Basing House 14-17 April



Lego model of Basing House

The Basing House muster takes place every year to mark the annual re-opening of Basing House.

A tad chilly as ever, a good show of Gordon's and Scots were on hand to form a renegade division of musket who were the first of the Parliamentarians to show their faces on the battlefield. Seemingly answerable to none but themselves, the Scots scudded their way through the battle, albeit from the sidelines after such a prominent start.

Within a stone's throw from the plastic encampment, the Mill House pub did a sturdy trade over the weekend as too did the other pubs in the village of Old Basing - well fighting battles is thirsty work, not that we really need any encouragement mind!

See you same time, same place next year then folks.



Billing Aquadrome, Army of Parliment Training 28 Apr - 1 May

Ah yes, the weekend of training alongside our Parliamentarian friends with barely a Royalist in sight.

Turn out from Gordon's was small but there was a good and fun session of sword and targe practice on the Sunday so thank you to those who did come along. We will endeavour to have more sword & targe training at future musters. Those interested, please let Nick Proudman know.

Sunday night also saw party-like shenanigans around a camp fire which was a delight for all involved.



Frontline Despatches

Charlton Park, Malmesbury 27-29 May

Oh good lord! How to describe the weekend that was the 2nd May Bank Holiday 2017?? Ok let's start with the easy part. We had to play Rutlanders - which as ever we did fantastically as a motley crew. There was a battle Sunday and Monday. They were quite good, bit squashed on the field. Did get to advance, chase and emerge from a copse before the public, who were themselves located adjacent the Owner's runaway (a grass one mind you but that must be a first to have a runway dividing battlefield and LH!)

Representatives from Worcester Museum were also on site and requested the Scots help with some filming for a promo they were shooting, which some of our members kindly turned out for, despite the humidity and following a a hot, sundrenched battle on the Sunday.

Monday's battle was less muggy and despite the appalling rainstorms over night and into the morning, it stayed dry for the battle itself which was a blessing. However, in the great irony of things, just as our weary warriors were marching back to camp, the heavens opened in a torrential deluge. Nice.

The preceding weather on the Friday and Saturday had however been glorious and remained so into the evening. So much so that - and those of you who weren't there better sit down for this - we hardly went to the beer tent at all, instead preferring to remain for the most part in our little encampment!!! I know, shock horror right?! However there were a few other reasons for this, weather aside.

- 1) Alcohol. Yeah like duh! But woozers we had it in such abundance, lots of lovely schnapps courtesy of Wolfgang (who also came accompanied by a handful of our Bavarian friends) plus bottles of whisky, vodka, 'the green stuff' and god knows what else being kindly shared around on top of our own supplies.
- 2) Our new Brigade washing machine. Yup you read that right. Ingenious idea by Mr & Mrs Proudman, the discarded drum served as an amazing firepit, around which we sat, laughed, danced and sang with hairbrushes until late.
- 3) Cameradie. Now I might be a bit bias here but no-one does cameradie like us Scots. There had been some initial concern over the size of the pitch the Scots had been allocated [nothing new there then - Ed] but this proved unfounded and we had plenty of room - though in our typical fashion we all automatically squeezed ourselves cozily together lol. The social side of this muster was one of the best we have had in a long time and many a comment was overheard proclaiming this.

So if you missed this muster, sorry but you really missed out. The good news however is that we've still plenty more musters to come this season to do it all over again. Huzzah!





Living History

CAMPSIDE COMMUNICATIONS



During musters down on LH, we make a lot of our own food to eat over the weekend such as spit roasting chicken, hearty stews, pies, bread, cakes and cookies. We follow traditional recipes where possible and it is important that the foods we cook and ingredients we use are correctly seasonal and historically available.

If you've ever thought about having a go at cooking a simple 17th Century dish, here's a simple biscuit recipe that is easy to make & travels well, so why not give it a go at home and bring your wares to the next muster to share with friends?

Yummy 17th Century Biscuits SUBMITTED BY DEBBIE FISHER

Ingredients

8oz Plain flour
8oz Soft light brown sugar
4oz Butter
1-2 tablespoon Double cream
1 tablespoon Coriander seeds (bruised)
2 Egg yolks
Half tablespoon Rosewater

Method:

- 1) Mix flour, sugar & coriander seed.
- 2) Rub in the butter.
- 3) Moisten with egg yolks, rosewater and cream and mix into pastry.
- 4) Roll out very thinly and cut into disks using a glass.
- 5) Lay on greased paper, prick the top (with a fork or clean comb), brush with egg yolk thinned with rosewater and bake at 180oC for roughly 15-20 minutes or until slightly golden.
- 6) Allow to cool completely before packing in an air-tight container.



Prepare yourselves AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SOCIAL

FRIDAY NIGHT German theme

German style dress encouraged
Bring your own beer.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Christmas / Nightmare Before Christmas

Christmas is coming early!
Get yer baubles out!!
Cocktail party



More info to follow. Keep an eye on Gordon's and Scots Brigade FB pages!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... a Pikeman



There are many roles within a Regiment. The purpose of this 'A Day In The Life of' feature is to showcase specific roles.

Pike - a brief history

A pike is a long pole weapon made out of strong wood (usually seasoned ash) with a long iron or steel spear attached to the end. Having been used by infantry in European warfare since the early Middle Ages, lengths typically range from 16-18 ft, although some have been recorded at a whopping 25ft! The end of the pole is tapered to prevent sagging on the ends, although drooping or slight flection of the shaft is still experienced. The weight of an individual pike could be anywhere between 2.5-6kg (5.5-13.2 lb). The shaft near the head was often reinforced with metal strips called 'cheeks' or langets.

In the Sealed Knot, to have metal tips would obviously be dangerous - we are only re-enacting after all! To this end, the end spears are made from wood and painted to look metallic for a show of authenticity (although our ceremonial pikes do have metal screw in ends commonly known as 'sharps'). Historically pikemen would have also carried a 'pikeman's hanger' - a sword smaller than the standard fighting sword of the day. In the SK, these are optional and only used for parade, never on the field.



In the Middle Ages, the pike was predominantly used by urban militia troops such as the Flemings or the peasant array of the lowland Scots. The Scots at the Battle of Stirling Bridge (1297), for example, utilised the momentum of their pike charge to overrun an English army while the Englishmen were crossing a narrow bridge. Furthermore, in several battles during the Wars of Scottish Independence (including the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314), the Scots used a shorter spear formation known as the *schiltron* which brought some success when they operated in an aggressive fashion [Their attempt to adopt the longer Continental pike had been dropped for general use after its ineffective use led to humiliating defeat at the Battle of Flodden].

However, blocks of pikes are difficult to maneuver. With such a committed forward-facing advance, the side and rear flanks are vulnerable to attack. As a result, associate troops of musket were assigned to cover their flanks. The pike block returned the support by being able to protect fellow foot soldiers from advance charges from horse through forming a highly effective defensive wall of outward-facing spikes to deter the would-be attackers.

The usage of pike as weapon was still very much in deployed during the English Civil war. However as the century progressed and improvements were made to the musket and artillery together with the introduction of the bayonet and other changes to military tactics, the pike fell out of favour. A common end date for the use of the pike in infantry formations is usually cited as being 1700.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... a Pikeman

Contribution by Nikki Shaw, O'Cahans CO & Pikeman

Special skills or training required:

Unlike with musket or sword, there is no formal test that needs to be passed. Sign up for pike and you will be straight into action! There is however regular drill to practice how to hold the pike in the various positions needed and to learn how to move safely.

- push of pike (rugby tackle)
- charge (advance with pikes held straight out)
- charge for horse (butt grounded in a 'hedgehog' formation)

There is no height requirement and both men and women can become pikemen. A pikeman should be physically robust as it is high contact - often referred to as 'a rugby scrum with armour'!

Cost of kit (excluding standard clothing):

Please note that the following costs are approximate for basic level kit. Costs vary dependant upon supplier so the ones quoted below are intended as a guideline only.

- Gauntlets: £15-35
- Helmet (MANDATORY): £60-150. Regiments may be able to supply these. It is also permitted to wear either the Scots bonnet or a Monmouth cap underneath the helmet for comfort.
- Armour (optional but recommended): £150-250 consists of back and breast plate.
- Startup boots: £100. Start-ups are more protective than latchets as extend up and over ankle so also don't fall off. You will need hobnails at least on the heels.
- Pike: £0 as these are supplied by the regiment
- Clothing: Normal breeches. Scots may also wear trews. For Gordon's, Number 1 kit of Plaid is not permitted as too cumbersome.

No of Pike in Scots Brigade:

Pike is a tough, physical activity. At present we have around a dozen-ish pike across the Scots Brigade as a whole - O'Cahans Regiment traditionally fielding the greater number of Pike. This is a key area all Scots Regiments are looking to recruit for.

A pike block consists of a minimum of nine but ideally twelve individuals. On occasion when the Scots Brigade does not have sufficient pikemen at a muster to form our own block, our members join other regiments on the respective side which we are representing for that particular battle.

Where Found:

- In troop line-up:* Either behind the musket block or sandwiched between two musket blocks if numbers allow.
- On field:* In vicinity of the musket block(s) but set aside for safety reasons. During a charge of horse, pike form a protective outer ring around the musket, drums, colours, officers and water carriers, with the pikes pointing outwards to create a spiky barrier.





Pass the Quill: CLAN HELSEY

With an ever-growing Regiment and people not always able to attend every muster, it can get difficult to remember who is who. In 'Pass The Quill', each issue we will focus on different members of the Regiment in this fun and lighthearted way of getting to know more about our fellow Gordon's.

In addition to the standard overview, each person will be asked to randomly answer 10 questions from a selection of 25, which will be shared here.



Name:

Melvyn and Linda

Occupation in SK:

Colour Bearer (M) Musketeer (L)

No of years in SK:

33 (M) 18 (L)

What got you into SK?:

Melvyn was recruited in the beer tent [as he was innocently hanging out there right?! - Ed]. Linda was duly recruited by Melvyn.

Additional info:

Both Melvyn and Linda are semi-retired. Previously Melvyn had been Librarian at the House of Commons and he still enjoys a spot of creative writing. Linda meanwhile is looking forward to spending more time in her new garden lofty room [think that's what it says - bit dodgey writing Linda! :p - Ed]

Melvyn & Linda's Random Q&A

Who is your Hero/Heroine?

M: Tigger L: Emmeline Pankhurst

Sunrise or sunset?

M: Sunrise L: Sunset

Favourite drink?

M: Cider L: Baileys

What are 3 things you couldn't live without? (Excluding family and friends)

L: Health and happiness

My last meal would be...

M: Beans on toast L: Stew

Most memorable muster and why?

M: Newbury 1989(?) - vaulting over the scone!

L: The one where Melvyn mistook my washbag for the toilet bucket, for which he won a medal in London Brigade!

Name something you have never done but always wanted to

L: Hot air balloon

Confess something

M: Reiki healer

Craziest thing you've ever done?

M: Stamp collecting

What superpower would you choose?

L: To heal everyone

Ocean, Forest or Mountain?

M: Forest

What makes you happiest?

M: Sherbert L: Pets

If aliens exist and we could communicate with them, what would your message be?

M: The meaning of life

How long can you stand on one leg for?

L: Depends whose leg it is!

What did your last text say?

L: Happy birthday





Pass the Quill: THE DUDLEY CLAN

Ok so now with 105 members of Gordon's, I've done the maths and let's face it, with only three COTN editions a year we'll be here forever if we only feature one person each time!

Instead, we'll now showcase by family groups and have more than one entry per issue so we can get through all members in a more reasonable amount of time. Please do support this initiative when the form comes your way.

Onto round 2...



Name:

Alan, Bev and Jess

Occupation in SK:

Civilians (though Jess sometimes is a watercarrier)

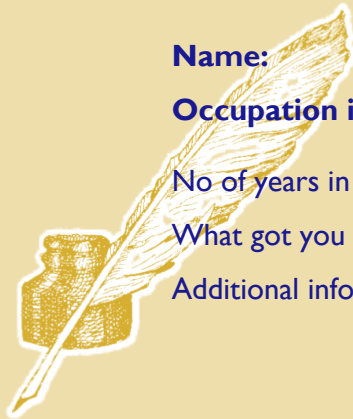
No of years in SK:

2

What got you into SK?: *Our relations Julie & Digger [Bev is Julie's sister]*

Additional info:

We live in Swansea and enjoy socialising, weekends away and showing off our Welsh singing voices!



The Dudley's Random Q&A

Choose three 'ultimate' dinner guests (dead or alive)

Freddie Mercury, Cliff Richard, David Bowie

Favourite drink

Anything wet, alcoholic and tastes good

3 things you can't live without (family & friends excluded)

Health, caravan and alcohol

Morning lark or Night owl?

Morning larks

Ocean, Forest or Mountain?

Ocean

What makes you happiest?

Meeting up with the Scots Brigade

How long can you stand on one leg for?

All day with a crutch

What's your favourite saying?

I'll be there now in a minute

If you had a warning label, what would it be?

Keep calm, be Welsh, do it now in a minute

What's the best piece of advice you've been given?

Keep your hands on your half penny



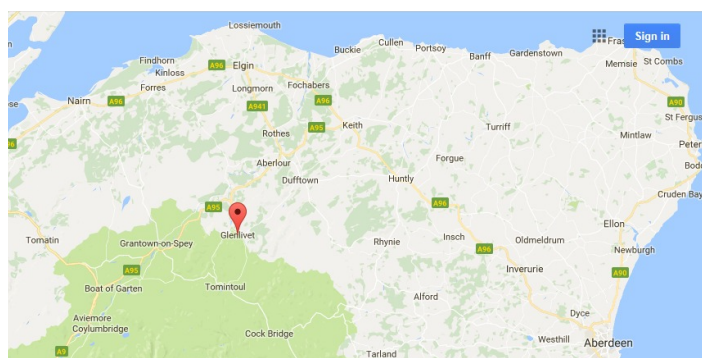
Special Feature:
Written by Declan McCabe

The Real Gordon's Regiment

When I transferred across to Gordon's regiment I was curious to see what the real life historic regiment had done in the past.

Being a Scottish regiment, and a Highland one too, meant that information in England about William Gordon's regiment of foot is somewhat limited, but there is some relevant data out there. Whilst I believe that everything in this article is accurate, I am more than happy for anyone with better sources to correct me and would welcome more information on our historical counterparts.

The regiment was raised in the Gordon controlled territory of Strathavan, in the Speyside area of Scotland. This area is famous for its ubiquitous whiskey distilleries, and the small town of Minimore (also written as Monymore), from where the regiment gets its name, was very close to the modern distillery town of Glenlivet.



The men were **initially raised in 1639** by William Gordon to form part of Donald Farquarson of Monaltrie's regiment, together with troops raised on Deeside. Gordon was rewarded for his efforts by being given an officer's commission in the regiment. This regiment was raised in support of Gordon chieftain and overlord, the Marquis of Huntly's Royalist rebellion in support of the king during the First Bishop's War. Monaltrie had married into the Gordon clan and was keen to show his support for his new family.

When newly raised, the regiment was said to be armed in the traditional Highland fashion. The wealthier Highlanders were armed with firelocks, or doglock muskets. The rest had bows. Shortly after this, the regiment was armed with muskets and pikes, making it a regular standing regiment. What it lacked, however, was training.

The traditional Highland way of waging war, heavily armed and armoured men in a large body, had disappeared over the past fifty years as firearms had become more prevalent



2nd Marquis of Huntly, Gordon chieftain and warlord



1st Marquis of Montrose

As a former enemy, Huntly never trusted the man who he regarded as a turncoat.

in Scotland. What we now think of as the traditional form of Highland warfare - the men swarming forward to deliver a devastating volley of musketry, culminating in the Highland charge - only came into existence during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, in 1644.

During the **Bishops Wars** the Highlanders were still learning about modern warfare, and it showed. Monaltrie's regiment is thought to have been at the **battle of Megray Hill (near Stonheaven) in June 1639**, where the Royalists were roundly defeated by Montrose's Covenanters. The regiment was noted for its lack of experience and discipline at this action.

A few days later, at the **Brig o Dee, near Aberdeen**, the defending Royalists were overwhelmed by the Covenanters, and the city of Aberdeen, which had declared for the king, was at their mercy.



Scottish soldiers in Swedish service, 1631, armed with firelocks or bows

Special Feature

The Real Gordon's Regiment

I can find no mention of which units were defending the city, but Monaltrie's (minus casualties and deserters) would almost certainly have been present.

Fortunately for all concerned, this battle occurred just one day after the **Pacification of Berwick** was concluded; word swiftly reached Montrose that the war was over and the losers were spared the full consequences of supporting a defeated rebellion. Following this, the **regiment was disbanded**.

The regiment was **raised again in early 1644**, once again in support of an uprising sponsored by the Marquis of Huntly, when the First English Civil War expanded into the Wars of the Three Kingdoms following the Covenanter government's decision to enter that conflict on the side of the English Parliament. William Gordon was once again appointed as an officer and the men were again armed with pikes and muskets. On this occasion, however, they also received instruction on the use of these weapons in a pitched battle. This would have been from Irish officers who had arrived with Alasdair Mac Colla to assist the uprising, the Irish being more experienced in modern warfare due to their numerous rebellions against English rule.

The unit fought at **Fyvie** and **Inverary**, two Royalist victories against a more numerous foe, in 1644 under Montrose, who had abandoned the Covenanters. The regiment played a full part in both battles without being particularly distinguished. They then wintered in Aberdeen, once again in Royalist hands after the Covenanter garrison was defeated. The Covenanters had hoped the rebellion would wither and die over the winter, but when this failed to happen they withdrew experienced regiments from their army in England, thus fulfilling part of the purpose of the rebellion, and reinforced the forces trying to suppress Montrose. In March 1645 Monaltrie was killed at Aberdeen during a surprise attack by these Covenanters under Hurry's command. Following this event the Strathavan men were formed into a regiment of their own led by Col. William Gordon. They appear to have been issued with new Colours, described by a witness-

"Upon Monday the 15th of April he [Huntly] returned about six hours at even to Aberdeen he caused make some ensigns where upon ilk side was drawn a red rampant lion having a crown of gold above his head a 'CR' for Charles Rex having the motto 'For God the king and against all traitors' and beneath 'God save the king'. There were diverse others made for the barons. The marquis and his followers wore a black taffeta about their craig whilk was a sign to fight to the death but it proved otherwise"

An excerpt from THE HISTORY OF THE TROUBLES AND MEMORABLE TRANSACTIONS IN SCOTLAND DURING THE REIGN OF CHARLES I
by John Spalding, Commissary Clerk, Aberdeen



During the remainder of 1645, the regiment was present at the **battles of Auldearn** (300 men), **Alford** (200 men) and **Kilsyth**. At Auldearn they had their most prominent role as they were instrumental in helping to drive back the Covenanter attack, pouring continuous volleys of musketry into the advancing government troops. Curiously, the regiment received considerable criticism for this at the time - the poets who wrote about the action seem to have believed that it would have been preferable for the three hundred Highlanders to launch a wild charge at the two thousand attacking Covenanters, rather than remain in place for several hours providing a continuous harassing fire, causing disruption to Covenanter ranks and a constant stream of casualties to break up their assaults on the main Royalist defences.

Fortunately, William Gordon however was more of a tactician than a romantic, and he realised such a charge would be glorious and short, but also suicidally stupid against a foe who were well armed and who would have enough time to fire several devastating volleys into the Highland ranks before they charged home.

The regiment was not at Montrose's defeat at Philiphaugh, being away from the army with Huntly, who took them off to raid Campbell lands. This was justified as drawing Campbell troops away from the main Covenanter army, but was also part of the ongoing feud between Gordons and Campbells that both pre- and post-dated the wars. The regiment fought on after Montrose's campaigning was over, taking part in Huntly's infamous **storming of Aberdeen in 1646**.

The regiment was **disbanded later in 1646** after the Royalists were defeated in Scotland, however William Gordon, a staunch Catholic, never ceased to resist the Covenanter government and never abandoned the Royalist cause. He was an active and unwavering supporter of the Stuarts his whole life and unlike many of his Royalist contemporaries, he was fortunate enough to die peacefully of old age in 1674.

Recruitment & Communication

There has been some discussion lately amongst members concerning methods of communication and what we as a Regiment and a Brigade have available to us. So to alleviate any confusion, below is a guide to what's what.



Facebook pages

1

William Gordon's Regiment of Foote

Closed private group exclusively for members of Gordon's.

Until recently, we had opened it up to select other SK members (predominantly from the Scots Brigade) but this has now been withdrawn.

2

The Scots Brigade

Closed private group for members of the Scots Brigade regardless of Regiment.

There may also be select members from the Sealed Knot at large. The Admins for this page are the respective CO's for each Scots Regiment.

3

Friends of the Scots Brigade*

This is an open public group.

It is to be used for people who are interested in finding out more about who we are and what we do. They do not have to be a member of the SK to be added to this group.

Be mindful of what you post on here please! This is our public face!!

*Originally this was a Friends of Gordon's page but has since been changed to encompass the whole Brigade.

Email accounts

1 **gordonsadjutant@hotmail.co.uk** This is the official Gordon's email. Currently looked after by Gloria. Send all official Regiment communications to this account, specifically membership renewals and queries. Prospective members can also be given this email address in relation to Gordon's only.

NEW 2 **hello@skscotsbrigade.org.uk** This is the official Scots Brigade email. It encompasses all Regiments within the Brigade and is the email address promoted on all publicity and recruitment material. Every Regiment has access to the email account with each respective CO/Adjutant dealing with queries relating to their own Regiment. All Regiment representatives will monitor and handle general enquires sent to this email account.

3 **personal email address** Private to an individual, these are not to be shared publically without the owners permission. Key Gordon's email address are published on the last page of COTN. As Adjutant, Gloria holds a full list of all members email addresses so please inform her of any changes.



NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

www.skscotsbrigade.org.uk

The domain name has been purchased and the site content is currently in development. The initial launch will be ready for Thirlestane Castle.

This website is for the Scots Brigade as a whole but will have an area dedicated to each Regiment. It is likely that this Brigade site will replace the need for individual Regiment sites. The site will be maintained by Karen Poffley.



Recruitment & Communication

NEW Recruitment Material

It has been decided to promote the Scots Brigade as a whole rather than individual regiments. Cost for recruitment material will thus be shared equally across the 4 regiments.

This new material will be available from Thirlestane Castle. Please speak to Digger as CO should you require some. An electronic copy is also available from Karen Poffley on request.



Scots Brigade

- Colonel William Gordon's Regiment of Foote
- Colonel Hugh Fraser's Regiment of Dragoones
- Colonel Thomas Lightman's Regiment of Foote
- Manus O'Cahan, His Own Regiment

hello@skscotsbrigade.org.uk

www.skscotsbrigade.org.uk

Find us on  Friends of the Scots Brigade



The Sealed Knot: 17th Century English Civil War Re-enactment Society
- an educational charity encouraging an interest in our heritage

Business cards
Easy to carry and distribute

Dispelling a few myths

- 1. You have to be Scottish to join the Scots Brigade - FALSE!**
Our membership catchment area spans the whole of the UK, and even beyond. We count Scots, English, Irish, Welsh and even Bavarians amongst our current members!
- 2. We only fight battles - FALSE!**
Whilst the main purpose of the Sealed Knot is to re-enact battles, there is much more on offer to members: the Baggage Train (wheeled carriers and camp followers), musicians and the 'Living History' encampment. Not forgetting much excitement to be enjoyed after-hours in the members' Beer Tent and at private banquets which are held during the Winter months.
- 3. Breachers live! - FALSE!**
Actually no. We strive to be as authentic as possible in both our dress and our conduct. We regularly drill to perfect 17th Century warfare manoeuvres on the battlefield and our 'kit' and weaponry are based on historical fact. We leave the fiction to Hollywood!
- 4. It's just for men - FALSE!**
Wrong again! Many of our members are women. Some choose to take up arms and fight as men or become drummers whilst others form part of the Baggage Train as non-fighting civilians. Many families - including those with young children - enjoy being active members. The Sealed Knot also operates an 'Apprentices' club for children aged 10-16. There really is something to suit everyone!



Love history?

Enlist today!

Why should I join the Scots Brigade?

- You're looking for a new challenge
- You like to get involved
- You have passion for re-enactment
- You want action!

What we're looking for:

- Enthusiasm
- Commitment
- Commitment especially pikemen!
- Living History enthusiasts



Scots Brigade
For further information please contact us:
info@skscotsbrigade.org.uk
www.skscotsbrigade.org.uk
Friends of Scots Brigade



The Sealed Knot
Scots Brigade
**Unleash your
sense of adventure**
17th Century Civil War Re-enactment

The Scots Brigade



Who we are
The Scots Brigade is part of the Sealed Knot Re-enactment Society. Within our ranks we have musicians, pikemen, musketeers and civilians. The men, women and children of the Scots Brigade come from all walks of life. We have members from all over the UK and even a German contingent.

Four separate Regiments make up the Scots Brigade:
- Colonel William Gordon's Regiment of Foote
- Colonel Hugh Fraser's Regiment of Dragoones
- Colonel Thomas Lightman's Regiment of Foote
- Manus O'Cahan's Own Regiment

You can join whichever Regiment you prefer. Each Regiment has its own identity and history but we come together to form the Scots Brigade and fight battles as one unit. Sometimes we even take on the role of English Militia depending upon the battle circumstances, so you really will get a taste of everything as a member of the Scots Brigade, regardless of which Regiment you belong to.

As a Brigade, we pride ourselves on high standards of authenticity and strive for excellence in all that we do. However we also fundamentally believe that re-enactment should be fun - both on and off the battlefield. We work hard and we party hard!

About the Sealed Knot
The Sealed Knot is Europe's largest and best known re-enactment society. Founded over forty years ago, it now has several thousand members throughout the UK. The Sealed Knot is run on the lines of two 17th Century armies and members are organized into Regiments.

The society's aim is to increase the knowledge and awareness of the general public regarding the period of history commonly known as the 'English Civil War' (1628 - 1651). It achieves this through public re-enacting battles, sieges and skirmishes and staging 'Living History' depicting life in the seventeenth century. The Sealed Knot is a registered charity and through these performances is able to raise money for a variety of notable causes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do events take place?
Sealed Knot events (known as 'muster') occur over weekends throughout the United Kingdom, often on or near to actual Civil War battle sites. The main season usually runs from Easter to early Autumn, with members choosing however many events they wish to attend - typically however we will attend four events per season as a Brigade.

What about the weather?
Muster should come rain, wind, shine and even snow!

Where do you stay?
Members camp free of charge on specially arranged sites; this may be in the grounds of a stately home or close to an actual battlefield. Those involved in Living History stay within an authentic encampment setting but the vast majority of members pitch-up on the 'plastic site' in tents or caravans/motor homes. Food stalls, a Beer Tent and toilet facilities are also provided on site.

Where does clothing and equipment come from?
Much of the clothing, leather work, weaponry and armour are made by members themselves and are based on original patterns.

Ultimately every member is expected to provide their own authentic clothing and any associated weaponry. This 'kit' can be acquired over time. Until then, individual Regiments can usually loan various items to their newer members if required. We also provide patterns and advice.

Whose side are you on - Royalist or Parliament?
The Scots Brigade played a pivotal role on both sides during the English Civil War. Sometimes fighting for the King and at others for the Parliament cause, there are even incidents where Scots changed allegiances mid-battle! Each Sealed Knot battle re-enactment is unique and, where possible, is based on the known records for that location. The Scots Brigade therefore (as part of the wider Sealed Knot), assume whichever side is deemed necessary to match historical accuracy for the Scots overall per individual re-enactment battle - including sometimes acting the part of English Militia under our 'Rustled' guise.

Is it expensive to join?
The Sealed Knot offer a variety of memberships for individuals and families, ranging from annual and half-yearly subscriptions to single event passes. For further details, please visit www.thesealedknot.org.uk.

Why do you do it?
Passion for history. A belief in preserving our heritage. A desire to do something different. Excitement. Escapism. A love of dressing-up. Wanting to travel the country. The Great Outdoors. Fascination for the traditional way of life. Interest in the History. Raising money for charity. Sense of adventure. To meet new people. Enjoy having lots of fun.

Every member has his or her own reason. What will yours be?

Interested? We'd love to hear from you. Contact us today! (Email contact)

**Your time is now
Join us!**

Tri-fold Leaflet

Great for on-the-go recruitment especially at Scots-led events. Contains brief oversite of SK and Scots Brigade, Frequently Asked Questions and dispels a few myths. Back page promotes the Scots Brigade website and contact details.



Scots Brigade

CI 7th Civil War Reenactment

Love history?

Join Us!

Recruiting now

Unleash your sense of adventure

Find us on  Friends of the Scots Brigade



The Sealed Knot Society
an educational charity encouraging
an interest in our heritage
Registered Charity No. 263004

Outdoor banner

Great for Scots-led events to attract attention

Two have been produced; one will remain in Scotland, the other in England.

Metal eyelets allow the banner to be easily secured via rope or cable ties. Weather robust.



Dates for Diary

Full warning orders in **Orders of the Day** or on the **SK website**
Check Gordon's Facebook page for updates or additional notes

TYPE	DATE(S)	LOCATION	DETAILS	KIT
R&B	24 - 25 Jun	Thirlestane Castle	Our very own Scottish mini muster. Full support please!	1,2
R&B	22 - 23 July	Newark	Major. Illustrating how Parliment and Scots attempted to take Newark so a good one for us to showoff and try to recruit please!	1
O	mid Aug tbc	Helmsey Castle	Details to follow once confirmed	1
R	26 - 28 Aug	Scampston Hall,	Aug BH Major. Pontefract	1,2
O	8 - 10 Sept	Newbury	Mini organised by Rivers. In negotiation.	1
B	22 - 24 Sept	Edgehill	Details to follow	1

R: Regimental Event. Maximum attendance please
B: Brigade Event. Support whenever possible
O: Optional.
M: Miscellaneous event.

1: Plaid (Highland)
2: Trews (Scots)
3: Greys (English/Militia)

NOTE: As Gordon's are a **Highland** regiment, number 1 kit of Plaid is to be worn at every event, unless you are specifically instructed to do otherwise. Digger will confirm prior to an event if there is any change in the Plaid directive.

Quoteth of the daye

"Shoes before corset!!"

Cock o' the North

Next Issue due: Sept 2017

Any suggestions for feature articles and photographs greatly received. Submit to Editor by 25th August

Contact Info

www.skscotsbrigade.org.uk



E. 1. gordonsadjutant@hotmail.co.uk
2. hello@skscotsbrigade.org.uk

f 1. William Gordon's Regiment of Foote (closed group)
2. The Scots Brigade (closed group)
3. Friends of the Scots Brigade (open group)

C.O.: Digger Blissett

T. 07875 631013

E. r.blissett1@virginmedia.com

Adjutant: Gloria Holmes

T. 01255677355 or 07718 891228

E. gordonsadjutant@hotmail.co.uk

COTN Editor: Karen Poffley

T. 07786 907727

E. karenpoffley@hotmail.com

Photographs courtesy of Rusty Aldwinkle, Purdie Proudman, Google, Bev Dudley, Jack Bunton. Apologies to anyone I've pilfered from and missed off the list.