

POPPY

STORIES

poppy 
scotland

Autumn 2022

Remembrance in changing times.



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Hello and welcome to our latest edition of *Poppy Stories*.

I'm Austin Hardie, and I'm delighted to join Poppyscotland as Director. I've enjoyed meeting the Poppyscotland team and volunteers over recent months and finding out about the amazing work they do to support the Armed Forces community in Scotland. And of course, I'm looking forward to getting to know supporters like you – we couldn't do the work we do without you.

This support is needed more than ever now, with more families struggling with the rising cost of living. Find out how our Grants Coordinator Shiela offers a lifeline to those in need on page 3, as well as the difference it makes to veterans such as Ali and his family (page 5).

This autumn, we've got more inspiring stories about how supporters go the extra mile – running, walking, or collecting – to help us. We're also especially pleased to see a new generation getting involved and learning about Remembrance. Our Letters to My Teacher competition winners Chiara and Esha's incredibly moving entries struck a chord with judges – find out more on page 7.

We hope you enjoy reading *Poppy Stories*, and once again, thank you so much for your support.

Best wishes,

Austin Hardie



We're always here for you.

We understand that many in the Armed Forces community may be struggling with the cost-of-living crisis or memories and emotions caused by recent world events. Poppyscotland acknowledges that asking for help can feel daunting.

We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that you and the people you care about are not alone. Our Welfare Services are on standby with a sympathetic, non-judgemental ear for you, your family and all those you Served with.

We therefore urge anyone who is struggling in any way to please contact us on **0131 550 1557**. Poppyscotland is at your side with help and support whenever you need us.

Get help online.

If you would prefer not to pick up the phone, you can access our support services at www.poppyscotland.org.uk or by emailing GetHelp@poppyscotland.org.uk

E-Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in your inbox instead of your letterbox then sign up for our e-newsletter at www.poppyscotland.org.uk

Connect

Keep in touch with us on social media at the addresses below:
facebook.com/poppyscotland
twitter.com/poppyscotland
youtube.com/poppyscotland

Contact details

Poppyscotland, New Haig House,
Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HQ.

Tel: 0131 557 2782

Email: supportercare@poppyscotland.org.uk

Visit: www.poppyscotland.org.uk

If you would prefer not to receive our newsletter please get in touch with us using the contact details above to let us know.

We value your support and would like to keep you informed of our work. Please help us to contact you in the most appropriate way by completing our online form:

www.poppyscotland.org.uk/contactpreferences

Five minutes with the Welfare Services Team.

Whether it's finding a new job, giving advice or approving financial grants, your kindness helps our Welfare Services Team be a lifeline for veterans and Forces families. We had a chat with Shiela Laramore, Grants Coordinator, to give you an insight into the work you help to fund.

What does your daily routine consist of?

"No two days are the same! We receive a lot of urgent requests, so there's always something new to deal with. A lot of my day is spent in quite a solitary manner as I review applications. With that said, there is always some interaction with colleagues – whether that's a chat with a Welfare Officer or Employment Coordinator. It's a team effort to help as many people as possible!"

What has been a case that you have been proud to be able to support?

"I am proud to have been able to support several visa cases for Foreign and Commonwealth veterans. Legislation has now been changed (thanks to a campaign Poppyscotland was part of), but at the time Foreign and Commonwealth

veterans had to pay for their visas no matter the length of their service. I feel proud to work for an organisation that allows a truly person-centred approach to grant giving."

What do you enjoy most about your role?

"The thing I enjoy most about my role is knowing that I have had a positive impact on the lives of veterans and their families. I also enjoy the elements of problem solving and collaborating with partner organisations and colleagues."

Shiela Laramore,
Grants Coordinator



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Our Welfare team issued

604 **55**
immediate annual
needs grants and



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We provided assistance to

1,383
individuals.



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We received

1,695
calls, emails and
referrals from
partners.



A new way to help all year round.

We're very excited to be launching a new club for supporters who want to help veterans and their families every day of the year.

The Poppy Club is a wonderful way to ensure our Welfare Services Team are at the side of ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen whenever they need support. With a host of great benefits, including an exclusive Poppy Club pin badge, it's a fantastic way to show your appreciation for our veterans.



To find out more about joining the Poppy Club,
get in touch on supportercare@poppyscotland.org.uk

Remembrance in changing times.

From restrictions on Poppy sellers to the cancellation of national events, the past two years have hit Remembrance and the Poppy Appeal hard.

The pandemic has had a huge impact on our ability to come together, honour tradition and pay tribute to the brave men and women who serve our country today, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. A huge thank you to all of you who still managed to find a way to remember and support through these challenging times.

However, change is not always a bad thing. While this year we hope to see a return to some kind of normality, some of the changes and technologies we adopted during the pandemic have made it far easier and more convenient for people to take part in Remembrance.

Adapting to life in a post-pandemic world.

Our fabulous volunteer Poppy sellers are ready to hit the streets once again to raise vital funds to support veterans and their families. As well as carrying buckets for cash, keep an eye out for sellers equipped with contactless terminals. They are able to accept donations with a quick tap of a card, and you can also give using a QR code on your phone.

For anyone who may feel worried about attending a memorial service or Garden of Remembrance we have also created a special online space where the fallen can be honoured. See the side panel for more information about visiting our Virtual Field of Remembrance and making your tribute.

The enduring importance of Remembrance.

One thing that has not changed is how important your support is. For veterans, buying a Poppy or giving a donation could be genuinely life changing.

As well as wearing a Poppy, how about selling them? Find out about volunteering for Poppyscotland at Remembrance by emailing Ian at volunteer@poppyscotland.org.uk

"I felt there was no way out."

After growing up in the Highlands, Ali joined the 32nd Regiment of Royal Artillery in 1998. He Served for five years, including a tour of Kosovo, but was affected by life in a warzone. "There are some things that no-one can really be prepared for before they face it," is all he is willing to say.

Ali served for five years until being discharged with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). However, returning home only seemed to swap one set of problems for another. Ali's PTSD meant he struggled with bills and he got into financial difficulties. As he tried to keep his head above water, Ali only got more and more into debt, his marriage fell apart and he felt incredibly alone.

A proud Army man through and through, Ali felt like he couldn't ask for help. Thankfully, Citizens Advice put him in touch with Poppyscotland's Welfare Services Team and he started to turn his life around.

"I spoke to a member of staff who was really helpful. She sorted out so much for me and put me in touch with a psychologist," he recalls. "She broke everything down and helped me to sort my problems out one by one. I can honestly say that I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for her as I could not see a way out at that time."

Please support the Poppy Appeal this Remembrance and help veterans like Ali get the support they deserve.



Remembering the fallen.

Remembrance services will be taking place all round Scotland this autumn. Find one near you, or pay your respects at one of these national events.

Fields of Remembrance

Visit one of Poppyscotland's Fields of Remembrance in Inverness or Edinburgh, or the Garden of Remembrance in Glasgow.

Cavelle Gardens, Inverness
21st October

Scott Monument,
Edinburgh
24th October

George Square, Glasgow
25th October

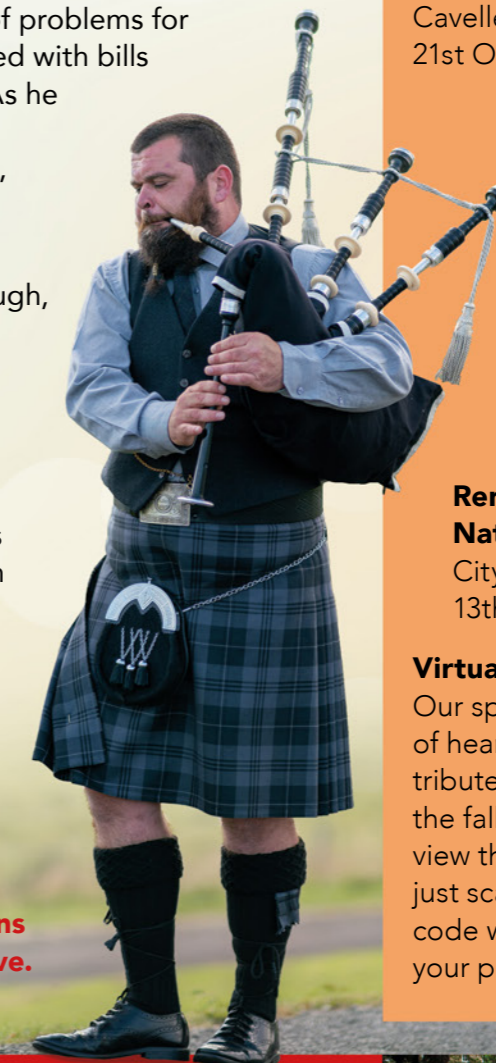
Armistice Day Service
Princes Street Gardens,
Edinburgh
11th November

Remembrance Sunday National Event

City Chambers, Edinburgh
13th November

Virtual Field of Remembrance

Our special online space is full of heartfelt tributes to the fallen. To view the Field just scan the code with your phone.



Marking four decades since the Falklands.

This June saw the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict, when British forces were deployed to defend the islands from Argentine invasion. To mark this milestone, veterans from the conflict marched alongside The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines and the Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums

in a parade to St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, on Saturday 18th June. At the end of the parade, tributes were paid to those who Served at a Remembrance and wreath laying ceremony, while pipers across the world played The Craggs of Tumbledown at the same time to honour the fallen.





Best foot forward for My Poppy Run.

Whether you're a seasoned marathon runner or are looking for a reason to get the trainers out, we need runners to take on our new fundraising event.

With My Poppy Run you choose the distance, where you'll run and when. You could mark a special occasion like a birthday, or make it a tribute during Remembrance. Make sure you share your fundraising page far and wide, as every penny you raise will help to support the Armed Forces community living in Scotland.

Find out more at poppyscotland.org.uk/Running

Take the plunge for Poppyscotland.

Dive into your own personal swimming challenge this autumn. You could aim to swim a mile at your local pool, or find a safe spot to take on an outdoor swim. The Poppy Swim Challenge is a great way to fundraise for us, and you'll receive a special swim cap and certificate. If you raise over £100 we'll also send you a pin badge, while kids will get a special patch if they raise over £40.

Find out more and start planning your swim at poppyscotland.org.uk/PoppySwim



Searching for answers!

The Poppy Quest, our newest event, took place in June with families, friends, cadets and even four-legged companions taking on the 10km route around Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Although we had all four seasons in one day, it did not dampen spirits. Fraser Rowand, who works in Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, took part with his family. He said: "It's been great for the weans. We'll definitely be back next year."

After the success of Poppy Quest 2022, this exciting event will return in Spring 2023 – we hope you can join us!



Running for veterans.

A huge thank you to Sandy, Joel, Terry and Kris, our amazing runners who took part in the Edinburgh Marathon Festival in May. With 11 different races including a marathon, the festival was the biggest sports participation event in Scottish history. Even more impressively, our fab four raised an incredible £2,700 for Poppyscotland.



£2,700
raised for
veterans!

Thank you to all of our amazing fundraisers, your hard work helps to offer life-changing support to our Armed Forces community. If you're up for a fundraising challenge visit www.poppyscotland.org.uk/things-to-do and get inspired.



Two heart-stopping letters from the trenches.

Ciara, 11, and Esha, 15, stunned judges with their emotional depictions of life in the trenches and were announced as the winners of Poppyscotland's Letters to my Teacher competition. Ciara wrote of trying to keep up morale in the trenches while Esha reflected on the fragility of life.

Scan the QR code to read their winning entries.



"Esha's and Ciara's beautifully written accounts stood out as full of imagination and humanity."

Gordon Michie, Head of Fundraising and Learning

Paddington and the Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations were enjoyed across the nation. A favourite part for many was the heart-warming sketch which saw the iconic Paddington Bear visit Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace.

Did you know author, Michael Bond based Paddington on child evacuees from World War Two?

Why not watch Poppyscotland's Facebook Live Lesson to find out more. Learn about the links between everyone's favourite marmalade-sandwich-chomping bear and the many children displaced from their homes for safety. You can also read about child evacuees in our beautifully illustrated VE Day 75th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet.

Scan the QR code to watch our Paddington Live Lesson.



To order a copy of our VE Day 75th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet, please email: learning@poppyscotland.org.uk



Tickets on sale now!



A feast of military music not to be missed.

After spending the last two years assisting with COVID-19 relief efforts, we're delighted to have the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland back on stage for a series of rousing concerts.

The band will be playing at Bankfoot, Perthshire on Friday 4th November, for a very special Walking With Heroes concert in the run up to Remembrance.

In addition to this exciting one-off concert, the

band are also performing at Montrose on Friday 21st October and giving a Christmas performance at Hawick on 15th December. Ticket sales for all of these wonderful concerts are in aid of Poppyscotland's work with the Armed Forces community living in Scotland.

Don't miss out on a fantastic evening of military music. Get your ticket now at poppyscotland.org.uk/band-tour

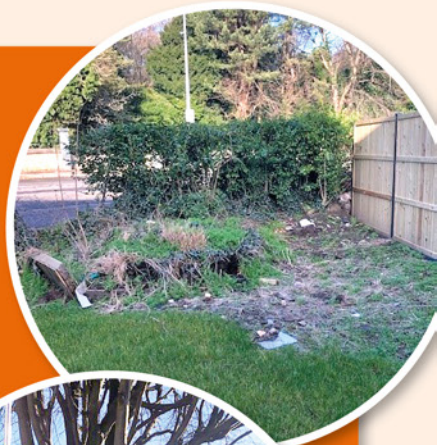
Calling green-fingered supporters!

As Lady Haig's Poppy Factory gleams following its recent facelift, there is one area that is sadly no longer up to scratch.

The gardens around the factory are looking very tired and unloved. We're appealing to green-fingered supporters who can help us create a tranquil enrichment garden that will complement the newly refurbished factory.

If you are able to lend us a helping hand, your gardening know-how or even donate plants or building materials, we would love to hear from you. Simply get in touch on budvolunteer@poppyscotland.org.uk and together we can create a garden to be proud of.

Following its refurbishment, Lady Haig's Poppy Factory will soon be opening again to individuals, groups and schools. Register your interest in a factory tour at poppyscotland.org.uk/factory-tour



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