

POPPY

STORIES

poppy 
scotland

Summer 2023



**A very
Royal
occasion.**

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Welcome to your new edition of *Poppy Stories*.

With summer just around the corner, I hope you are enjoying the longer, warmer days. It's certainly been a very busy year already and there's still so much to look forward to in 2023. In this edition of *Poppy Stories*, we want to celebrate some of the brilliant, dedicated and passionate people who come together for Poppyscotland.

You can read about the royal reopening of the refurbished Lady Haig's Poppy Factory. Not only does the factory provide vital employment for more than 30 veterans, it produces over three million Poppies bought by people the length and breadth of the country.

On page 6, we celebrate some of the fantastic people who helped to make last year's Remembrance, the first large-scale show of respect and tribute since the pandemic, into an event to remember. You'll also meet some volunteers who have been awarded Poppyscotland's highest honour for their incredible fundraising.

Lastly, I would like to celebrate the role you play. Whether you volunteer your time, collect or buy Poppies, play the Poppyscotland Raffle, send generous donations or have pledged to leave a gift in your Will to Poppyscotland, your support makes a difference to our veterans every single day.

With my warmest regards,

Gordon Michie, Head of Fundraising & RAF Veteran.



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 YouTube

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

Always at their side, thanks to you.

With the cost-of-living continuing to rise, our Welfare Services team are receiving more and more requests for urgent help from struggling veterans. From everyday challenges like buying food to paying spiralling energy bills, Poppyscotland's Immediate Need Grants are often the only thing standing between our Armed Forces community and severe hardship.

From the moment we were established over 100 years ago, Poppyscotland made a promise to always be there for those who Serve our country. While the challenges facing veterans may have changed over time, one thing has not; we cannot keep our promise alone. Your ongoing support is crucial.

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting everyone, but any donation you can afford will help us to meet the immediate needs of ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen who find themselves in crisis.



"We're receiving an increasing number of calls from veterans and Forces families who have reached crisis point."

Nina Semple, Welfare Support Service.

How your support helped to change lives last year

We awarded **761** Immediate Need Grants to pay for basic necessities – a total of **£602,680**



Veterans and their families made **2,769** calls for urgent support to our Welfare Services team



101 Crisis Grants were awarded to vulnerable individuals



Helping James make a new start.

James joined the Royal Logistics Corps at 16, proudly following his dad into the Forces. However, witnessing a series of traumatic events came to a head when James tried to help a young boy who had been fatally injured in a traffic accident.

He began suffering night terrors and was diagnosed with complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Fighting to save his military career, James then suffered a stroke and was medically discharged. All of a sudden he was unemployed and learning how to cope with the physical impact of the stroke, which included slurred speech and difficulty walking.

Thanks to your support, Poppyscotland was able to help James study for a qualification and encourage him through the process of applying for new jobs. After 40 rejections, he was offered a job managing health and safety for a number of shopping centres, a job he relishes every day.



If you are able to help support a veteran in crisis, please visit poppyscotland.org.uk/donate-now

The Princess and the Poppy.

Following three years of modernising work, we were delighted to officially reopen Lady Haig's Poppy Factory with a very special visitor.

On 19th January, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal toured the factory, which has been employing veterans to make poppies since first opening in 1926. As well as enjoying seeing the newly-refurbished factory space, Princess Anne spent time chatting to some of the veterans and visited the new exhibition space which showcases Poppyscotland's rich heritage.



A day to remember.

Princess Anne was shown around the factory by David Adamson, a wreath maker who Served for 22 years with the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

"She was interested in everything, and took the time to speak to as many of the guys as possible," David said. "She also noticed the big difference from the last time she visited."

To mark the reopening, Princess Anne unveiled a special plaque. She was then presented with framed copies of two poems: John McCrae's In Flanders Fields, and 14-year-old Sophie Henderson's competition-winning response, In Future Fields.



The factory produces more than **3 million** Poppies every year!

A new chapter.

Factory Manager Charlie Pelling said: "We were honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal following three years of hard work. We now have a modern facility that will continue to support Scotland's veterans' community for years to come."

"We are very proud of our heritage, and the opening marks an exciting new chapter in the factory's 97-year history," Charlie continued. "We look forward to welcoming supporters, school groups and the wider public to our new spaces, and telling the story of the Poppy to new generations."



Princess Anne was delighted to meet the factory veterans and see their work.

To book your tour of the refurbished Lady Haig's Poppy Factory call 0131 557 2782 or email factorytours@poppyscotland.org.uk today!



Proudly supporting
365 days a year.



Launched last year, hundreds of supporters are already enjoying the benefits of our new Poppy Club.

In addition to a special member's certificate and regular updates on everything membership of the Poppy Club helps us achieve, each member also receives an exclusive Poppy pin badge to wear with pride.

More importantly, membership of the Poppy Club is a way for supporters to show their respect and gratitude to the Armed Forces community living in Scotland all year round. With membership starting at £8 a month, Poppy Club members enjoy the peace of mind knowing that, whenever an ex-Serviceman or ex-Servicewoman needs support, they are at their side.

To find out more about this exclusive new group of supporters, or to join yourself, please visit poppyscotland.org.uk/poppy-club or call 0131 550 1567.

Spreading the word with Bud.

If you're particularly keen-eyed, you may have spotted our amazing travelling museum Bud out on the road recently.

Bud has been touring the length and breadth of Scotland, bringing Poppyscotland's rich history, veterans' experiences and the Poppy's story to schools and communities around the country.

From the Highlands and Islands to towns, cities and coastal communities, Bud and its merry band of helpers worked their way from Larkhall to Lerwick. Along the way they helped to spread the positivity of the Poppy and encouraged a younger generation to engage with and learn from the past.

If you would like Bud to visit your community in 2023, simply fill in our online form and you might see Bud setting up stall soon!



Aith Junior High pupils visit Bud.



Hit the road
Bud travelled **49,932** miles last year.

Visit poppyscotland.org.uk/book-bud to request a visit from Bud.

Together again at Remembrance.

Relive Remembrance with our gallery.



From veterans and volunteers, to Poppy collectors and supporters like you – people make Remembrance the poignant, respectful event we know and love.

After the disruptions caused by the pandemic, last year we were able to come together once again to pay tribute to our veterans. To celebrate, we caught up with a few of the special people involved.

“Honoured to play my part.”

Ashwina is one of the fantastic volunteers who gives up her time to help create Edinburgh’s Garden of Remembrance. Helping to create such a moving tribute was a real honour for Ashwina. “I felt incredibly privileged to be a part of something so special, and to be able to read the dedications from loved ones as I planted the Remembrance symbols,” she said.

A fantastic team of Poppy volunteers.

Armed with a contactless terminal as well as a traditional coin bucket, our brilliant Poppy collectors also made a welcome return to towns and villages across Scotland. One collector who was excited to be back in action was RAF veteran Morag, who has been a member of our Poppy Appeal team in Edinburgh for more than seven years.



“I’m over the moon to be out collecting for the Poppy Appeal and doing my bit again,” she said. “It’s so important to remember the sacrifices of everyone who gave their lives for us, and help today’s veterans live happily.”

Opening the Garden in style.

Serving members and veterans of all three Armed Forces joined together for a colourful opening ceremony. Music was provided by the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and piper Angus Adams, and people lined the streets of Edinburgh to mark the special occasion.

Last year's Scottish Poppy Appeal raised over £2.2 million*

Thank you for making it a Remembrance that won't be forgotten.

However you marked this special period, we would like to say a huge thank you. The Scottish Poppy Appeal raised over £2.2 million* which shows what we can achieve for veterans when caring people come together.

*As of 31.03.23

Here are a selection of our favourite photos from last year’s Remembrance. We’d love to see your images. Send them to the email below and we’ll create an online gallery.



If you are interested in volunteering at this year’s Remembrance, please contact volunteer@poppyscotland.org.uk

If you have any Remembrance photos you would like to share, email them to supportercare@poppyscotland.org.uk

Rewarding incredible people.

All of Poppyscotland's volunteers are amazing, but only a few receive the President's Award, our highest honour.

Last year, recipients of the award included Jenny Rose Miller, who has been a linchpin of the Nairn Scottish Poppy Appeal for 30 years. Jenny's coffee mornings raise around 20% of annual collections in Nairn. Her dedication was never more apparent than in 2008 when she refused to let a heart attack get in the way of her fundraising!

Another hero of the Scottish Poppy Appeal is Kitty Ramsay, who was recognised for her three decades of support. Spearheading the appeal in Port Glasgow over the last

decade, Kitty's drive and passion finds her collecting for the Poppy Appeal in her local supermarket and delivering wreaths around the community.

Finally, we were delighted to recognise the passionate cyclists that make up Poppyscotland's Sportive committee. Thanks to the hard work of all the committee, our annual cycling event raised more than £60,000 in 2019, making it the largest Poppyscotland event after the Scottish Poppy Appeal.

Left to right – Helen Owen, Jenny Rose Miller and Cllr Hendry.

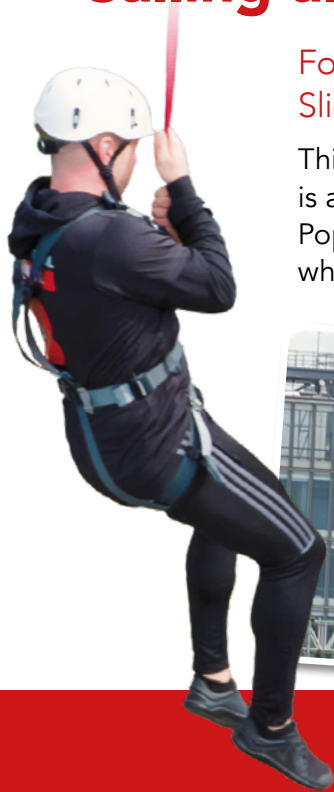


Jenny Rose Miller receives award from Helen Owen and Cllr Hendry.

Calling all daredevils – our Clyde Zip Slide is back!

Following the success of last year's white-knuckle excitement, our Clyde Zip Slide is back on Sunday 10th September 2023.

This 100ft high adrenaline adventure, launching aside the Glasgow Riverside Museum is a unique and thrilling way to see Glasgow's cityscape while raising funds for Poppyscotland. If you have the stomach for zipping 1,000ft across the River Clyde while reaching speeds of 40mph, then we want to hear from you!



Over **£25,000** raised in 2022 – thank you!

Sign up, or find out more about this amazing opportunity at poppyscotland.org.uk/clyde-zip-slide



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