

POPPY

STORIES

poppy 
scotland

Autumn 2023



**Introducing
the new
plastic-free
Poppy.**

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Welcome to your new edition of *Poppy Stories*.

As you flick through the pages of *Poppy Stories*, you may notice that change is afoot. Nowhere is it more apparent than in our new, smaller format.

We're also delighted to introduce the brand new, plastic-free Poppy. You may have already seen the eco-friendly flower being sold by our amazing Poppy volunteers, or even have one pinned to your top as you read this. To find out why we made this change, head to page 4.

On page 5 we're campaigning for welfare changes on behalf of our brave veterans. Even Bud, our mobile museum, is feeling the winds of change – read about his first ever trip “abroad” on page 6.

One thing that will never change is the promise Poppyscotland made to always be there for those who Serve our country. These brave men and women, who were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, deserve our unending support.

I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you for helping us keep our promise. We genuinely couldn't change the lives of veterans in need without your dedication, generosity and support.

With my warmest regards,

Gordon Michie, Head of Fundraising & RAF veteran.

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

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Keep in touch with us on social media at the addresses below:
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twitter.com/poppyscotland
[youtube.com/poppyscotland](https://www.youtube.com/poppyscotland)



We're always here for you.

Asking for help can be daunting, but the Armed Forces community living in Scotland are never alone. If you or anyone you know is struggling, please contact Poppyscotland on **0131 550 1557** or GetHelp@poppyscotland.org.uk

When veterans are struggling, you're at their side.

As the cost of essentials continue to spiral, more and more veterans are struggling with poverty and homelessness.

Your amazing generosity makes a genuinely life-changing difference. When our brave veterans find themselves plunged into crisis, you give them the support they need to turn their lives around.

Here's how your gifts have helped to change lives this year:



£683,238

awarded in **Immediate Needs Grants** to help veterans pay for essentials



1,536

urgent enquiries answered



474

individuals supported by our advisers



£39,180

awarded to support essential food and bills



Donald Served in the Falklands, but later struggled with PTSD and became homeless.

Giving £20 could help a veteran like Donald who is struggling to pay their rent.



Please scan the QR code to donate online.

Introducing the new plastic-free Poppy.

Its simple design has stood for generations as an enduring symbol of pride and gratitude for our Armed Forces. Yet over nearly 100 years our beloved Poppy has evolved, and the latest version could be the most exciting yet.

This Remembrance, after years of hard work alongside designers, scientists at University College London and the Royal British Legion, we are delighted to be selling our new plastic-free Poppy.

"We're so proud to unveil our plastic-free Poppy," says Gordon Michie. "Completely recyclable, it will reduce our environmental impact and hopefully encourage more people than ever to take part in this year's Scottish Poppy Appeal."

Same iconic Poppy, only greener!

Made from bespoke red and green paper, the Poppy retains its iconic four petals with black centre embossed with 'Poppy Appeal'. It also looks wonderful pinned or worn in a buttonhole.

Yet with this evolution, Poppyscotland's guarantee remains the same. "The money raised will allow us to provide expert advice and guidance to support the Armed Forces community with mobility, homelessness and mental health issues," says Gordon. So get your Poppy soon!

At a glance



50%
made from
coffee cup waste



40%
reduction in
carbon emissions



100%
recyclable!



Campaigning for equal access to welfare.

Thousands of disadvantaged veterans are missing out on vital welfare support, prompting Poppyscotland and the Royal British Legion to launch the Credit Their Service campaign.

At the moment, some military compensation is classed as income during the means-testing process of various benefit applications. However, this differs for civilian applications where awarded civic compensation is often not taken into account.

We believe that this is unjust and contradicts the commitment made by the UK Government. In 2011 the Armed Forces Covenant was signed

and stated that individuals within the Armed Forces community should not face any disadvantages compared to civilians when accessing public and commercial services.

Our campaign is focused on challenging local and national governments to amend their welfare policies so that veterans can access the same welfare benefits as civilians.

Lend your voice to the campaign at poppyscotland.org.uk/credittheirservice

Three cheers for volunteers.

From the hardy souls who sell Poppies in all weathers to the wonderful people who help to run our fundraising events, volunteers are the lifeblood of Poppyscotland. If you can spare a bit of time and would like to make a difference, please get in touch on 0131 550 1597 or by emailing: volunteer@poppyscotland.org.uk



**"I don't
volunteer to
be thanked, I
do it to make a
difference."**

Look out for the new plastic-free Poppy and make this year's Poppy Appeal the best ever.

Discover more about volunteering at poppyscotland.org.uk/volunteering

Rewarding talented young writers

The winners of our annual schools competition have been revealed! This year, aspiring authors were invited to write a diary entry about how the outbreak of war would impact their lives. The standard of entries was incredible.

Maya Al-Najim, an S3 pupil from The High School of Glasgow, won the secondary school prize. Her "emotive and gripping" diary entry was set in Belgium in 1914.

Maya, Kerry and Kenneth Robertson head of senior school.



Liam and his class teacher.

Liam McNamee, a P7 pupil from Castleview Primary, Edinburgh, won the primary school category, writing from the point of a father struggling to process what the change would mean to his family.

Each of the winners received £500 in vouchers for their school, a class trip to Lady Haig's Poppy Factory and a school visit from Bud.

Bud heads south

Although schools were out, Bud, our travelling museum, kept busy throughout the summer months. In addition to stops at The Royal Highland Show and Truck Fest, Bud travelled down south for the first time to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire.

Visiting the NMA allowed us to exhibit Bud to a new audience. We were lucky to be a part of the Teaching Remembrance two-day educational event which saw over 1,000 young people take part in practical workshops and meet serving personnel to hear their stories and experiences.



To book Bud for a school visit or local event please complete our online booking form: poppyscotland.org.uk/book-bud

Play the Poppyscotland Autumn Raffle and £3,000 could be yours!

It might be getting colder outside, but just imagine the warm glow that winning our £3,000 top prize would give you.

Enter Poppyscotland's Autumn Raffle today and £3,000 could be burning a hole in your pocket very soon. How would you celebrate such a fantastic win?

Perhaps you'd jet off to the sun for a well-deserved holiday? Maybe you'd prefer to spoil friends and loved ones, or treat yourself to a brand-new kitchen or bathroom? However you'd spend £3,000, at just £1 a ticket make sure you're in the draw.

With a £500 second prize and five £100 third prizes, a total of £4,000 is guaranteed to be won. Even more importantly, playing is a brilliant way to raise vital funds to support the Armed Forces community living in Scotland.

So enter today and the £3,000 jackpot could soon be yours!

1ST PRIZE
£3,000
CASH

3RD PRIZE
5x£100
CASH

2ND PRIZE
£500
CASH

JOIN THE
FUN FOR
JUST £1
A TICKET



Every ticket makes a difference to veterans like Kenny.

5 tickets = £5 could help a veteran like Kenny retrain and find work.

10 tickets = £10 could help an injured veteran pay for home adaptations.

12 tickets = £12 could help a veteran like Kenny pay an essential bill.

Cycling for support.

Northern Provincial Grand Lodges, a supporter group of Freemasons from across the North of Scotland, saddled up for a cycling relay fundraiser around the North Coast 500.

Cyclist Jim Beattie said, "As long-term supporters of Poppyscotland, we felt this was a fun way we could raise funds and say thank you to those who make sacrifices every day to keep us safe."

Hitting the road during weekends throughout May the Northern Provincial Grand Lodges raised over £4,900, smashing their target by nearly 1,000%!



If you feel inspired to undertake your own challenge, get in touch with your local fundraiser at fundrasieforum@poppyscotland.org.uk or call 0131 557 2782.

Flying Fifers conquer the Three Peaks.

A pillar of the Poppyscotland fundraising community, the Flying Fifers were back at it with one of their toughest challenges to date.

Sandy, Joel, Jamie and John took on the National Three Peaks Challenge with a twist – cycling the 434 mile distance between each climb! Cheered on by avid supporters Poppi Black, Norrie Duffin and Bonnie Redpath, the Fifers have raised £12,374 through this amazing challenge.

Keeping in touch

We value your support and would like to keep you informed of our work – if you would prefer not to receive our newsletter please contact us on **0131 550 1567**, or let us know your contact preferences at poppyscotland.org.uk/keepintouch