

POPPY

STORIES

poppy 
scotland

Summer 2024

**Keeping the
memory of
D-Day alive.**

Helping
veterans with
dementia live.

Sgt. Ian Forsyth.
1923 – 2021

**Robert's retirement
reward.**
Page 4

**A poignant
fundraiser.**
Page 5

**Ride of
respect.**
Page 8

**Play the £3,000
Poppyscotland Raffle** 
Page 11



Welcome to your new edition of *Poppy Stories*.

Remembering the past is a huge part of honouring the Armed Forces community, and this year's 80th anniversary of D-Day is sure to be a poignant occasion. I would encourage you to watch the first hand accounts of the Normandy landings that form part of our Veteran's Voices project.

Read more about the project and discover how our Admiral Nurse is supporting veterans with dementia on pages 6 and 7. On page 8 you can read about a special fundraiser inspired by a fallen relative, and on page 10 you will find details of Heritage Tours at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory.

Finally, on 6th June itself, you may also wish to join us and Legion Scotland for a special commemorative concert: Scotland's Salute: A Tribute To D-Day 80, taking place at Edinburgh's illustrious Usher Hall.

With veterans' eye-witness accounts and music from His Majesty's Royal Marine Band, it's sure to be a very moving occasion. For more details and to book tickets, please contact the Usher Hall Box Office on **0131 228 1155** or visit **poppyscotland.org.uk/salute**.

It's because of the sacrifices of the past that Poppyscotland is so determined to keep our promise to always be there for those who Serve. It's a promise we can only keep with you. So once again, thank you for all of your support.

With my warmest regards,

Gordon Michie,
Head of Fundraising and Learning,
Poppyscotland & RAF veteran

Meet the makers: tour the Lady Haig Poppy Factory to meet the veterans who proudly make Scottish poppies. See page 10.



"Hello, it's Poppyscotland. How can we help?"

For a proud veteran, it can be daunting to call for help when your life has been plunged into crisis. Thanks to your support, Poppyscotland's dedicated Case Officers are more than a friendly voice at the end of the phone.

They are able to arrange immediate support, tailored to a veteran's often complex and unique needs. It's the least our ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen deserve, especially during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Last year, Poppyscotland's Cost-Of-Living programme supported veterans who were struggling to meet the cost of everyday essentials. **654 Cost-Of-Living Grants were awarded**, which is almost two a day, the highest of all areas of the UK.

In fact, we awarded more than **£1,200 every day** last year, helping members of Scotland's Armed Forces community cover rising energy, rent and food bills. Today, our Immediate Needs Grants are helping veterans to cope with a similar variety of welfare needs.

Thank you for helping us to answer that call for help and keep our promise to always be there for those who Serve our country.

"Thankfully Poppyscotland helps soldiers like me, providing curtains, carpets, a washing machine, and even clothes."

Poppyscotland beneficiary

Names have been changed and models used to protect the privacy of veterans and their families.

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**





Robert meets HRH Princess Anne.

A royal thank you!

After 18 years as Poppy Appeal Organiser in the West, Robert McRae is finally hanging up his collection tins. Having helped to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds, he heads into retirement with our heartfelt thanks and an endorsement from His Majesty The King!

guile to the role, Robert revolutionised many aspects of the Poppy Appeal. He encouraged new fundraising activities in supermarkets and forged strong relationships with both cadets and rotary clubs.

"What's important is that I've made a difference," he says. "All that I truly care about is that I have managed to raise more money to help Scotland's Armed Forces community. After all else is said, that is the one thing that matters."

Robert proudly receiving money raised by ScotRail

A poignant fundraiser.

There are many reasons people choose to fundraise for Poppyscotland. Highbank Care Home's residents and staff launched a series of fundraising challenges to raise money to honour the memory of Steve Simpson (top right), a beloved member of staff, a Scots Guards veteran and dedicated Poppyscotland volunteer.

Tea, cake and... pipes!

The fundraising culminated in a spectacular afternoon tea with Steve's wife, Moira Simpson, and his father as guests of honour. In addition to a mouth-watering spread of sandwiches, cakes and scones, Steve's father performed with members of his pipe band.

It was a poignant finale, underscoring the deep connection between the care home, Steve's family and the broader community. Highbank raised £1,000 towards Poppyscotland's work supporting veterans and their families in times of need.



Scottish Poppy Appeal needs you.

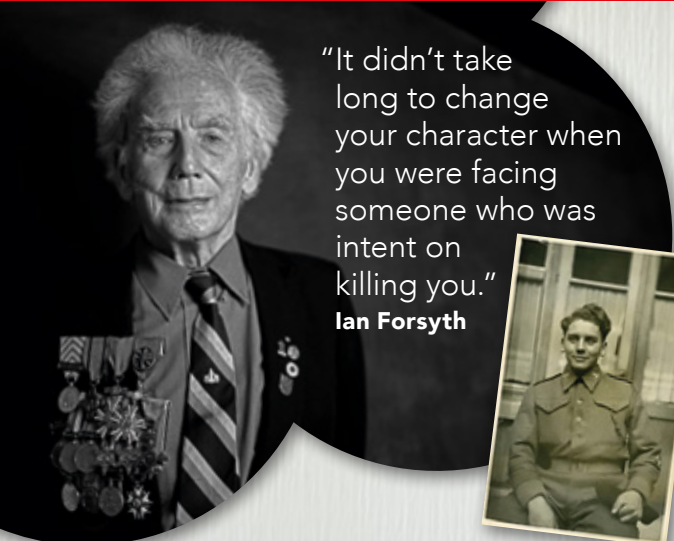
Poppyscotland's mission is to be there for Scotland's Armed Forces community for as long as they need our help. This ambition is only achievable thanks to our amazing volunteers.

Whether you're an individual, community group, church, or business, we need you to join the Poppy family. If you could organise a Scottish Poppy Appeal, supermarket collection in your community or just have a few hours to spare in October or November, please contact Poppyscotland at volunteer@poppyscotland.org.uk or **0131 550 1597**.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Poppyscotland.

To get involved visit poppyscotland.org.uk/volunteering

Keeping the memory of D-Day alive.



"It didn't take long to change your character when you were facing someone who was intent on killing you."

Ian Forsyth



As the 80th anniversary of D-Day approaches, fewer veterans are around to tell their stories.

Our Veteran's Voices project is preserving the memories of those who Served so that future generations can learn from their experiences.

Ian Forsyth is one such veteran. He sadly passed away in 2021, but with the kind permission of his family we are able to keep his memories of D-Day alive. "We landed at Gold Beach and took part in the Battle of Normandy," he says. "Boys have a habit of romanticising quite a bit. Just to be in uniform was your big aim. But it wasn't long before you realised this was a life-or-death struggle."



"We swept in ahead of the American landings, clearing mines under fire."

Charles Horne, now aged 99, was at Omaha Beach. "It was pandemonium," he recalls. "When you looked around about you there were hundreds of ships and all that gunfire. There was nobody picking up bodies for two or three days."

Supporting veterans as they age.

As well as collecting and preserving these important stories, it's vital we keep our promise to be there for veterans as they age. In addition to the physical support older veterans often need, the risk of dementia increases which can have a devastating impact on a veteran's whole family.

£30 could fund an hour of support from an Admiral Nurse.

Helping veterans with dementia to live.

That's why Poppyscotland teamed up with the Royal British Legion and Dementia UK to employ a specialist Admiral Nurse for Scotland. These experienced Nurses provide personalised support, both face-to-face and over the phone, for veterans living with dementia, their family and carers.

For example, dementia often affects a person's memory, ability to solve problems and hold conversations, leading to them becoming withdrawn and isolated. Admiral Nurse is able to draw on their wealth of expertise to offer practical solutions so a veteran continues to live a sociable, fulfilling life with as much independence as possible.

Help us provide the support aging veterans deserve.

Our Admiral Nurse is working at full capacity, and with almost half of the veteran population over 75, the work of these amazing Nurses will become even more vital over the coming years.

If you are able to send a donation today, you can help Poppyscotland fund more Nurses to support our veterans with dementia.

Admiral Nurses Factfile.

- Admiral Nurses provide support from diagnosis to end of life.
- A typical caseload for an Admiral Nurse is 40 families.
- Our Admiral Nurse in Scotland is at capacity. Your support could help employ more Nurses to reach more veterans in need.

Scan to donate



Nicky Addison, an Admiral Nurse and a veteran living with dementia



Explore our Veteran's Voices project at poppyscotland.org.uk/veteransvoices

Learn more about Admiral Nurses at poppyscotland.org.uk/admiral-nurses



Ride of respect.

150 cyclists honoured the fallen of yesteryear while raising money to support today's veterans on the fourth Moray Poppy Annual Ride, held last Remembrance.

The brainchild of Merv and Lindsey Stanley who wanted to combine their love of cycling with fundraising, the 64-mile ride is inspired by Merv's grandfather George Cordiner.

A Seaforth Highlander, George died from injuries sustained at Dunkirk. His name is proudly recorded on the war memorial at Lossiemouth, the last of 11 memorials the riders stopped at, providing a timely reminder of the sacrifices of previous generations.

Full speed ahead.

The Poppy peloton set off from Elgin and finished in Lossiemouth, with a crucial rehydration stop at Kinloss Barracks hosted by 39 Engineer Regiment. After cycling down the main runway, Poppy-themed tea and cakes were served courtesy of MacLeans Highland Bakery.



A huge thank you to everybody who saddled up for this special ride, paid tribute to a fallen generation and raised a fantastic £4,050 for veterans living in Scotland.



Merv's grandparents George and Jean Cordiner, taken the day before George left for Dunkirk.

POPPY CLUB

POPPYSCOTLAND
- EST 1921 -

Supporting veterans 365 days a year.

While Remembrance is the focus of many people's support of our Armed Forces, crisis can strike a veteran at any time of year. Our popular Poppy Club is a way of ensuring Poppyscotland can support veterans whenever they reach out for help.

A very special way of caring.

Membership of this special group starts at just £8 a month. By joining, supporters know they are offering life-changing support to veterans and Forces families day by day, week by week, for as long as it takes to enjoy the happy, stable life they deserve.

What's more, each Poppy Club member receives an exclusive Poppy pin badge, certificate of support, invites to Poppy Club events and much more.

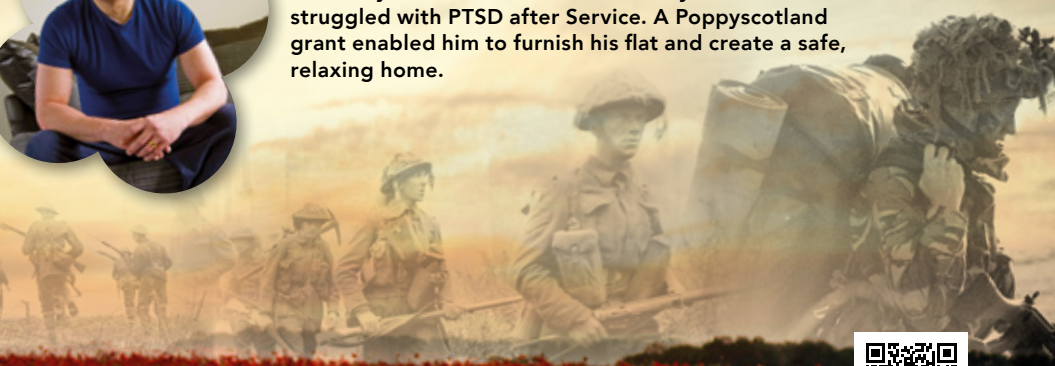


Poppy Club members enjoy lots of exclusive benefits.



A small donation each month ensures Poppyscotland are always there for veterans like Terry, who struggled with PTSD after Service. A Poppyscotland grant enabled him to furnish his flat and create a safe, relaxing home.

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The Poppyscotland Sportive returns on 22nd September.
Budding cyclists can register at poppyscotland.org.uk/sportive

Discover more about this special way of supporting at
poppyscotland.org.uk/poppy-club



Bud's busy year.

Our interactive micro-museum, Bud, enjoyed another stellar 12 months last year. Bud's busy schedule included visiting 85 schools, a number of youth groups and community events, giving 14,300 people the opportunity to discover veterans' stories and the Poppy's inspiring heritage.

Back on the road.

This year Bud will continue to spread Poppyscotland's message around the country, with stops already scheduled for Argyll and Bute, Borders and Perthshire. We also hope Bud's sea legs are up to scratch as we plan to visit Jura and Islay for the first time.

Enquire about a visit from Bud at poppyscotland.org.uk/bud



Discover the Poppy's past and present.

Join us for a free Heritage Tour of Lady Haig's Poppy Factory and discover the history of this iconic flower, learn about Poppy makers of the past and meet some of the veterans crafting today's Remembrance symbols.

After extensive refurbishment, the factory was reopened by HRH Princess Anne last year with new exhibits. It has since welcomed over 3,000 visitors, so if you haven't visited since the reopening, now is a great time.

"Thanks to Davy for an entertaining and informative tour."



Book your free Factory tour at poppyscotland.org.uk/factorytours

Play the Poppyscotland Summer Raffle and you could scoop £3,000!

What would make those long summer days even more inviting? How about £3,000 cash to spend however you wish?

A fantastic holiday abroad, new smart phone or meal out – if you're a winner in Poppyscotland's Summer Raffle, you can splash the cash any way you fancy.

Putting the 'fun' into fundraising.

Our raffles are great fun to play, and every ticket sold raises vital money to support the Armed Forces community living in Scotland.

Costing just £1 a ticket and with £4,000 in prizes guaranteed to be won, what are you waiting for?

"Did not expect to win, it was a great surprise. Thank you!"

Mr McKay from Falkirk, won £20 in our Summer 2023 raffle.



Don't miss out!

Call **0131 550 1567**, scan the QR code or visit **poppyscotland.org.uk/poppy-raffle** before 28th June 2024 to get your tickets.



Playing today makes a difference to veterans like Stewart.

Stewart's family received a home adaptation grant from Poppyscotland so they could care for their daughter Maisie, who was born with a disability.

5 tickets = £5 could help to fund home adaptations so a family can live a fulfilling life together.

10 tickets = £10 could help to support a Forces family who are working as full-time carers.

12 tickets = £12 could go towards specialist mobility aids for a veteran or their family.



Taking fundraising sky high.

Following last year's white-knuckle success, we are delighted to once again bring you the chance to experience Glasgow's skyline like never before and zip slide 1,000ft across the River Clyde.

Our thrilling Clyde Zip Slide launches again this year, on Sunday 8th September from a 100ft high crane by the stunning Riverside Museum.

Places for this amazing adventure are limited, so sign up today and help us beat the £30,000 raised last year.

Secure your Zip Slide spot at poppyscotland.org.uk/clyde-zip-slide



Excitement builds before the big moment!

"It's important to support Poppyscotland because of the work they do to support both current and former members of our Armed Forces who have sacrificed so much for our country. It's only fair that we do all that we can do to support them."
Adam Louttit, zip slider who raised £850

Other dates for your diary.

Edinburgh 10K

Starting on the Royal Mile and finishing at BT Murrayfield Stadium, this stunning route is one to remember.
22nd September



Poppyscotland Sportive

With 3 routes to choose from, saddle up for a bike ride around the gorgeous Scottish Borders. Prestonpans, 22nd September

Find out about all our exciting fundraising events at poppyscotland.org.uk/things-to-do

Kiltwalk

Choose between two distances - The Big Stroll or The Wee Wander in our popular fundraiser. Dundee, 11th August and Edinburgh, 15th September



Zip Trek and Gorge Challenge

Enjoy an action-packed day of adventure in the magnificent Cairngorms. Aviemore, 11th September

Keeping in touch

We value your support and would like to keep you informed of our work – if you would like to update your contact preferences, or prefer not to receive our newsletter, please contact us on **0131 550 1567**, or email enquiries@poppyscotland.org.uk