A Continuing Need

The Army Benevolent Fund whose patron is Her Majesty The Queen, is the Army’s Central Charity. It provides financial help, in conjunction with Regiments and Corps, to anyone who is serving or has served in the British Army and their families. It also provides practical help by donating to some 70 charities which meet the special needs of soldiers, ex-soldiers and their dependents.

There are countless veterans and widows of both World Wars who continue to need the help of the Army Benevolent Fund. All of them are getting older and need more care. In addition there are the many casualties from the operations in which the Army has been involved since 1945 - The Falklands, the Gulf, Northern Ireland and Bosnia are examples. All these soldiers, whether serving or retired and their families continue to need our help.

By buying this guide book, YOU have helped to contribute to this worthwhile Charity. The profits from the sale will go straight to The Army Benevolent Fund. The money will be used wisely and in direct support of those who need help today.

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION

Changing the Guard is one of the most colourful ceremonies you are ever likely to see. The responsibility of guarding the Sovereign by the Household Troops (as they were known at the time) dates back to the time of Henry VII (1485-1509). Changing the Guard is not just a ceremony, it is also a tradition that the most highly trained soldiers guard the King or Queen.

These are some of the best soldiers in the British Army and have fought in virtually every major area of conflict with great distinction since the 17th Century. They also take an active role in protecting their Sovereign; at night they patrol the grounds of both Buckingham Palace and St. James’s Palace.

It is an honour and a privilege to introduce you to a part of Great Britain’s grand heritage. We hope you enjoy Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and all it represents. If you are interested in learning more we recommend you visit both The Guards Museum and the Household Cavalry Museum (see pages 28 & 29). For a limited time each summer Buckingham Palace is open to the public and is well worth visiting.
The Household Division

Soldiers of the Household Division are renowned for the efficiency with which they carry out ceremonial duties. Yet, while upholding the traditions of the past, the Household Division has mastered the skills of modern soldiering and is equally at home driving tanks, armoured cars or parachuting. These men, resplendent in their uniforms, mounting Queen’s Guard or Trooping the Colour in disciplined ranks, are the same men who perform operational duties worldwide.

The Household Division is made up of seven Regiments. These comprise: The Household Cavalry Regiment - The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals; and five Regiments of Foot Guards - The Grenadier Guards, The Coldstream Guards, The Scots Guards, The Irish Guards and The Welsh Guards. As soldiers they are second to none, respected throughout the world for their self-discipline, smartness and reliability.
The Grenadier Guards

As the First Regiment of Foot Guards, the Regiment was formed at Bruges by King Charles II in 1656 whilst the King was in exile in Flanders. The Regiment’s action in defeating the ‘grenadiers’ of the French Imperial Guard at the battle of Waterloo in 1815 was commemorated by the award of the title, Grenadiers, and the Regiment is to this day known as the First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards.

The Grenadier Guards, being the senior Regiment of the Foot Guards, historically take the right of the line in battle. They are identified by a white plume on the left hand side of their bearskin cap and the buttons of their red tunics are evenly spaced.

The Coldstream Guards

The Coldstream Guards were formed in 1660. Originally they were a Regiment from Cromwell’s New Model Army, commanded by General Monck. The Regiment’s name comes from the little town of Coldstream on the Scottish border from where General Monck and his men marched on London on 1st January 1660 with the intention of restoring the Monarchy.

The Regiment is recognised as being one of the oldest of our existing national Regiments. It has been awarded 117 Battle Honours and 13 of it’s members have been awarded the Victoria Cross and one George Cross.

The Coldstream Guards, who historically take the left of the line in battle, are identified by a red plume on the right of their bearskin cap and the buttons on their red tunics are spaced in pairs.
The Scots Guards were formed in 1642 by Charles I as his personal bodyguard in Scotland and were then sent for service in Ireland. In 1642 a cousin of the Royal Household was appointed as first Colonel of the Regiment although The Sovereign has always been their Colonel-in-Chief since Edward VII’s time. It has since been a tradition that a Royal Prince holds the appointment of Colonel of the Regiment. His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent presently holds that title.

They have a Corps of Drums and Pipes and Drums (the Pipes being Bagpipes). The Regiment historically take the centre of the line of battle and are identified by having no plume on their bearskin cap and the buttons on their red tunic are spaced in threes.

The Irish Guards, or ‘Micks’ as they are affectionately known, were formed in 1900 by Queen Victoria, to commemorate the bravery of the many Irish Regiments who fought in the South African War. They have a Corps of Drums and Pipes and Drums (the Pipes being Bagpipes).

In a tradition dating back to 1901, every year on St. Patrick’s Day, a shamrock is presented to each Guardsman by a member of the Royal Family. This is currently carried out by HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. A unique feature of The Irish Guards, is that they are the only Regiment in the Household Division to have a mascot: an Irish Wolfhound.

The Regiment is identified by a St. Patrick’s blue plume on the right hand side of their bearskin cap and the buttons on their red tunics are spaced in fours.
The Household Cavalry consists of two Regiments: The Household Cavalry Regiment and The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. The first being the service Regiment, the latter, the ceremonial Regiment. Each Regiment has two squadrons, a Life Guards and a Blues and Royals squadron. They are the two most senior Regiments in the British Army, The Life Guards being the most senior of the two.

The Household Cavalry differs from most Regiments by alternating between traditional mounted soldiering and contemporary armoured warfare. In other words when on active duty, as opposed to ceremonial duty, the horse is replaced by an armoured vehicle, for example a tank.
The Regiment was formed in 1969 and is descended from two Regiments, The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) and The Royal Dragoons.

The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), raised by Cromwell in 1652, has seen a great deal of action during its history. The Regiment served during the Peninsula Campaign and formed part of The Household Cavalry Brigade at Waterloo. The Duke of Wellington served as Colonel from 1813-1827, during which time (1820) the Regiment was elevated to become part of the Household Cavalry.

The Royal Dragoons trace their origins to the time of Charles II, at which time they formed part of the garrison in Tangiers, known as The Tangier Horse. The Regiment became Dragoons in 1683. They have many battle honours, in particular the Battle of Waterloo, where they performed with distinction by capturing the Napoleonic Eagle of the French 105th Infantry Regiment. The Regiment’s cypher commemorates this event.

The Blues and Royals wear blue tunics and metal helmets with red plumes. They always ride black horses except the Trumpeters who ride greys. During poor weather they may wear a long blue cloak with a red collar.

Although not the oldest, The Life Guards is the most senior Regiment of the British Army. They were formed by Prince Charles (later King Charles II) from loyal followers who travelled with him to Holland, when he was exiled at the end of the Civil War. As in Charles II’s time, today the principle functions still remain: to guard and protect the Sovereign.

The Life Guards first saw action at the Battle of Maastricht in 1672. From this date The Life Guards have gained many battle honours, the first in Dettingen, followed by many more including Waterloo, Marne, Brussels and El Alamein. Most of the Regiment was deployed in the Gulf War and has recently served with the UN in Bosnia.

The Life Guards wear scarlet tunics and metal helmets with white plumes. They always ride black horses except the Trumpeters who ride greys. During bad weather they may wear a long red cloak with a blue collar.

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## Identifying the Regiments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>The Life Guards</th>
<th>The Blues &amp; Royals</th>
<th>The Grenadier Guards</th>
<th>The Coldstream Guards</th>
<th>The Scots Guards</th>
<th>The Irish Guards</th>
<th>The Welsh Guards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plume</td>
<td>White on helmet</td>
<td>red on helmet</td>
<td>White worn on the left</td>
<td>Red - worn on the right</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Blue worn on the right</td>
<td>White/Green/White worn on the left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttons</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Threes</td>
<td>Four</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collar Badge</td>
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<td>None</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Thistle</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder Badge</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Star of the Order of the Thistle</td>
<td>Star of the Order of St. Patrick</td>
<td>Star of the Order of St. Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunic</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head wear</td>
<td>Metal helmet</td>
<td>Metal helmet</td>
<td>Bearskin cap</td>
<td>Bearskin cap</td>
<td>Bearskin cap</td>
<td>Bearskin cap</td>
<td>Bearskin cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armour</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>Dark colour</td>
<td>Dark colour</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapon</td>
<td>Sword</td>
<td>Sword</td>
<td>Rifle</td>
<td>Rifle</td>
<td>Rifle</td>
<td>Rifle</td>
<td>Rifle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changing the Guard

Changing the Guard is a ceremony where the soldiers who have been mounting the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace (the 'Old Guard') are relieved by the 'New Guard'. When the Sovereign is in residence the Guard will consist of 3 officers and 40 men. Otherwise it will consist of 3 officers and 31 men. If the flag above the Palace is flying, the Queen is 'at home'. The Queen's Guard is divided into two detachments. One detachment is responsible for Buckingham Palace and the other is responsible for St. James's Palace (the official residence of HRH Prince of Wales).

11.00am A detachment of the 'Old Guard' parades at St. James's Palace and is inspected by the Captain of the Guard, ready to march to Buckingham Palace for the ceremony.

11.00am The main detachment of the 'Old Guard' parades in front of Buckingham Palace and is also inspected.

11.15am The St. James's Palace detachment of the 'Old Guard' marches to Buckingham Palace.

11.30am The 'New Guard' arrives at Buckingham Palace through the right hand gates led by a Regimental Band and Corps of Drums, having come from Wellington Barracks, their base. The 'New Guard' will halt facing the 'Old Guard'. The Officers at Buckingham Palace salute the Captain on Parade with their swords, before proceeding to the Guard Room where the keys to Buckingham Palace will be symbolically handed over. The Band will then play a selection of music, allowing the 'Old Guard' sentries to be replaced by the 'New Guard' sentries.

12.05pm The 'Old Guard' leaves Buckingham Palace led by the Band, departing through the centre gates and returning to Wellington Barracks (the home of the Guards Museum) where they 'Fall Out' in front of their impressive barracks.

The 'New Guard', henceforth known as The Queen's Guard, split into two. One marches to St. James's Palace where they 'Fall Out'.

*Falling Out is a military term for being dismissed from duty.
PARADES OF THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY & THE HOUSEHOLD DIVISION

10.30 Corps of Drums Depart Wellington Barracks
10.45 Household Cavalry Ride By
11.13 Old Guard Depart St. James’s Palace
11.27 New Guard Depart Wellington Barracks
11.35 Household Cavalry Ride By
11.40 New Guard Depart Buckingham Palace
11.55 Old Guard Depart Stable Yard
12.10 Old Guard Depart Buckingham Palace
12.15 New Guard Depart Buckingham Palace
12.30 Corps of Drums Depart St. James’s Palace

Best view for photography
Parade start time
Parade finish time

Please note that times may vary. Not to scale - for illustrative purposes only.
Other Ceremonials

11.00am Changing the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards Parade

The mounted Regiments change The Queen's Life Guard at the entrance to Horse Guards, daily at 11.00am (10.00am on Sundays only). There are two types of Queen's Life Guard. A Long Guard consisting of 17 men is mounted when The Queen is resident in London, otherwise a Short Guard made up of 12 men is mounted.

11.00am The Changing the Guard at Windsor Castle

Very similar to The Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace, the Battalion of Foot Guards stationed at Windsor provide the daily Guard. For further information please call on 09064 123411. The parade takes place on alternate days from mid August to early April.

10.00pm The Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London

For over 700 years, the Tower has been locked every night and no one allowed in or out without the password. Today this ceremony still takes place at 7 minutes to ten each night, when the Chief Yeoman Warder, escorted by the military Guard, marches from the Byward Tower to lock the heavy wooden gates to the fortress.

Beating Retreat

The Household Division Massed Bands undertake Beating Retreat in early June. There are only 2 performances that take place at 6.30pm on Horse Guards Parade.

Trooping the Colour or the Queen’s Birthday Parade.

On the Sovereign’s official birthday, a day chosen in June, Horse Guards Parade turns into one of the greatest spectacles in the British Calendar of events.

The State Opening of Parliament

Her Majesty The Queen opens the start of the parliamentary year.

The Lords Mayor’s procession

A very colourful and musical spectacle, comprising of floats, bands and ceremonial parades.
PAGEANTRY TALES

Music played during the ceremony has always been a mixture of traditional and popular music of the day. It is said that on one occasion, in 1920, the Band was playing a piece from a popular Operetta when a footman arrived with a message from King George V, addressed to the Director of Music. He excitedly read the note from his King only to find it said: ‘His Majesty does not know what the band has just played, but it is never to be played again’!

The Bearskin Caps were introduced into military use in the 18th Century to make the soldiers look taller and therefore more frightening to their enemy. They were adapted for ceremonial use, by the three Regiments of Foot Guards in 1832 and have been used ever since. Some of the Bearskin Caps worn today date back to the 19th Century.

During Queen Victoria’s reign she returned to the palace one afternoon via Horse Guards (the official entrance to Buckingham Palace) and found her Life Guard drunk on duty! The Queen was not amused. She decreed: From that day for 100 years every day there should be an inspection to ensure this never happens again. 100 years has now passed but even today you can see this inspection at 4 o’clock.

Animals are often retained as mascots by many Regiments of the British Army and the Guards are no exception. Today, The Irish Guards have Cuchulain, an Irish Wolfhound, occasionally seen leading them on Parade. They are the only Guards regiment to have a mascot although other Regiments have had them in the past.

In the 18th Century as well as Guarding the Monarch, the Guards protected those who lived in the City of London, acting as Police and Fire Fighters and standing sentry at the Bank of England and some of the larger theatres.

The Household Division on Active Duty: The discipline, training and high standards that make a British Soldier are particularly evident in the Household Division. The Household Division is not just an intricate part of Britain's Heritage, they are a vital part of Britain’s modern army, having seen action in the Falklands, Cyprus, Egypt and recently as part of the United Nations peace keeping force in Bosnia and Croatia. The Household Division’s ceremonial wear is changed for modern camouflage, their horses exchanged for tanks and their swords updated by highly sophisticated weaponry. All leading to a highly skilled and experienced British Soldier.
The Household Cavalry Museum collection relates to The Life Guards, Horse Grenadiers Guards, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) and The Blues and Royals. The collection covers over 300 years of history from the Sovereign’s mounted bodyguard.

The Guards Museum collection relates to the five Regiments of Her Majesty’s Foot Guards, The Grenadiers, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards. The collection covers over 300 years of history, starting with the Scots Guards who trace their origins to 1642 and leads to present day activities with the UN force in Bosnia.

The Guards Museum

Guardsmen have fought in all major campaigns of the British Army (except India). Battle Honours proudly born on The Colours range from Tangiers 1680 to the Gulf War 1991. However, no battle honour is more famous than Waterloo where on 18th June 1815 the Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon. The Guards Museum presents the weapons, colours, trophies and personal belongings of these brave men and recreates many dramatic moments of History in which Guardsmen have taken part.

The Guards Museum is based at Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, close to Buckingham Palace. Open from 10.00am until 4.00pm, daily including weekends and bank holidays. Closed for Christmas and some ceremonial days. For information call (020) 7414 6371.

The Household Cavalry Museum

The collection contains uniforms, weapons, Standards (flags), Regimental Medals from the 17th Century and includes two silver kettledrums presented to the 2nd Life Guards by William IV, dated 1831 and said to be priceless! It also houses personal gifts from the monarch; documents signed by Charles II and James II; and private letters, journals and war diaries.

The Household Cavalry Museum is based at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, a short drive away from Windsor Castle, where there is a Changing of the Guard ceremony at 11.30 am that is well worth attending (see pages 22 & 23). For more information and opening times contact 01753 75204/751112.
Die Wachablösung am Buckingham-Palast


Es gibt hier an jedem Palast eine eigene Zeremonie. Die große Wachablösung findet jedoch am Buckingham-Palast statt.

11:00h Die JP-Abteilung zieht vor dem St. James’s-Palast auf und wird vom Wachhauptmann inspiriert.

11:00h Die BP-Abteilung steht vor dem buckingham-Palast auf und wird ebenfalls inspiriert.


Beide Abteilungen stehen dann bereit und erwarten den Ankunft der neuen Wache (New Guard).

11:30h Nachdem die New Guard von ihrer Kaserne, dem Wellington Barracks, abmarschiert ist, erreicht sie den Buckingham-Palast durch das rechte Tor, angeführt von einer Militärkapelle und einem Trommlerkorps. Die New Guard nimmt deralten Wache (Old Guard) gegenüber Stellung am militärischen Grab. Die Offiziere des Buckingham-Palasts salutieren dem Paradehauptmann mit dem Schwert, bevor sie sich in den Wachraum (Guard Room) begeben, wo die Old Guard der New Guard den symbolischen Schlüssel des Buckingham-Palats übergibt. Die Kapelle spielt daraufhin eine Munkauszahl, währenddessen die Wachsoldaten der Old Guard gegen die der New Guard angetanzt werden. Die Wachhauptmänner begeben sich dann in den Palast, um ihre Tagspflichten auszuführen. Die Munkauszahl der Kapelle wird traditionell vom Senior Officer der Old Guard getroffen.

11:00

Tiene lugar el desfile del Destacamento de la Guardia en el Palacio de St. James, al cual pasa revista el Capitán de la Guardia.

11:00

El Destacamento de PB desfila delante del Palacio de Buckingham, al cual también se pasa revista.

11:15

El Destacamento PJ marcha partiendo del Palacio de St. James hasta el de Buckingham, incorporándose al Destacamento del PB, que ya se despliega. Los dos destacamentos esperan la llegada de la Nueva Guardia Real.

11:30

La Nueva Guardia llega al Palacio de Buckingham por la entrada de la derecha, escoltada por la Banda del Regimiento y el Cuerpo de los Tambores, los cuales llegan de los barracones de Wellington, que es su base. La Nueva Guardia se detiene justo delante de la Vieja Guardia para que las dos se saluden. Los oficiales del Palacio de Buckingham saldan al Capitán del destilón con sus espadas, antes de pasar al Salón de la Guardia, en donde la Vieja Guardia entrega de forma simbólica las llaves del Palacio de Buckingham a la Nueva Guardia.

A continuación la Banda toca una selección de piezas musicales, tiempo durante el cual los centinelas de la Vieja Guardia se inclinan en señal de respeto hacia las guardias.

12:05

La Vieja Guardia deja el Palacio de Buckingham con la Banda a la cabeza, saliendo por la entrada central y volviendo a los Barracones de Wellington. La Nueva Guardia, conocida a partir de este momento como la Guardia de la Reina, se divide en dos destacamentos. El Destacamento JP marcha hacia el Palacio de St. James, mientras que el de PB se dirige al Palacio de Buckingham. Entonces la Vieja Guardia y la Banda vuelven a los Barracones de Wellington (a unos 200 metros del Palacio de Buckingham). De nuevo realizan la corta ceremonia delante de los impresionantes barracones. Es aquí donde rompen filas y quedan formalmente dispensados de sus funciones.

El cuerpo de la Guardia lo componen dos Destacamentos. Uno se encarga del Palacio de Buckingham (PB) y el otro del Palacio de St. James (PJ). Es por ello que existe una ceremonia distintiva en cada palacio. El cambio principal de la Guardia se puede contemplar en la parte delantera del Palacio de Buckingham.

11:00

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Helpful Telephone Numbers

Changing the Guard
Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace takes place every day at 11.30am from April to early August. From August to March it happens every other day at 11.30am. If it is wet the ceremony will not take place. For further information call 09064 123411.

Changing the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards Parade
For further information please call 09064 123411.

The 4 o'clock Parade
For further information please call 09064 123411.

The Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London
Giving one month's notice, free tickets can be applied for by writing to: The Ceremony of the Keys, Waterloo Block, HM Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB.

Beating Retreat
Tickets can be applied for in writing with 3 months' advance notice from: The Treasurer, Household Division Funds, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX, or call (020) 7414 2271.

Trooping the Colour of the Queen's Birthday Parade
All details on 09064 123413. Tickets can be applied for in writing with 3 months' advance notice from: The Brigadier Major, Household Division, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX.

The State Opening of Parliament
For further information please call 09064 123413.

The Lord Mayor's Show
For further information please call 09064 123413.

Helpful Hints

To avoid disappointment, please use the telephone numbers (opposite page) to confirm timings.

Please note that during bad weather the route changes to accommodate the Wet Guard. In particularly bad weather the ceremony might even be cancelled.

Changing the Guard is not exclusively undertaken by the Guards Regiments. From time to time other units are given the honour of providing the Queen's Guard, particularly during the month of August.

Food and beverages are available in St. James's Park, please use the Royal Parks' licensed vendors.

For your own safety and the safety of others please cross only at marked crossing points.

You are in a Public place, so please take care of your belongings and note that it is easy for families and groups to get separated.

The Police are in attendance both for your safety and to protect the Guards, please follow their instructions.
S

oldiers of the Household
Division are renowned for
the unique proficiency
with which they carry out
ceremonial duties. Yet, while
upholding the traditions of the
past, the Household Division has
mastered the skill of modern
soldiering with confidence, and
their soldiers are equally at
home in tanks, armoured cars
or parachuting. Those men,
whom you see resplendent in
their uniforms mounting guard
or Tropping the Colour in
disciplined ranks, are the same
men who, in combat clothing,
discharge operational duties
worldwide.

The Household Division is made
up of seven Regiments,
comprising the Household
Cavalry Regiment (The Life
Guards and The Blues and
Royals) and five Regiments of
Foot Guards (Grenadier,
Coldstream, Scots, Irish and
Welsh). As soldiers they are
second to none and throughout
the world they are respected for
their self-discipline, smartness
and reliability.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

They’re changing guard at Buckingham Palace -
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
Alice is marrying one of the guard.
“A soldier’s life is terrible hard”
Says Alice.

They’re changing guard at Buckingham Palace -
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
We saw a guard in a sentry-box.
“One of the sergeants looks after their socks,”
Says Alice.

They’re changing guard at Buckingham Palace -
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
They’ve great big parties inside the grounds.
“I wouldn’t be King for a hundred pounds,”
Says Alice.

They’re changing guard at Buckingham Palace -
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
A face looked out, but it wasn’t the King’s.
“He’s much too busy assigning things,”
Says Alice.

They’re changing guard at Buckingham Palace -
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
“Do you think the King knows all about me?”
“Sure to, dear, but it’s time for tea”
Says Alice.