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Thursday

In Memoriam

ELTRINGHAM

Mike, who died 13th October 2008. Beloved Husband, Dad, Father-in-law and Gags. To be with you in the same old way would be our dearest wish today, miss you. Family and family.

FELTON

Mike, who died 13th October 2008. A very much loved husband, dad and grandad, so sadly missed. Sheila, Jannette, Denise and families.

Gentle Jesus up above please give grandad all our love, Kayden, and Ebony.

TURNER

Douglas, Passed away 15th October 2007. In loving memory of Douglas, much loved husband of Heather, wonderful dad to Andrea and Alistair, dear son of the late Bill and Vera. We hold you close within our hearts, and there you shall remain, to walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again. Greatly missed by us, and by his whole family and many friends.

TURNER

Vera, Passed away 3rd September 2009. Loving mother to Douglas and Kenneth, mother-in-law, grandma, sister-in-law and good friend to many. Very sadly missed.

WALKER

In loving memory of a very special husband, dad and granda, William Walker (Jock), who died 13th October 2003. Loved and remembered every day. From family and close friends. Always forever Eithel.

Thanks For Sympathy

SHED

The family of the late Joy Shed would like to thank family and friends for all their support during this sad time. Special thanks to the staff at the Knoll Hospital, Duns for their care and attention and to her friends and the staff at the Loaming, Charities for their friendship over the past 17 years. Thanks also to the Rev. Murray for his comforting service and John Hush for his funeral arrangements. £300 collected at the Church has been donated to Marie Curie.

THOMPSON

Thelma would like to thank neighbours and friends for their support and messages of sympathy, following the death of her husband Peter. Also thanks to Cannon Alan Hughes for his prayers and church service, John Hush for the funeral arrangements, the doctors and nurses of Ward 17 Wrensbeck General Hospital

Injured Coldstream Guards swap nightmare of war for a day's fishing on the River Tweed

BY the end of their six month tour of duty in Afghanistan 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards returned home in April this year having taken heavy losses - six guardsmen lost and 42 seriously injured.

And as they recover from their injuries and look forward to returning to active duty, two of those injured guardsmen visited Coldstream last week for a day's fishing on the Lennel beat of the River Tweed.

A member of the syndicate who own the fishing rights at Lennel explained: "We decided to raise a bit of money for the local Borders Branch of the Coldstream Guards' Association by selling a day on the river and quietly passing on the money.

"Fortunately or unfortunately, the idea grew as the weeks went by. We realised we could raise money but still let a couple of servicemen have a day on the river at what should have been the best time of the year."

So last Thursday, Guardsmen Greg Dunning (aged 19) from Preston and Billy Robinson (aged 21) from Leeds, travelled up to Coldstream to enjoy a warm welcome and unparalleled hospitality, Greg managing to top off a perfect couple of days by being the only fisherman on the Lennel beat to catch a salmon on the Friday.

Both Greg and Billy suffered serious injuries during their tour of duty in Afghanistan, plus they experienced the trauma of fellow guardsmen being killed in the same incidents.

Only a month into his tour of duty Greg and a fellow guardsman were carrying an injured soldier to safety on a stretcher when unfortunately the other soldier stood on a roadside bomb. He was killed and Greg, although saved by the equipment he was carrying on his back, suffered serious leg injuries, his knee was broken and he lost part of his leg.

Four months into his tour of duty Billy was caught by shrapnel when a colleague stood on another roadside bomb after being in Afghanistan. The shrapnel caused facial injuries and he has undergone plastic surgery to his face to repair the damage done.

His eardrum was burst and he was thrown five metres by the blast, landing on his back which damaged his spine. Again his fellow soldier was also killed.

Both guardsmen are determined to return to active duty and are

currently based at the battalion headquarters in Aldershot. They have made remarkable progress in their rehabilitation and their visit to Coldstream was just what the doctor ordered - although even the doctor couldn't order the salmon in the Tweed to be co-operative.

Before taking to the river both Greg and Billy had casting lessons from Andrew Murray, who currently combines working as a boatman at Tweedmill and travelling around the world instructing anglers in the art of casting. Thanks to Andrew's excellent teaching and the boys' determination to get the most out of their day the lessons went well and they were ready to do battle with the wild salmon.

"It was not a brilliant fishing day but Greg caught a nice 8lb fish," said the syndicate spokesman.

"Neither complained once except to ask to sit or stand up because they were sore.

"Bill Quarry of Kelso was very kind. He brought a specially adapted boat and worked like a Trojan all day to help Greg catch his fish."

After coming up with the idea of selling a day on the river and then passing on the proceeds to the local Coldstream Guards Association, the syndicate members soon realised that the persuasive talents of local ex-Coldstream Guardsman Jock Law, combined with the affection in which the Coldstream Guards are held locally, would raise more for the association than they had first thought.

Having done their bit by donating the day's fishing the syndicate spokesman added: "Jock and Craig May (the syndicate secretary) went tin rattling and have managed to raise over £2,200 so far.

"Andrew Murray, the very well known casting instructor, agreed to give a casting lesson and a donation; the ladies of the Cornhill shop agreed to give a donation and lunch for six (home made Scotch eggs, soup, sandwiches and cake); The Newcastle Arms Hotel made a donation, and gave free accommodation and dinner; and John Norris of Penrith, very well known fishing tackle dealers, gave a substantial voucher which was passed on to the two guardsman who planned to stop there on their way home and buy themselves some fishing gear now they are hooked on the sport.

Other local businesses who showed their support included The Collingwood Hotel and Rickerby's

in Cornhill, and Mercedes Coldstream garage who all generously gave cash donations.

"The star donation was a gift of £1,000 from Mr and Mrs Stephen Lomax of Presteigne," said the syndicate spokesman. "Anne Lomax felt it was a good cause and wanted to give a sum which would make a difference.

"We were stunned by their generosity."

The boys themselves were also stunned by the support they have received.

Jock Law said: "They couldn't stop thanking everyone. They couldn't believe how well they were treated."

The link between the Coldstream Guards and the town where they originally marched on London from may be 350 years old, but it is only in recent decades that there have been determined efforts made to make the bond as strong as it is today.

When Jock Law joined the Coldstream Guards in the early 1950s not many of his fellow soldiers knew much about Coldstream - some didn't even know it was in Scotland.

However, that has changed and since they received the Freedom of Coldstream in 1968, started attending the town's annual Civic Week celebrations and a Coldstream Guards Officer presents the prizes at Coldstream Primary School's prize day, known as Guards Day, the connection has grown stronger and stronger.

During the Coldstream Guards 1st Battalion's tour of duty in Afghanistan, every loss they suffered was felt in Coldstream - the town's Saltire was flown at half mast and a stone with the fallen Guardsman's name etched onto it was placed at the foot of the Guards Stone in the town's Henderson Park. On their return to Britain a contingent of Guardsman visited Coldstream in August, during Civic Week, and on the Saturday a very moving ceremony was held in the park when the Guards were presented with a book of condolence and thanks from the town. After the presentation the guards collected the stones containing the names of their fallen comrades, marched down to the site of General Monck's headquarters and birthplace of the regiment, then they moved on to the river where each stone was carefully laid on the riverbed of the Tweed.



TWEED FISHING: Sponsors, fishermen and guardsmen met on the banks of the River Tweed at Coldstream last Thursday when Kevin Kenny, handed over a cheque for over £2000 to the Marquis of Donegal, president of the local Coldstream Guards Association. The money is to be used to help injured guardsmen. Pictured above, left to right are: Bill Quarry, Douglas McDonald, the Lennel head boatman, Guardsman Greg Dunning, Marquis of Donegal, Kevin Kenny from the Collingwood Arms Hotel, Andrew Murray, Guardsman Billy Robinson, Keith Cockburn of the local Coldstream Guards Association and Jock Law, who is secretary of the Borders Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association.

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