

# Colonials strike new medal in link with school

## Selkirk High history students to pen articles

**MARK ENTWISTLE**  
mark.entwistle@press.co.uk  
@bigjgrowndogg

**This year will see a new medal struck by the royal burgh's Colonial Society as part of a unique partnership with Selkirk High School.**

With the school's senior history class already studying subjects dealing with migration and the British Empire, as well as the impact of Scots on the latter, the Society saw an opportunity to help keep local heritage alive.

The result was an invitation to the senior students to undertake their research by using members of the Society as 'guinea pigs'.

And the Society's challenge is for each pupil to undertake

research into their subject – chosen at random from a list of volunteers – through archive material, newspaper articles and personal contact, and then to produce a piece of work telling the story of the exile and their life abroad. The Society will assist by providing the pupils with access to archive material and background information.

Society secretary Ian Claperton says the organisation believes that working with the school gives pupils the opportunity to fulfil the requirements of the history curriculum by using local subjects rather than more famous national figures whilst at the same time encouraging interest in the Society and local heritage.

Ian explained: "The Colonial Society Medal together with

a cheque will be awarded for the winning article. It is the intention of the Society to make this an annual award although the topic of the challenge may change from year to year."

It has still to be decided when the medal will be presented to the author of the winning article, but the ceremony might possibly take place at the school's annual prize giving or the Society's annual busses event in the summer.

Selkirk has always had a long history of its citizens travelling abroad to seek fame and fortune and many maintain close links with the royal burgh.

In the last five years, Society standard bearers have come from as far afield as the United States, New Zealand and Australia and its members come from all corners of the globe.



One possible subject is 2013 Colonial Society Standard Bearer Robert Maiter Anderson, pictured with wife, Nicola.

PHOTOGRAPH CONTRIBUTED