



Colonial News 2012

Welcome

I am delighted that we have been able to reinstate our Newsletter after several years. It is pleasing to report that Selkirk Colonial Society is in good order. Over the past few years our membership has substantially increased, particularly at local level and our finances are in a healthy state. This year however has seen some changes in our official positions.

Lewis and Christine Brydon have stood down as joint Treasurers and Gerald Beggs took the decision to relinquish the post of Secretary. I am glad to report however that Gerald is now our Treasurer and our new Secretary is Ian Clapperton.

This year saw us have another great Common Riding, apart from the atrocious weather. Both our Standard Bearer, George Thomson, and Lady Busser, daughter Kim, carried out their duties in an excellent manner and were a credit to the Society. Attendance was high, with around 30 exiles returning for the 2012 Common Riding.

In recent years we have enjoyed an increase in the number of returning exiles. Despite the increase in attendance it is becoming difficult in some years to find candidates to be Colonial Standard Bearer. Please don't be afraid to put yourself forward or encourage some of the younger generation to get involved and please keep in touch with the Society via the secretary, especially with new addresses and email changes.

Finally I hope that all of you and your families are in good health and will be able to join us in future years in Selkirk at our Common Riding. I wish you good health and happiness for many years to come.

Best wishes

Lindsay Cockburn, Chairman, Selkirk Colonial Society

My Common Riding by Aileen Firth

I approached the 2012 Common Riding with many thoughts going through my head. Five years already gone since Jim and I were Selkirk Colonial Society Standard Bearer and Lady Busser, where does the time go? Added to our excitement was the arrival of 2 friends from Texas, Clayton and TJ, to experience their first Selkirk Common Riding.

They arrived on the Wednesday morning, just in time to attend our Bussin' and Reception, and give them a taste of what was to come. Boy did they have fun and were made most welcome. We had the Olympic torch passing through Selkirk on the Thursday which created great excitement and many crowds. And then it began; the Cryin O' the Burley and the moving Wreath laying by the Ex- Royal Burgh Standard Bearers.

Jim and I had planned Friday morning like a military operation; he took the boys to the War Memorial and then to meet the Society members before leaving them to go and get his horse from me. And then we all went 'doon the Green', with the riders fording the Ettrick and up the Linglie Glen. About 400 horses followed the Burgh Flag – 'Safe Oot'.

The weather was the cruellest ever experienced. Riders and horses huddled like sheep at the Three Brethren, standing with their backs to the wind sheltering from the rain and sleet, not able to see for the mist, and too cold to worry. Then having ridden our Burgh lands and returning 'Safe In', Jim met our visitors at the top of Bleachfield Road.

**Contact the Society – email ian.clapperton2@btinternet.com
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Our Texans were completely overawed by their morning and blown away by our unique and wonderful Casting of the Colours, which the respective standard bearers did in horrendous weather. Our standard bearer, George, was a star and I don't think he stopped smiling all day.

The day was completed by attending the Foy followed by an afternoon at the Rig. The 2012 Common Riding was awesome and by the time you are all reading this newsletter it will be around 300 sleeps till that wonderful day in June! Roll on 2013.

Selkirk snippets – Rosalie Saunders

- Events held at **The Haining**, gifted to the Community of Selkirkshire by the late Andrew Nimmo Smith, included a Queen's Jubilee Celebration
- The **refurbished Abbotsford & New Visitor Centre is to open soon**
- Funding was won for an **all weather** sports' pitch located at the rugby field
- **Philphaug Estate** is repairing Murray's Cauld salmon run and introducing a hydro-electric scheme
- **The Library** is being downsized and moved to the Municipal Buildings
- **Lee Jones** was capped for Scotland at rugby and the 1st team narrowly missed out on promotion to the premier league
- **Heatherlie House Hotel** is under new management
- Best Western are refurbishing **Philipburn House Hotel**
- There are plans to close the **Sheriff Court** with cases being transferred to Edinburgh. Final decisions have yet to be made however



- **Donald Wilson** son of the late George Wilson, the Baker, has been elected Lord Provost of Edinburgh
- **The Olympic Torch** came through Selkirk and Alan Wells carried the flame for part of the route in the town

- **Blanket Preaching** at St. Mary's loch and Our Lady & St. Josephs' has a Priest from Ghana, **Father Robert Afayori**
- Two girls chosen to play **hockey for Scotland**, Emily Newlands & Sarah Robertson
- **Haggis Hunt** grows in popularity in January with a huge following
- **Borders Crematorium** was opened at Melrose
- **Jenny Muir** closed her business after 50 years of trading

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- New **Christmas tree decorations** were purchased following a large donation from those responsible for the Common Riding brochure, which is available in the town in the run-up to the big day



- and finally - can we swap some of our rain for some of your sun? Last year we had 7.5 cms in April-July. This year 17.5 cms!!!!!!



Returning exiles and overseas visitors 2012

Brian Muir & Jane Ruddy, Jennifer & Pat O'Flaherty, Ina Swan & Chrissie Cameron – Australia.

Jane Tait – Montenegro

Jane, John, Eva & Simon Graham, Rene Kirk & Audrey Tompkins, David & Barbara Linton – Canada.

Brian&Ann Slater - France

Clayton Schavrda & T J Horne, Jessie Camerer, Yvonne Patterson, Lynne Hammerton and Michael McGarvey - USA

Judith, Ryan, Sofia & Gabriella Dias - UAE, Dubai

Kenny Thomson – New Zealand

Dorothy Bjorklund - Sweden



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The Common Riding 2012 in pictures



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Colonial Standard Bearer & Lady Busser 2012



George Christopher Thomson from New Zealand was Colonial Society Standard Bearer 2012 and his eldest daughter Kim was Lady Busser.

George is the eldest son of Georgie (The Bog) and Mabel Thomson (nee Parkhill) of Yarrowford. His father was Colonial Standard Bearer in 1964. The family moved to New Zealand in 1966.

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