

Colonial News 2014



Message from the Chairman, Lindsay Cockburn

After brother George (2012), Kenny Thomson fulfilled the family tradition in his appointment as our Standard Bearer of 2014. Further significance for the Thomson family was that 2014 was the 50th anniversary of father George, our Colonial Standard Bearer of 1964. As fully expected, Kenny, along with his Lady Busser June Cox (Kenny's sister), performed all their duties most diligently and without mishap. Both were a credit to their families and the Colonial Society.

Our Bussin' Concert was once again a full house. The night went smoothly without a hitch and some excellent entertainment was enjoyed by all. The Overseas Reception and Foy also went extremely well with many a glass being raised and plenty of songs being performed by members and visitors alike.

I am happy to report that the Colonial Society is in robust health; our membership is strong, both locally and overseas, and our finances are in a good state. As Chairman I have the responsibility to ensure the Society can continue to support returning exiles, the Common Riding and the town of Selkirk. Without the work and dedication of our secretary and treasurer this would be extremely difficult and so I thank Ian and Gerald for their support over the past year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to mention that anyone interested in becoming our Colonial Standard Bearer in future years can apply at any time, even if this is not for some years ahead. In fact applying early gives you a better chance of representing the Society in the year you request. Application is not restricted to overseas residents and UK applications are also possible.

It is my wish and hope that you and your families are in good health and prosper in your lives, and that we will have the opportunity to welcome you at a future Common Riding, when 'the Roses Bloom Again'.

Common Riding images from 2014



Flute Band head up West Port



The Provost leads the procession



Jean Nichol and Bunty Newlands



Kenny casting the Society flag



The Silver Band in full "blow"



John Nichol keeps the beat

Common Riding 2014

Emotions, as they always do, ran high on Common Riding Morning. It wouldn't be Selkirk Common Riding if they didn't.

There were cheers and there were tears. There were hugs and firm handshakes. There were fond hellos and reluctant cheerios. And for those who took to the Royal and Ancient Burgh's biggest stage it was a day they will never forget. A day they will never want to forget, especially for three special people.

Cast in the principal role was Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Greg MacDougall. And he fulfilled that role to the full. He commented "my highlights were coming in at The Toll and the Casting. And obviously this year we've had Fiona Deacon, the first female Standard Bearer, and that was a great emotional moment as well – she got up and done her job."

Fiona, the Standard Bearers for the Ex-Soldiers Association, has been a proud ambassador for her Association – carrying the Flag a year after her husband David. She said: "It is a historical day every year for Selkirk, not just today. Every Common Riding Day is a historical event for Selkirk. Today, in my eyes, is no different to any other – we're just the next generation of Flag bearers."

Husband David commented: "I am very proud. It is not a decision we took lightly and it is great. We are new to the town and it has been brilliant. I am very proud of her."

Colonial Standard Bearer Kenny Thomson from New Zealand, 50 years after his dad, said: "I went from extreme nervousness to extreme passion in about 30 seconds. I didn't sleep last night. I can tell you, it was nerve-wracking. Once you get over the first bit it does fall into place – but you do think you're going to mess it up."

But he did not mess up and Kenny did the Colonial Society and his family proud.

A great day for all Standard Bearers but especially for Greg, Fiona and Kenny.

Flodden remembered after 500 years

A total of 171 riders took part in a once-in-a-lifetime event when they rode the South Marches as part of the Flodden 500th anniversary events in September 2013. Originally, these were part of the town boundaries and were ridden and inspected yearly. However, the land involved is now owned by private landowners and has rarely been ridden over the last 50 years, with the last time being 1985, on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of Selkirk's charter.

Provost David Anderson said that

although the weather was pretty

bad, the event still went well.

He said: "In the end, 171 riders



took part with a few dropping out of the 200 that had been registered and it was probably due to the really miserable weather early on. Those who did take part really enjoyed the ride, and huge thanks are due to those who organised the event. Also the people of Midlem and Lilliesleaf who turned out to greet us, and the people of Selkirk for their support."

The ride started at 8am when the 2013 Standard Bearer received the Burgh Flag at the Town Hall. The cavalcade made their way to Midlem and Lilliesleaf, before heading to The Rig and then home for the dipping of the flag at the Fletcher memorial. The riders were met by the casting associations, the bands and Souters at Goslawdales before marching to the Victoria Hall. Jake Wheelans also laid a wreath on behalf of the Flodden 500 organisers.

The Colonial Bussin'

Chairman Lindsay Cockburn presided alongside guest chairman Les Millar with 26 exiles on the stage, including Standard Bearers and Lady Bussers from 2011 (Bobby and Sarah Murray from Australia) and 2010 (John Graham and Eva Michael from Canada), and other guests from Sweden and the USA.

Kenny Thomson, the youngest son of Georgie (The Bog) Thomson of The Bog Cottage and Mabel Thomson (nee Parkhill) of Yarrowford, was born in Selkirk, and his father was Colonial Standard Bearer 50 years ago.

He now lives in New Zealand with his partner Karen, and two children Eva and Cameron. His brother George, who also lives in New Zealand and joined Eva on stage, was Colonial Standard Bearer in 2012, making it a rare hat-trick for the family. Kenny's sister June Cox bussed the Society flag.



The returning exiles and overseas visitors

From Australia: Brian and Leanne Cameron; David & Joanne Plant plus Sarah, Lisa and Ryan; Bobby & Mandy Murray and daughter Sarah; Jennifer O'Flaherty; and Brian Pellow.

From Canada: John & Simon Graham and Eva Michael; Fiona and Brian Irwin; Jane Graham; Gordon Kirkbright; Kenny and Linda McWhinnie.

From NZ: Peter Forrest and Emma Pearce; Lesley Patton; George Thomson; Eva Thomson (Colonial SB's daughter), Philippa Cox; and Larry & Cathy Park.

From USA: Beryl Phillips and her friend Claire; and Jessie Camerer.

From Germany: Katy Maltman and from Sweden: Dorothy Bjorklund and daughter Magdelene.





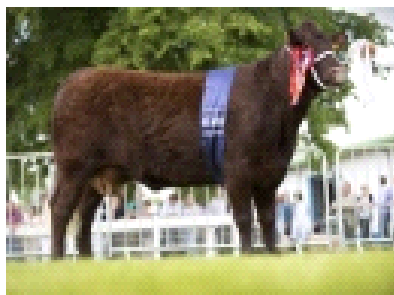
What's been happening in the auld town?

The first repairs project under the Selkirk Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) got underway this week in the High Street.



A ceremony to mark work beginning on the multi-million pound Selkirk flood prevention scheme has been hailed as a significant moment.

Local parents are over the moon with the opening of the town's new children's play park, in the Pringle Park.



Selkirk and Yarrow Valley farmers were to the fore at the Royal Highland Show this year, bringing home plenty of silverware and rosettes.

First ever Lady Standard Bearer appointed, representing the Ex-Soldiers Association.



Selkirk Sheriff Court is set to remain open after court chiefs ruled out a single justice centre for the Borders, recommending that both Selkirk and Jedburgh sheriff courts should be retained.

Children learn the common riding songs encouraged by the attendants in an initiative supported by the Ex-Standard Bearers Association.



Selkirk-based energy firm Spark Energy is set to create 50 new jobs after doubling its turnover to £80million in the last 12 months.

Colonial News 2014



More pictures from the auld toun



RBSB Greg MacDougall



The "ugly sisters" in panto



The annual haggis hunt



New Year's day 2014



The Common Riding procession in full swing

Selkirk Colonial Society Standard Bearer Kenny W Thomson



Presentations at the Reception



Annette Walker presents June with the Lady Busser medal



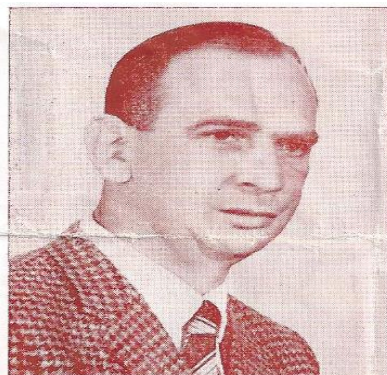
The Waldie Medallion presentation to Kenny by Geo & Mgt MacDonald

Colonial News 2014

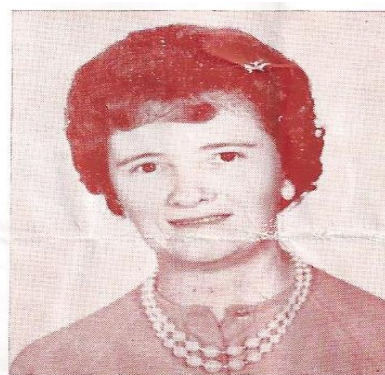


A hat-trick of memories for the Thomson family

Standard Bearers and Lady Bussers 1964, 2012 and 2014



Mr G. THOMSON
(South Africa)
Standard-Bearer



Mrs G. THOMSON
Lady Busser

We hope that you have enjoyed catching up on the news from Selkirk. If anyone would like to contribute an article or photograph to the web site, this can be done via the member's forum (after registering) or via the Society secretary. Please keep us informed of any address/email changes.

Contact details –

Web site – www.selkirkcolonialsociety.com

Secretary – secretary@selkirkcolonialsociety.com

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of Grant Kinghorn who supplies most of the pictures used in this newsletter and on our web site.

Grant Kinghorn - www.grantkinghornpics.co.uk

Why not buy a DVD of the 2014 Common Riding? Filmed by friend of the Society, George MacDonald and available from the Society at the cost of £10 plus postage.

Also available are the Society polo shirts priced at £11 each plus postage. Further information from Society secretary, Ian Clapperton



And finally – members enjoy themselves at the reception