



Message from the Chairman

A warm welcome from Selkirk as we review an eventful year for the Colonial Society and celebrate a great Common Riding for our overseas visitors and in particular the Society Standard Bearer Ernie Lamza. It was with some trepidation and great honour that I took on the role as Chairman, following in the footsteps of Lindsay Cockburn after nine successful years in the post. The Society owes him thanks for his service and leadership especially through our centenary in 2010.

As we move forward this newsletter gives us the chance to reflect on what we have achieved in the last 12 months and I hope you will agree that the Society is alive and kicking, not just surviving, but making a real contribution to the heritage of the town. Combined with healthy funds, rising membership and positive media/web coverage, the future for the Society is rosy, although a few young local members would not go amiss.

The Common Riding for the Society was thoroughly enjoyable with full houses for the Bussin', Reception and Foy. Almost 50 overseas visitors and returning exiles, supporting a great Standard Bearer, meant that nothing could go wrong, and nothing did. Well done Ernie and his Lady Busser Helen.

Best wishes to you all and I hope to see you at some future date, and if not, please keep in touch via email/facebook.

Ian Clapperton

Our coffee morning and display of ribbons and flag in March



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Overseas visitors and returning exiles

Many made the trip this year and the stage at the Bussin' was a busy place. The customary photograph was taken in the shadow of Fletcher. Ernie Lamza and his sister/Lady Busser Helen take centre place.



There were all those - Jessie Camerer, Raymond & Rosemary Smith, Colin & Sandra Craig plus children, Olivia, Aoife and Daniel, Graham & Bridget McLean, Michael & Kylie Romanes, Jane Graham, Murray & Cathy Russell, Fiona & Martin Murray, Gordon Kirkbright, Liam O'Flaherty, Robert & Danica Lamza, David & Barbara Linton, Judith & Ryan Dias with Sofia and Gaby, Graham & Joan Phaup, Alex Beveridge, Brian, James & Linda Pellow, Deborah & Tom Dugally, Beryl Phillips & son Aaron, Claire Sorg & daughter Mandi, Greg & Jaki Bickerton, Greig Smith and finally Jimmy Moody and his wife.



The Colonial History Medal



Earlier this year the Society announced a new medal to be awarded to senior history pupils looking at “Migration and Empire” and in particular “the impact of Scots on the Empire”. Using Society members as targets, each pupil was tasked with producing a piece of work telling the story of the exile and their life abroad. The Society assisted by providing the pupils with access to archive material and background information.

At the Colonial Society Colour Bussin’ Concert the first medal was awarded to the winner Sarah Gerlam for her story of the life of Dorothy Bjorklund now resident of Sweden. The presentation was made by Mrs Wilma Burgon, Head Teacher of the High School. Sarah also received a cheque from the Society. Mrs Burgon expressed her delight at the initiative and looked forward to many years of working in partnership with the Society.

The Bussin’ Concert

With pretty much a full house, many exiles and visitors, bands and singers and an entertaining guest chairman, the ceremony was a great success.

The Society Chairman charged the Standard Bearer to undertake his duties, Ernie’s sister Helen bussed the flag and then both were given a rousing cheer.

Provost Wheelans, the Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Rory Monks and his Burleymen and Attendants were then introduced to the audience. David Young and his daughter Rebecca from the Edinburgh and Midlothian Souter’s Society presented RBSB Monks with the Society Medallion.

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Entertaining the audience in fine style were local singers and Colonial stalwarts Ian Wilson, Fiona Gallagher and Falconer Grieve with Dave Mackay at the piano. Two young singers Caitlin



Branston and Sarah Gerlam joined us this year. Not forgetting the High School and Silver Bands under the baton of Colin Kemp.

During the evening a presentation was made on behalf of the Society by Mrs Jean Grieve to Dave MacKay in recognition of his 20 years of sterling service at the piano for the Society.

The Reception was well supported and enjoyed by everyone





Celebrating 50 years

In 1966 the Colonial Standard Bearer was Lewis Brydon representing Malaysia and his Lady Busser was Anita Hogarth (now Craig).



To celebrate this anniversary the Society made presentations to both at the Reception.

Presentations to both Standard Bearer and Lady Busser



Ernie receives the Walter Waldie Medallion from George and Margaret McDonald and Helen the Lady Busser Medal from Heather Beggs.

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Our flags

We have now preserved the original 1910 flag for future generations thanks to Lewis & Christine Brydon and their friends Raymond Gass and Bruce Ormiston.

Our casting flag was replaced this year and, courtesy of Falconer Grieve, we now



have a new pole to go with the flag.

The pole originated from a tree in Canada some 300 years ago and comes to us via a pew in the old St Mary's West Church. Casting the new flag is as good as it gets!

Colonials win the Winter Bowls Pub League

Our team of Ian & Pat Clapperton, Tug & Moira Wilson, Peter Henderson and Alan Hulme regained the trophy which is competed for throughout the winter. Next winter we go for the hat-trick.





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The Common Riding in pictures (no words necessary)





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My Common Riding

A little over a month ago I had the amazing experience of being the Selkirk Colonial Society's Standard Bearer for 2016 in the town's annual Common Riding. It was an outstanding time that will live with me forever.

While living and working in Monaco, (an unusual location for my oil & gas job, but hey, somebody had to do it!) I had the realisation one evening, probably after a glass or two of Côtes du Rhône, and feeling not a little homesick, that I would meet the two years abroad requirement to be the Colonial Standard Bearer (CSB).

I discussed it with my wife Nina, who was very supportive and immediately warmed to my suggestion that I ask my sister Helen to be my Lady Busser.

Arriving in Selkirk in good time I was able to take part in the varied events that build up to the Common Riding. Quickly bonding with my fellow standard bearers from the other associations, I met more and more old and new friends, became more confident with performing the Common Riding songs and began counting down the sleeps until the big day.

The Colonial Bussin' concert and reception afterwards was a great night, with a big extended family turn out to cheer me on. Being invited onto the stage full of returning exiles, including my brother Bob, CSB in 2005, and his wife and Lady Busser Dani was such a good feeling. With the flag well and truly bussed, with red and white ribbons representing the flags of Monaco, my adopted home town of Aberdeen and Poland, the birth place of my dad, I thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment and joined in the songs lead by the High School Band – with both Helen and myself recalling our time as players 40-odd years before.

The reception upstairs in the Vic was in a remarkable setting. The sense of history was palpable with the flags and all the ribbons from past CSB's on display around the room. George & Margaret Macdonald presented me with the Walter Waldie

Medallion on behalf of the Waldie family - a big honour which filled me with pride.

The casting was always going to be the highlight, but something I had consciously avoided thinking about too much, confident I would get comfortable with it once I arrived. Now it loomed large and made me worry that I had left it too late. This was not helped by every person I spoke to telling me "you'll be fine" if only I felt like I would! Thank goodness for my twin casting coaches, Jim Bunyan and Chairman Ian whose plan I followed to eventually get it right (for the first time!) just 15 minutes before my first public cast, in the warm rain at Viewfield.

On Friday, carrying the flag, I was swept along with the crowd, and before I knew was below the podium and the castings had started. It would be me soon and my thoughts were racing as I tried to remain calm and focussed on doing a good job. Concentrate, remember the count, don't fall up the stairs, take it all in, and don't forget to smile and enjoy it!

After the casting, the Colonial Foy was packed, joined by Rory Monks, Jake Wheelans and the Attendants with standing room only. Helen, her husband Harky and I briefly became the Common Riding Brass trio, belting out some weel kent tunes for all to sing along to. Dixie Scott and his sister Lorraine, brought the Foy to an emotional climax with the singing of the Flo'ers o' the Forest joined in by the whole company, many in tears. Handing back the Colonial Sash brought my formal role to an end. My job was done, but I didn't want it to stop. Earlier my daughter had raised a knowing laugh among the family by stating 'Dad, he would have slept in that sash if he could', and on reflection it does sum up how proud I felt and how much I enjoyed every minute of being the 2016 CSB.

So that's how it was for me - never to be repeated, memories etched, a little bit of history created.

Ernie Lamza, Colonial Standard Bearer 2016



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A view from an adopted Colonial

My name is Gordon Kirkbright and I own a textile company in Vancouver, Canada where I emigrated to in 1973, from Yorkshire.

I first visited Selkirk in 2009, when meeting Bridgehaugh Dyers who were a supplier of ours. Although I only stayed for half of a day, the town made an impression on me as it seemed so similar to the Yorkshire Dales towns that I remembered from my youth.

To my surprise, I found myself returning to Selkirk in the fall of 2013 to form a business relationship with Anthony Haines Textiles, a local weaving company.

Since that meeting, I have become a regular visitor, making 4 trips per year, and have received a warm welcome throughout the town.

On one of these visits, I was graciously invited to join the Colonial Society and to attend the 2014 Common Riding by Ian Clapperton, the current chairman ; it was then that I developed friendships with Ian and many 'fellow colonials' and ever since, I make sure to mark that week on my calendar each year, returning for the festivities in 2015 and again this year.

To attend the various activities during the Common Riding week, culminating on the Friday morning is a truly unique experience...seeing 300+ riders on horseback travelling through the town with, seemingly, the entire population lining the streets to cheer them on, is unforgettable.

Long after the event, I can still hear the sound of clattering hooves and see the happiness on the faces of the passing riders.

Most of all, I recall the pride and humility of the standard bearers as they cast their flags in the town square.

When I tell friends back in Vancouver of my experiences at the Common Riding, I can understand their disbelief, for no words can describe the feeling of being there.

Thank you to the people of Selkirk for adopting this Canadian-Yorkshireman as 'an honorary souter'; your 'wee toon' holds a special place in my heart and I plan to return many more times.

Out and about



Clockwise from top left –

- new bridge to Bannerfield,
- Border railway,
- hand ba' at Carterhaugh,
- Poet's Corner to be demolished
- and William Wallace officially linked to Selkirk.

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