

Selkirk Colonial Society - 2018 Newsletter



**A full contingent of exiles returned from around the globe to support
2018 Colonial Standard Bearer and Lady Busser Alisdair and Sarah Piercy.**

CSB 2009 Alistair Heatlie, Northern Ireland

Zara Heatlie, Northern Ireland

Cameron & Mackinley Piercy, Canada

John & Joan Brown, Canada

CSB 2010 John Graham, Canada

Jane Graham, Canada

Keith & Kylie Connor, New Zealand

Svetlana Kondakova, Russia

Gordon Kirkbright, Canada

CSB 2011 Bobby Murray, Australia

CSB 2012 George Thomson, New Zealand

Norman Smail, Tasmania

Kim Spool & Steve Abbott, USA

Sheila Collins, Canada

LB 1960 Dorothy Bjorklund, Sweden

Jim Podge Anderson, Spain

Judith, Ryan, Sofia & Gabriella Diaz, United Arab Emirates

Denzill Mackrell Hollingsworth & Family, USA

Ken & Linda McWhinnie, Canada

Jennifer Begley, Canada

Chairman IAN CLAPPERTON

Greetings to all the "exiles" and I hope this, our annual newsletter, finds you all in good health. It has been another tremendous year for the Society and we seem to be flourishing as never before.

Membership levels continue to rise within the UK and overall our finances are as healthy as they have ever been.

We have completed the project to preserve all our Regalia from 1910 including the digitalisation of minutes and programmes from day one to 1976.

We must also reflect on a hugely successful Common Riding. Our CSB Alisdair Piercy and Lady Busser Sarah Piercy from Canada proved to be inspired choices and they did themselves, their family and Society proud.

Our Bussin' Concert and Reception had full houses on Wednesday of Common Riding week and were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by a good many returning exiles and visitors alongside members of the public and Society members. The Bussin' Guest Chair, Jane Graham from Canada was a star and she tells me that she wants to do it again! You never know.

It was pleasing to welcome Rosalie Brydon our Lady Busser from 1968 to our festivities but unfortunately Lawrence Scott was unable to travel from South Africa for his 50th anniversary. Many congratulations to both Rosalie and Lawrence.

Locally our office bearers have changed with Andy Moyes and Lindsay Cockburn taking the posts of secretary and treasurer respectively and not forgetting the new appointment of Jane Graham as our worldwide correspondent who has already proved to be a great success on our Facebook page.

In the past year we sadly lost two former Lady Bussers Alexandra Turnbull LB 1971 and Joyce Anderson LB 1993. Our thoughts are with Jim and Will.

We hope to further develop our plans to put the Society regalia on permanent display in the Haining House in the next year and we look forward to that.

We also look forward to greeting as many of you as possible in 2019.

With our very best wishes from Selkirk.

Ian.

Colonial Standard Bearer ALISDAIR PIERCY

Growing up in Selkirk and sharing in the town's traditions and customs all my life it was a complete shock and massive eye opener to me when I was luckily given the opportunity to become a Standard Bearer.

The amount of work, time and effort the town's folk go through to get the town up and running, not only for the second Friday in June but for the months upon months prior. The great work the town's folk put in makes each and every year the Common Riding is ran a massive achievement and one that cannot and will not be surpassed by any other town or city in the world.

Having enjoyed the Common Riding each year as a young boy I always thought it was just a day when we walked around the town to sing songs, watched horses go off to have a gallop, went to the square for the casting and then off to the shows with the family. Oh how little I knew then, from Appointments of Standard Bearers, School and Home visits, functions in other towns, Bussin' Concerts, Foys and the big day; the Common Riding is a living breathing thing that needs to be maintained and shown around the world.

When I was accepted by the Colonial Society I could not have been prouder, practicing the flag in my back yard diligently as to not let my Society, family and town down. Playing the old Common Riding songs to my kids to not only refresh my memory, which did not need reminding, but to expose them to the wonders of songs from Daddy's home town.

I felt accepted right away by my fellow Standard Bearers, Peter, Martin, Stuart, Jackie, Michael and Mark. Through the wonders of social media we all started to communicate each and every day along with our wives and partners which made both Sarah and I feel like we were already there and participating in events.

The week was a blur, a whirlwind of events and days out. Being back in my home town with my family attending each Common Riding event filled me with pride just to be there and to participate. Seeing family members looking on with pride and joy as Sarah and I busied the Colonial flag on the Wednesday night and walking through the town on Friday morning with all of the Colonials, friends and family are images that will never leave my mind.

Standing in line at the casting stage feeling immense pride and joy watching my new brothers one after the other walk up the stairs to cast their banner, to count each cut and each circle with them and see the look on each of their faces as they descended the steps after a successful cast was incredible.

As I said, the week of the Common Riding was a blur to say the least but it was also one of the most amazing weeks of my life, one I and my family shall never forget. This was only made possible by the strong support of my family and friends but most of all the tireless work by Ian and Pat Clapperton, two people I have so much to thank for and have no idea in how to achieve that. Many thanks to Jim Bunyan for his help in the casting and moral support throughout our visit back home.

Alisdair.

Selkirk Colonial Society – BUSSIN' CEREMONY



CSB Alisdair Piercy and Lady Busser Sarah Piercy from Canada proved to be inspired choices and they did themselves, their family and Society proud.



Selkirk Colonial Society – COMMUNITY DONATIONS

At the Annual Bussin' Concert Society Chairman, Ian Clapperton advised that sales of the Society CD, Music and Song of the Common Riding raised £2000. He announced that the Society had decided to donate all the money raised to local good causes.

Colonial Standard Bearer Alisdair Piercy presented a cheque for £500 to Colin Kemp for the Selkirk Silver Band.



Guest Chair Jane Graham presented a cheque for £500 to Michelle Ballantyne of the Haining Trust.

Selkirk Colonial Society – COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Local member Heather Beggs presented a cheque for £1000 to Sarah Henley, Chair of Rowlands.

Rowlands aim to enrich the lives of young people within the town and by supporting this organisation the Society felt that they were investing in the future.



Selkirk Colonial Society – BUSSIN CONCERT ARTISTE MILLY COLTHERD

The Bussin Concert artistes were exceptional this year.

Photographed is Milly Coltherd who sang Caledonia.



1968 - 50th ANNIVERSARY

The Society was pleased to have 1968 Lady Busser Mrs. Rosalie Saunders in attendance at the Bussin' Concert and Reception.



Selkirk Colonial Society – HISTORY MEDAL

The Colonial Society History Medal winner was announced at the Bussin Concert.

The medal is awarded each year to the best piece of work telling the story of Selkirk people who live or have lived abroad. This falls within the school curriculum of Scots and the Empire. The winner received a medal and a cheque for £100.

This year, the winner of the medal was Polly Bell for her paper on the lives of three Selkirk people who moved overseas at the start of the twentieth century. Alexander, Charles and William Linton, were three of the nine children of Alexander & Agnes Linton, a tailor with a business in the Fleshmarket, and these three formed the basis of Polly's story.

Co-incidentally Alexander & Agnes Linton were the great-grandparents of the Society chairman, Ian Clapperton, and of Society members Sheila Lockie and Mary Hughes.



Walter Waldie MEMORIAL MEDAL

Falconer and Jean Grieve presented CSB Alisdair Piercy with the Walter Waldie Memorial Medal at the Colonial Reception.



Colonial Society - LADY BUSSEY MEDAL PRESENTATION



Mary Hughes presented LB Sarah Piercy with the Colonial Society Lady Bussers Medal at the Colonial Reception.

Colonial Standard Bearers - PAST and PRESENT



John Graham, Canada 2010

Lewis Brydon, Malaya, 1966

Alisdair Piercey, Canada, 2018

Alistair Heatlie, Northern Ireland, 2009

Lindsay Cockburn, Holland, 2003

Gerald Beggs, Canada, 1973 and 2006

Bobby Murray, Australia, 2011

George Thomson, New Zealand, 2012

Lesser Victoria Hall - COLONIAL RECEPTION SET-UP



Society members did a wonderful job in setting the Lesser Victoria Hall for the Reception.

Flags were hung with precision and tables were decorated with lovely posies and yellow napkins.

Kids Picnic - CSB & LB PARENT RACE WINNERS

CSB Alisdair and LB Sarah both had first place finishes in the parent races held at the Kids Picnic on Saturday, June 9th. Very impressive as they had just arrived in Selkirk on June 8th.

Congratulations!!



Colonials - COMMON RIDING MORNING



"Doon the Green"



"CSB & LB Alisdair & Sarah Piercy"



"In to the Market Place"

“Yince a Souter Aye a Souter”



2018 Colonial Standard Bearer
Alisdair Piercy proudly casting the
Societies golden banner.

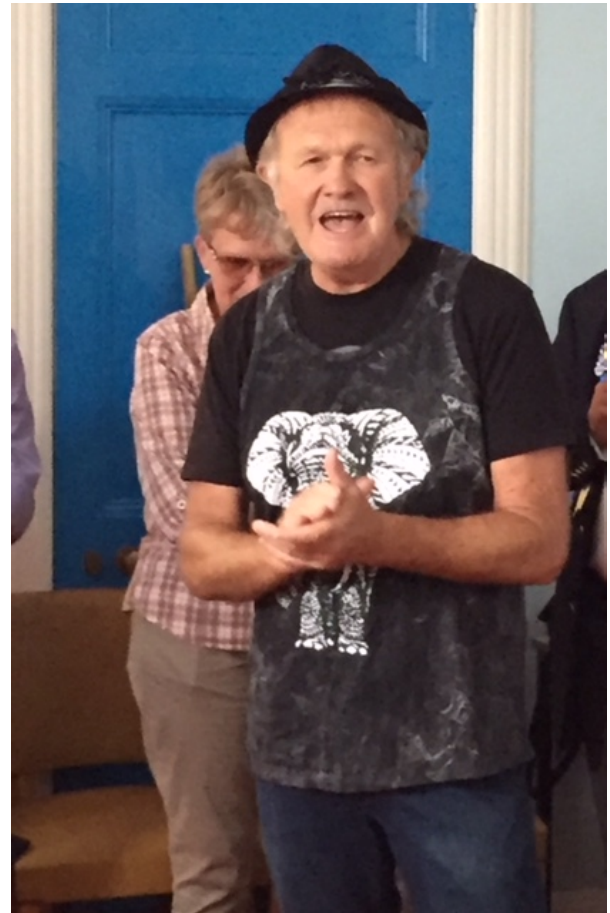


Colonial Foy - "HANDS ACROSS THE SEA"



Madeleine Fletcher, Gerald Beggs, Dorothy Bjorklund

Returning exiles, Society members, friends and family enjoyed a great get together at the Colonial Foy; a visit from RBS Forrest and some super community singing highlighted the afternoon.



George Thomson

Colonial Society - FACEBOOK PAGE



The Society Facebook page is definitely gaining in popularity with 455 +- members and guests following our page around the world. Sharing information on Society business and of course our main event, the Common Riding allows our followers to keep up to date with the Society.

Members have provided updates on the wonderful regions of the world they live and photographs of interesting places they have visited; special days and cultural events relevant to their countries and personal family and vacation stories. Our page definitely has a worldwide presence!

If you would like to submit photos or an article to our Facebook page please email vjanegraham@hotmail.com or contact me via Facebook messenger.