

Selkirk Colonial Society - 2023 Newsletter



“Souters aye return to Selkirk when the roses bloom again.”



Selkirk Colonial Society - MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



I am delighted to send greetings from Selkirk to our exiles, in “a the airts” and I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health.

This past year has seen Jim Bunyan standing down as Chairman and myself returning to the position. My thanks to Jim for his sterling work throughout the covid pandemic.

The Society had a very successful Common Riding. Attendances at the Concert, Reception and Foy were very high and pretty much at capacity which has resulted in a positive financial outcome.

Our Standard Bearer Neil Heatlie and Lady Busser Catriona were great choices to represent the Society, and they did themselves and the Society proud for 2023.

Interesting to note that last year the CSB was from France and this year it was Germany. It seems that the traditional fostering grounds for our SBs, Canada, Australia, NZ, are being replaced. The Society is truly becoming a worldwide organisation! Neil and Catriona were supported by a large number of returning exiles.

This year was the 50th anniversary of Gerald Beggs carrying the flag in 1973 whilst resident in Canada. He received a special presentation to commemorate this. Gerald also undertook his role as CSB in 2006, our only double standard bearer.

I should also take the opportunity to mention that in 1923, the CSB was a James Johnstone. He was the grandfather of Jim Bunyan, our former Chairman and CSB 2007. Many of the descendants of James Johnstone were present at the Colonial Bussin’ Concert, including two daughters, and also a returning exile from Australia, Brian Leiper.

In terms of the financial situation, over the Common Riding period, the Society raised over £500 from sales of merchandise (book and CD mainly) and the members unanimously agreed to donate all the money raised to the Silver Band in recognition of all that they do for the town, and to support them in the UK Championships in September, which they will compete in as Scottish Champions. Not bad for a “wee toon”.

One other thing to mention. In July the town welcomed King Charles and he went walkabout in the Market Place, speaking to locals, shop keepers, the Silver Band, and all the casting associations. Our Society was represented by former CSB Craig Douglas 1999, and he reported that the King was most interested in the various flags. RBSB Thomas Bell 2023, undertook a special casting of the Burgh Flag.

Finally, the restoration of the Haining House is well underway. A three year project, at the end of which it is hoped we will be able to fully develop our plans and put the Society regalia on permanent display.

We also look forward to greeting as many of you as possible in 2024.

With our very best wishes from Selkirk.

Ian Clapperton, Chairman

Selkirk Colonial Society - ANNIVERSARIES



**OVERSEAS MEMBERS AT
COMMON RIDING 1998**

The Coracy family take up the front row in this year's group! Also, standing l to r: Craig Douglas (Gates), Gerd & Sandra Barker (Australia), David & Olive Jones (U.S.A.), Dorothy Cruickshank (Canada), Richard & Dianne Waldie, Ben Marshman, Richard sen. & Elizabeth Waldie and Anne & Colin Douglas (all from Australia).
Those seated: Andy & Helen Emord (Australia), Muriel Scott (U.S.A.), May Humble (Australia), Michael Scott (U.S.A.), Ethel Fenton (Canada), Pat Mason, Rhys Hogg, Kylie Emord, Rachael, Jill & Aihua Evans (all New Zealand).

25th Anniversary

Colonial Standard Bearer Billy Coracy
and Lady Busser Anna Coracy, USA



100th Anniversary

Colonial Standard Bearer James Johnstone, 1923 and
Lady Busser Miss N. Walls, CANADA were represented
by family members at the 2023 Bussin' Concert.

Selkirk Colonial Society - CONDOLENCES

It is with much sadness that the Society shares the passing of the following members.

Mr. Jim Jackson, Scotland. Jim passed away in December 2022. Jim was Past President of the Edinburgh & Lothian Souters Society. He represented the Society at many Colonial Bussin' Concerts. Jim was a keen supporter of the Selkirk Common Riding, and a dear friend of the Selkirk Colonial Society.

Mr. Brian Slater, France. Brian passed away in December 2022. Brian attended many Common Ridings over the years accompanying his wife Anne (nee Ballantyne), and he always really enjoyed the Colonial Bussin' Concert. Brian participated in the Overseas members Covid 2020 video message, and was visited by 2022 Colonial Standard Bearer David Hislop and Lady Busser Kay Hislop during the summer of 2022.

Mrs. Jean Thomson, Scotland. Jean passed away in December 2022. Jean was Colonial Society Lady Busser (N. Rhodesia) bussing her husband Jack's flag in 1963. At the 2013 Colonial Bussin' Concert Jean was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the Society in recognition of her 50th anniversary as Colonial Lady Busser. Jean's daughter, Mrs. Jean Grieve is an active member of the Society.

Our thoughts are with the families.

Selkirk Colonial Society - 2023 BUSSIN OF THE COLOURS



Colonial Standard Bearer Neil Heatlie, Lady Busser Catriona Heatlie and Chairman Ian Clapperton perform the Bussin' of the Colours for 2023.



Selkirk Colonial Society - 2023 BUSSIN OF THE COLOURS



2023 Colonial Standard Bearer Neil Heatlie, Germany
and Lady Busser Catriona Heatlie.



Edinburgh & Lothian Souters - MEDALLION PRESENTATION



Edinburgh & Lothian Souters Society representatives Ms. May Stark, and Mrs. Susan Robertson attended the 2023 Colonial Bussin' Concert. As is tradition, each year the Society presents the Royal Burgh Standard Bearer with the Edinburgh Souters medallion. Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Thomas Bell received his medallion from Mrs. Susan Robertson.

Edinburgh & Lothian Souters - GROUP PHOTOGRAPH



It was lovely to have members of the Edinburgh & Lothian Souters Society in attendance at the 2023 Colonial Bussin Concert.

Selkirk Colonial Society - LADY BUSSER MEDALLION



Mrs. Heather Beggs, Lady Busser 2006 presented
Lady Busser Catriona Heatlie with her Lady Busser medallion.

Selkirk Colonial Society - WALTER WALDIE MEMORIAL MEDALLION



On behalf of the Waldie family, Mr. Sandy Smith, presented CSB Neil Heatlie
with the Walter Waldie Memorial medallion.

Selkirk Colonial Society - MR. GERALD BEGGS, 50TH ANNIVERSARY



The Society was delighted to honour 1973 Colonial Standard Bearer Mr. Gerald Beggs on his 50th anniversary as Colonial Standard Bearer.

The 1973 Bussin Concert was held in the Victoria Hall, and the Chairman that evening was Mr. William Hogg who was celebrating his 40th anniversary as Colonial Standard Bearer. (1933)

Gerald returned from Vancouver, BC, Canada to represent the Society, and cast the flag on his grandfather John Currie's 60th anniversary as Royal Burgh Standard Bearer. (1913)

Gerald returned to live in Selkirk in 2006, and that year he cast the Colonial flag for a second time, and as such is the only person to have done so to date.

Gerald is a long standing member, and supporter of the Colonial Society, and for many years he served as Secretary and Treasurer.

Mrs. Pat Clapperton presented Gerald with a commemorative gift on behalf of the Society thanking him for his many contributions, and congratulating him on his Golden Anniversary as Colonial Standard Bearer.



RBSB 1973 Mr. Alistair Hogarth and CSB 1973 Mr. Gerald Beggs.



Selkirk Colonial Society – OVERSEAS RECEPTION



Selkirk Colonial Society - COMMON RIDING DAY



Selkirk Colonial Society - COMMON RIDING DAY



Selkirk Colonial Society Foy - "HANDS ACROSS THE SEA"



Selkirk Colonial Society Foy - "HANDS ACROSS THE SEA"



Selkirk Colonial Society – A LOOK BACK OVER THE DECADES

1913

Robert Anderson, USA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser A. L. Anderson.

1923

James Johnstone, CANADA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser N. Walls. (Mrs. A. Stewart)

1933

William Hogg, AUSTRALIA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser Effie Lowrie.

1943 WWII

1953

R. Neil Balmer, EAST AFRICA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser Margot Balmer.

1963

Jack Thomson, NORTH RHODESIA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser Jean Thomson.

1973

Gerald Beggs, CANADA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser Nellie Goodlet.

1983

Jim Henderson, CANADA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser Irene Henderson.

1993

William Anderson, USA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser Joyce Anderson.

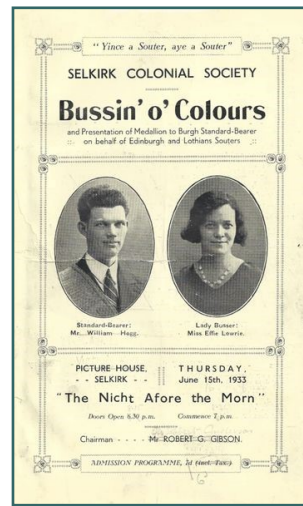
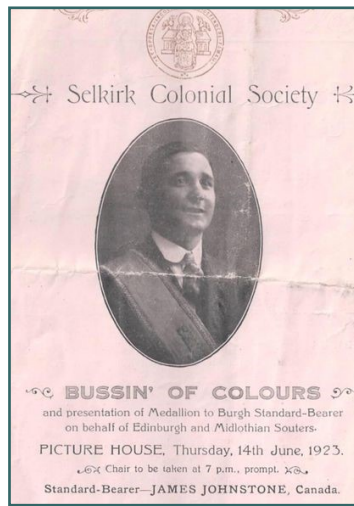
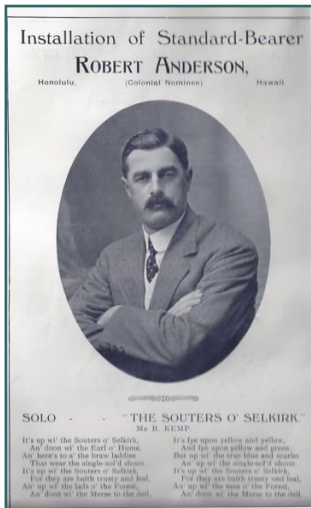
2003

Lindsay Cockburn, Holland. The flag was busser by Lady Busser Mandy Cockburn.

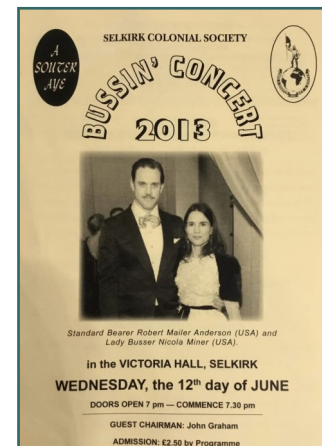
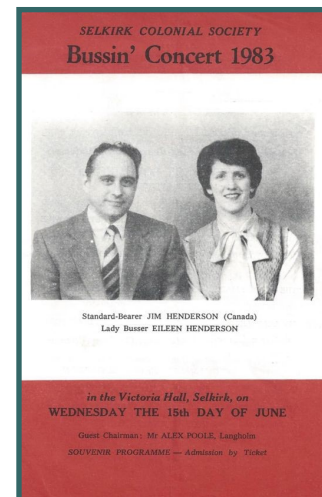
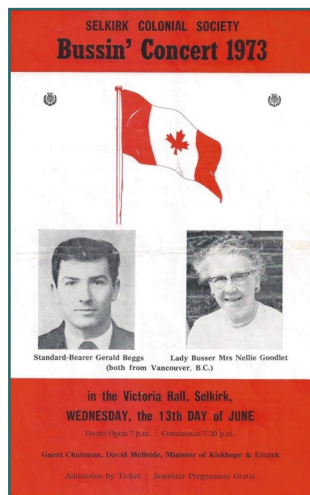
2013

Robert Mailer Anderson, USA. The flag was busser by Lady Busser Nicola Miner.

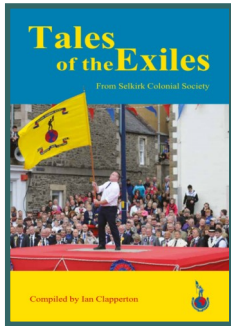
Selkirk Colonial Society - A LOOK BACK OVER THE DECADES



1953 COMMON RIDING



Selkirk Colonial Society - CD & BOOK SALES



You can still enjoy the music of the Common Riding by purchasing the Colonial Society CD with 27 recordings covering the “Nicht Afore the Morn” through to the “Liltin” at the casting. The songs are from weel kent local artistes with music from the Selkirk Flute, Pipe and Silver Bands.

Why not combine the music with our own book, Tales of the Exiles, which tells the story of our Society from it's inception to the present.

The CD is now £7.50 and the Tales of the Exiles book is £6.00 or you can purchase both locally for £12.00 from, Selkirk Post Office, Scott's Selkirk, Peony Rose Coffee Shop, Bryan Hoggan at Ettrick Design, and Colin Turnbull's.

Mail orders can be arranged for £15.00 by emailing selkirkcolonialsecretary@gmail.com

CD and Book sale proceeds enable the Society to continue their support of local good causes.

Selkirk Colonial Society - THANKS

The Society would like to acknowledge and thank Grant Kinghorn for providing the official photos for our newsletter.

www.grantkinghornpics.co.uk



The Society Facebook page continues to be popular with 600+- members and guests following our page around the world; keeping up to date on Society business and of course the main event, the Common Riding. If you would like to submit photos or an article to the Facebook page please email vjanegraham@hotmail.com or contact Jane Graham via Facebook messenger.

Selkirk Colonial Society - FACEBOOK

Selkirk Colonial Society - CONTACTS

selkirkcolonialchairman@gmail.com

selkirkcolonialsecretary@gmail.com

selkirkcolonialtreasurer@gmail.com

Selkirk Colonial Society website: www.selkirkcolonialsociety.com