

Selkirk Colonial Society - 2024 Newsletter



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



A SOUTER AYE

SELKIRK COLONIAL SOCIETY

BUSSIN' CONCERT 2024

Standard Bearer
Nick R Butner (Australia) and Lady Bearer
Helen Butner (Renwick)

in the VICTORIA HALL, SELKIRK
WEDNESDAY, the 12th day of JUNE

DOORS OPEN 7 pm – COMMENCE 7.30 pm

GUEST CHAIRMAN:
George C Thomson, Colonial Society Standard Bearer 2012

ADMISSION: £3.00 by Programme

Selkirk Colonial Society - MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Once again, 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.

Over the last year the Society has been saddened to learn of the loss of several prominent members, namely Nancy Carroll, Brian Nixon CSB 1988, Lisa Roulston, Will Anderson CSB 1993 and Annette Walker (Moyes). Our thoughts are with family and friends.

Common Riding 2024 was a great success, thanks in no small measure to our Standard Bearer Nick Buttner (Australia) and his Mum and Lady Busser Helen. They did a fantastic job of representing members from across the world and the Society definitely made the right choice. Well done to Nick and Helen. As usual we had a good turnout for the Bussin' Concert and former Standard Bearer George Thomson (NZ 2012) took the position of Guest Chair. He had a ball! Following the Concert our Overseas Visitors Reception enjoyed a full house and we were well entertained by many of our visitors and guests. It was an excellent night. With a large support from members on the Friday, our Standard Bearer carried the ceremonial Flag around the town and then undertook the casting in the Market Place in an exemplary manner. We concluded our events at the Foy after the casting and the Flag was duly returned to the Society. Nick and Helen were at last able to relax and hopefully they will return to Selkirk in years to come.

Financially, although the accounts are not yet complete, we can certainly report that it was a successful Common Riding. With excellent attendances, a financial surplus in all functions, and high levels of merchandise sales, we will make a profit, which in turn should allow us to keep ticket prices at their current levels. Our new web site is under development, new member badges have been manufactured and our Society history book, *Tales of the Exiles*, has seen the second edition printed and on sale. The Society has made various donations around the town to bands, Common Riding Trust, flower displays, and so on, but nothing major this year, because of the expenditure on the web, books and badges. Next year we will look to make a considerable donation to some local group.

Thinking of 2025, we have already chosen the Standard Bearer and although at this time the name is not being announced, I can confirm that he comes from the east coast of the USA. I hope to welcome many of you to Selkirk next year to support the Standard Bearer and meet with family and friends.

Another matter I want to make comment on is the lack of younger, local members. The Society exists in Selkirk only through the efforts of many "aged" members. Some are over 80, many are in their 70's, and the rest, bar a small handful, are in their 60's. Do you have kin in Selkirk who could help? The future is not yet bleak, but it is not altogether bright. All thoughts welcome.

Finally, and this is a repeat from last year, the restoration of the Haining House is well underway. Hopefully next year the project might be complete and our regalia on permanent display.

With my very best wishes from Selkirk.

Ian Clapperton, Chairman.

Selkirk Colonial Society - ANNIVERSARIES



**OVERSEAS MEMBERS AT
COMMON RIDING 1999**

Back: Donald Wastie (Colonial Standard Bearer '76), Bruce Duncan, Craig Wastie (Australia), Raymond Smith (CSB '69, Barbados), Gerald Biggs (CSB '73, Canada), Rosemary Smith (Lady Busser '69, Barbados), Mike Bergholz (U.S.A.), Ashley MacAlinden (Canada), Ian Robertson, Chris Bergholz (U.S.A.), Arlene Fenton (Canada), Eileen Liddle (Kazakhstan), Lynn Patterson, John Siskind (U.S.A.), Alan Clark, Frank Kongi, Carole Mural Duncan (Australia), Maya Moller, Ruth Moller (South Africa), Standard Bearer Craig Douglas, Lady Busser Judith Douglas (Canada), Janet Cameron, Diane Crutcher (U.S.A.), Helen Johny MacAlinden (Canada), Sally Wastie (Lady Busser '70), Marcus Wastie (CSB '97), Robyn Lally (Australia), Barbara and Lawrence Scott (CSB '68, South Africa), Michelle Kady, Betty Johns (Australia). Missing: In wheelchair on stage: Lesley Kady (Australia).

25th Anniversary

Colonial Standard Bearer Craig Douglas
and Lady Busser Judith Douglas, QATAR.



50th Anniversary

Colonial Standard Bearer Peter Robertson and Lady
Busser Mrs. Rena Robertson, CANADA.

Selkirk Colonial Society - CONDOLENCES

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

Mrs. Nancy Carroll, Scotland. Nancy passed away in January 2024. Nancy was a stalwart Society member, and contributed much to the success of the Overseas Visitors Reception. For many years Nancy kindly organized the floral arrangements for the Reception.

Colonial Standard Bearer 1988, Mr. Brian Nixon. Brian passed away in January 2024. Brian and his wife Irene (Tranter) lived in Mauritius where Brian was the Wool Secretariat. Since his retirement they lived in Ilkley, Yorkshire, England.

Ms. Lisa Roulston, Australia. Lisa passed away in March 2024. The Society was pleased to have Lisa and her sister Isla attend the 2023 Common Riding. Lisa spoke at the Overseas Reception in 2023. She was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Colonial Standard Bearer 1993, Mr. Will Anderson. Will passed away in April 2024. Will and his wife Joyce returned to Selkirk from France to represent the Colonial Society in 1993. Will was a long standing member of the Society serving as Secretary for many years.

Mrs. Annette Walker (Moyes), England. Annette passed away in April 2024. Annette was a long time member of the Society and gave years of service and support especially at the Common Riding. Annette was always ready to assist with decorating the Hall for our Reception, hanging the flags, and welcoming overseas visitors.

Our thoughts are with the families.

Selkirk Colonial Society - 2024 BUSSIN OF THE COLOURS



Colonial Standard Bearer Nick Buttner, Lady Busser Helen Buttner and Chairman Ian Clapperton perform the Bussin' of the Colours for 2024.



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Edinburgh & Lothian Souters - MEDALLION PRESENTATION



Edinburgh & Lothian Souters Society representatives Ms. May Stark, and Mrs. Susan Thomson attended the 2024 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 Matthew Stanners received his medallion from Mrs. Susan Thomson.

Edinburgh & Lothian Souters - GROUP PHOTOGRAPH



It was lovely to have members of the Edinburgh & Lothian Souters Society in attendance at the 2024 Colonial Bussin Concert.

Selkirk Colonial Society - LADY BUSSER MEDALLION



Mrs. Sheila Lockie presented Lady Busser Helen Buttner
with her Lady Busser medallion.

Selkirk Colonial Society - WALTER WALDIE MEMORIAL MEDALLION



On behalf of the Waldie family, Jock and Sandra Grieve presented Colonial
Standard Bearer Nick Buttner with the Walter Waldie Memorial medallion.

Selkirk Colonial Society – OVERSEAS RECEPTION



Selkirk Colonial Society – COMMON RIDING MORNING



Selkirk Colonial Society - CASTING THE GOLDEN BANNER



Selkirk Colonial Society - CASTING THE GOLDEN BANNER



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

1914

Thomas Currie, NEW ZEALAND. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Jean Angus.

1924

John Yellowlees, NEW ZEALAND. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Grace Yellowlees.

1934

John Rutherford, CANADA. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Mrs. Rutherford.

1944 WWII

1954

Jack Crooks, SOUTH AFRICA. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Rena Crooks (Moyes).

1964

George Thomson, SOUTH AFRICA. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Mabel Thomson (Parkhill).

1974

Peter Robertson, CANADA. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Rena Robertson.

1984

Douglas Robbie, SOUTH AFRICA. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Lorna Robbie (Brownlee).

1994

Ernest Hume, USA. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Kathleen Hume.

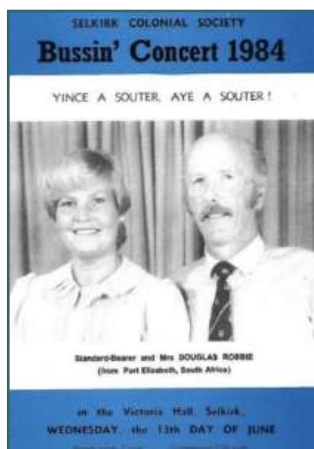
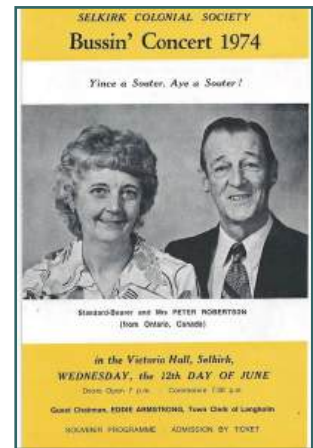
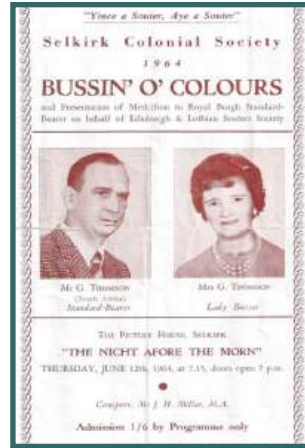
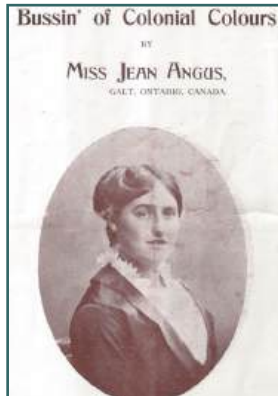
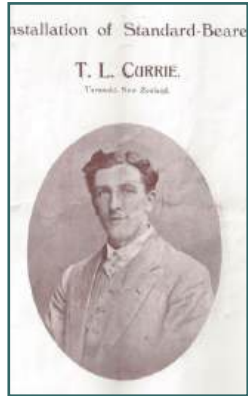
2004

Alan Emond, NEW ZEALAND. The flag was busied by Lady Busser Kirsty Emond.

2014

Kenny Thomson, NEW ZEALAND. The flag was busied by Lady Busser June Cox.

Selkirk Colonial Society - A LOOK BACK OVER THE DECADES



Selkirk Colonial Society – COLONIAL STANDARD BEARER 2024 REFLECTIONS

Even though only three months have passed, I already have a strong sense of nostalgia for the wonderful days I spent in Selkirk from June 2nd to 15th. Lovely sunshine greeted me on June 2nd as I arrived at my accommodation at The Haining and took in the wonderful view of the loch. My first ever walk to the top of Eildon Hill North followed later that day and it was a delight to look down on the beauty of the Borders.

I was warmly welcomed by Ian and Pat Clapperton on June 4 and they, together with Heather and Gerald Beggs, witnessed my first practice cast in the town. Ian, in his meticulously organised way, talked me through all that awaited me over the coming ten days and ensured I made it later in the day to my first public casting practice. I was very warmly welcomed there by a group of Colonials, my fellow Standard Bearers, and many others, and was delighted that the casting went smoothly.

My parents arrived in Selkirk on June 6th and we were able to fit in some memorable trips in the Borders around Common Riding events, including to Abbotsford House and Flodden. I walked up to the Three Brethren on a clear but brisk morning and was pleasantly surprised to find the list of Royal Burgh Standard Bearers there.

It was fantastic to be able to attend almost all the other Associations'/Societies' lead-up events though, given the number of events in the week before the Common Riding, I was very glad I followed the advice of Neil Heatlie, last year's Colonial Standard Bearer, and Ian to pace myself.

The hard work of local members meant that the Colonial Society Bussin' Concert and Reception went off without a hitch. It was wonderful to meet the other returning exiles and I hope that the night was as memorable for them as it was for me.

The Common Riding itself almost seems unbelievable now that I think back on it. Carrying the flag past the house where my grandfather grew up and seeing my mother, Colonial Lady Busser Helen, and relatives have the opportunity to also carry the flag was very special. Of course, the casting of the Colonial Society flag is a moment I am never going to forget and will treasure for the rest of my life.

I attended the Common Riding in 2013 and thought I had a good appreciation for all that it involved and all that it means to the Selkirk community, whether they live in Selkirk not. However, having had the honour and privilege of being Colonial Standard Bearer, I now realise that there is so much more to the Common Riding. The unique history and traditions of each Association/Society, the wide range of songs (old and new), the linking of arms when singing the Soft Lowland Tongue of the Border, the full extent of Common Riding-related events, that the horses used to come into the Market Square after the ride, and how hard the people of the town work to keep this special event alive are but a few of the things I now appreciate.

It was wonderful to be able to share my time in Selkirk with my parents and relatives (some of whom I met for the first time) and I thank them all for their wonderful support. Finally, I would like to again express my sincere thanks to the Selkirk Colonial Society for having me as the 2024 Standard Bearer and, to the members for all the work they do to ensure that the yellow flag is cast in the Market Square each June.

Colonial Standard Bearer Nick Buttner.

Selkirk Colonial Society – COLONIAL LADY BUSSER 2024 REFLECTIONS

Over one hundred and twelve years after my father left Selkirk as a small boy, Nick, my son, and I had the wonderful privilege of representing the Selkirk Colonial Society as Standard Bearer and Lady Busser at the 2024 Selkirk Common Riding thus fulfilling a lifetime wish of both my father and my mother.

Ian Clapperton's excellent organisation meant that we were well versed in our roles. We were warmly welcomed by Ian and Pat and presented with beautiful rosettes of the Colonial Society and the Royal Burgh Standard Bearer. We were so impressed with the work of Sheila Lockie who had obviously spent many hours making these items. These rosettes now hang proudly in our grandchildren's bedroom. The Common Riding story passed onto yet another generation.

When we arrived on June 6th, we immediately felt the 'spirit' of the Common Riding, with the streets, shops and homes brightly decorated with the colours of the Standard Bearer.

My first commitment was the Merchant Company Dinner and Bussin' at the Victoria Hall where I was made to feel extremely welcome by my fellow Lady Bussers, the Standard Bearers and members of the Merchant Company.

I enjoyed the many stories and the singing of the traditional songs which had been part of my life since childhood.

The Colonial Society Bussin' O' Colours was a very moving and emotional experience for Nick and myself. It was wonderful to be able to share this moment with our Selkirk family. The event was full of both tradition and humour, making it an experience that will endure for a lifetime.

The Reception for Exiles and Overseas Visitors was a most enjoyable evening. The upstairs room in which it was held had been beautifully decorated and the framed Standard Bearer ribbons from over the years looked spectacular.

To wake on Common Riding morning 2024 and see and hear the bands from our upstairs window as they marched up to the Market Place, and observe the moving ceremony at the War memorial, was a wonderful way to set the scene for the day ahead. As we gathered at Victoria Hall, we were again joined by four generations of our Selkirk family. We proudly followed Nick as he carried the Colonial Society flag and marched with the people of Selkirk, making our way down to the cheer on the riders as they set off on their journey.

I tried to catch Nick's eye as we passed by my father's birthplace in Slotham Bank. This was an emotional time that touched my heart, fully understanding the great pride that my parents would have felt as their grandson paraded by. It meant a great deal to me and my Selkirk family to be able to share in the carrying of the Colonial Society flag through the streets, however nothing could surpass watching the Casting of the Colours in the Market Place. I must admit that there was a tear in my eye as Nick took to the stage.

This day is full of so many wonderful memories, from the riders returning through the Toll led by Standard Bearer Stanners, to the Colonial Society Foy, to the Ball which saw attendees regaled in beautiful gowns and stunning tartan suits. The Grand March marked the end of our Common Riding 2024.

In a world where conflict, negativity and aggression seek to divide communities, it is amazing that something born, in part, of a terrible battle over 500 years ago can bring together people from diverse backgrounds and from across the world to share in a positive community celebration in a wee town in the Scottish Borders. To me, this is one of the great achievements of the Selkirk Common Riding. Long may it continue as a vital and integral part of this wonderful community.

Thank you for allowing me this unique lifetime experience.

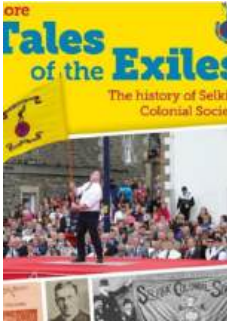
Lady Busser Helen Buttner (Renwick)

Selkirk Colonial Society - SOCIAL EVENING



Local members of the Society enjoyed a lovely evening at
Tibbie's in Selkirk on September 19th, 2024.

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. The CD is £7.00.

Our second book, “More Tales of the Exiles”, is available for £9.00.

Purchase the CD and the book together for £15.00. They are available locally at Scott’s Selkirk, the Peony Rose Coffee Shop, the General Store, and Selkirk Distillery.

Mail orders can be arranged by emailing the Society Secretary at 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



Selkirk Colonial Society - FACEBOOK



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 - CONTACTS

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