

# SELKIRK NEWS

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## Selkirk News Issue 3

Created to allow the residents of Selkirk a central point of information, Selkirk News is produced by a sub-committee of Selkirk Community Council, and is distributed via Selkirk's High Street shops and Post office.

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Please send news and photos to [info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk)

## May Market and Fair

Just a reminder that there will be a **Selkirk Farmers' Market** on **Saturday 4th May**, attended by SBC Councillors. from 09:30-1:00pm in Selkirk Market Place.

It will be followed by the first **Volunteer Fair, 1:30-3:30pm, featuring a performance by Selkirk Silver Band at 2pm.**

The Volunteer Fair is a chance for local organisations to show what they do, in the hope that new volunteers, the lifeblood of such groups, can be signed up.



## New Standard Bearers Named

**Mathew Stanners is Royal Burgh Standard Bearer 2024**

The Royal Burgh of Selkirk Common Riding Trust have appointed Mathew Stanners as the Royal Burgh Standard Bearer for 2024, alongside a further 6 new Standard Bearers, appointed by Selkirk Associations.

Announced on Appointment Night, April 26th, Mathew said: "I look forward to representing the Royal Burgh at all the events surrounding the 2024 Common Riding celebrations and aim to upholding the traditions so memorably celebrated by all my predecessors." [Cont. Page 2]



Some useful contacts:

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[info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk)

Services in Selkirk:  
<https://exploreselkirk.co.uk/services/>

Borders Buses  
[https://www.bordersbuses.co.uk/  
services](https://www.bordersbuses.co.uk/services)

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April 5

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## New Standards

**M**any congratulations to the Standard Bearers for 2024, appointed to represent the Selkirk Common Riding Associations.

**Derek Easson** will cast the colours of Selkirk Hammermen and **Peter Dallas** will do the same for the Merchant Company. **Les Ruthven** will be Standard Bearer for the Corporation of Weavers, **Nicholas Renwick Buttner** will represent Selkirk Colonial Society, **Bruce Mercer** will cast for the Ex-Soldiers Association, **Colin Sandilands** will bear the standard for the

Fleshers, A list of the Common Riding events can be found elsewhere in this issue, and all residents are encouraged to attend the many celebrations of Selkirk's proud heritage and traditions.



Derek Easson, Standard Bearer for Selkirk Hammermen



Peter Dallas, Standard Bearer for Selkirk Merchant Company



Les Ruthven, Standard Bearer for Selkirk Weavers



Colin Sandilands, Standard Bearer for Selkirk Fleshers



Nicholas Renwick Buttner,  
Standard Bearer for Selkirk  
Colonial Society



Bruce Mercer, Standard  
Bearer for the Ex-Soldiers  
Association

## New Standard Bearers

Thanks to **Grant Kinghorn** for his photographs [above and left] of the new Standard Bearers for 2024, appointed to represent the Selkirk Common Riding Associations.

**Les Ruthven** will be Standard Bearer for the Corporation of Weavers, **Colin Sandilands** will bear the standard for the Fleshers, **Nicholas Renwick Buttner** will represent Selkirk Colonial Society, and **Bruce Mercer** will represent the Ex-Soldiers Association.

## Trebles All Round for Selkirk Gins

**WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT**

	<b>SELKIRK NAVY STRENGTH</b> Production Name: Selkirk Distillers Country: United Kingdom Category: Gin Award: Silver Medal Points: 87	
	<b>1953</b> Production Name: Selkirk Distillers Country: United Kingdom Category: Gin Award: Silver Medal Points: 87	
	<b>BANNOCK GIN</b> Production Name: Selkirk Distillers Country: United Kingdom Category: Gin Award: Bronze Medal Points: 73	

**C**ongratulations to Selkirk Distillers, who entered three of their gins into the London Spirits Competition – and came away with three awards.

**B**oth their Selkirk Navy Strength and 1953 gins were awarded Silver status, while the Bannock Gin won a Bronze medal. Take together with their Selkirk Gin and Tilda's Tipple, both of which won in 2023, Selkirk Distillers now have five award winning gins, created and distilled in Selkirk.

Check them all out in the Selkirk Distillers High Street shop or at Tibbie's restaurant/wine bar in the Market Place.

## SELKIRK EVENTS IN MAY

01	Selkirk Hill Management Group meeting
02	Try Bowls, Selkirk Bowling Club
04	Tickets for Common Riding Ball on sale
04	Farmers' Market, Market Place
04	Volunteer Fair, Market Place
04	Launch of Welcome to Selkirk
05	Try Bowls, Selkirk Bowling Club
06	Bank Holiday Monday
08	Dementia Singing Cafe, Masonic Lodge
10	A707 cloven Ford's road reopens
11	Selkirk Sevens at Philiphaugh
11	Scottish Gas Energy Roadshow, Philiphaugh
11	Common Riding Executive Coffee Morning
13	Community Council Meeting, Victoria Halls
15	Antiquarian Soc 'James Hogg & the Suicide's Grave'
18	Silver Band Concert, Victoria Halls
22	Dementia Singing Cafe, Masonic Lodge



### Bowling Gets Rolling

Saturday the 20th of April saw the opening of the town's bowling greens. A large turnout of members at both the Selkirk Green and Ettrick Forest clubs got their respective seasons off to a great start.

At the Selkirk Green, Margaret Rae, wife of club President Gordon Rae, had the honour of throwing the first jack of the season, and similarly, first jack of the season at Ettrick Forest was thrown by Fiona Parratt, wife of Club President Finlay Donaldson.



Above left: Fiona Parratt at Ettrick Forest. Above right: Margaret Rae at Selkirk Bowling Club. Photos: Grant Kinghorn.



Both clubs are now up and running, and both have 'Come and Try' bowling events for anyone keen to take up bowling. Selkirk Bowling Club's are on April 28 (1-3pm), 02 May (6:30 pm onwards, weather permitting) and 5 May (1-3pm). Ettrick Forest's 'Come and Try' night is on 29 April, from 6:30pm. More details can be found on both clubs' social media pages.

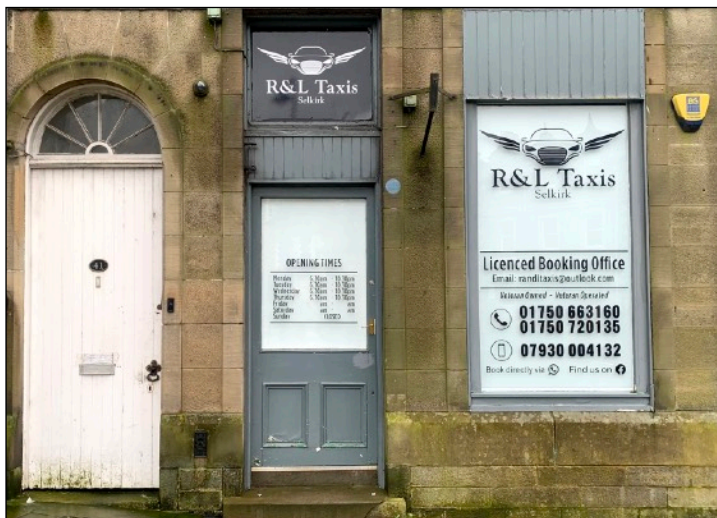


### Short Cuts

Restoration of **The Haining** continues apace, with the outside of the historic house mostly complete. Works continue on the interior and the addition of other vital elements of modernisation.

### Taxi! Taxi!

Award-winning taxi company R&L Taxis has moved into the former Scoop premises on Selkirk's Market Place, creating a focal point for locals and visitors alike wishing transportation



The **Probus Club of Galashiels and District** have asked us to mention their regular meetings for retired and semi-retired professional and business men and women in the Central Borders, including Selkirk. They provide a friendly environment in which to meet, make new friends, enjoy conversation with like-minded people and listen to a programme of talks. They also organise outings as well as joint meetings with other Probus Clubs in the Borders.

Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings each month, September to May, in the Waverley Castle Hotel at Darnick, plus coffee mornings elsewhere in summer.

Contact the Secretary: [gala.probus@outlook.com](mailto:gala.probus@outlook.com) or on 01896 850411, and there is more information on their website - [galashielsprobus.org.uk](http://galashielsprobus.org.uk).

### Notice Duly Given



Meanwhile, the drive to keep the citizens of Selkirk more informed continues with the installation of a new notice board affixed to the Market Place bus stop, replacing the timetable notice board, which had been broken for more than a year. Scottish Borders Council have committed to replacing the timetable notice board as well, however, so it is hoped that the two will exist together in harmony in future.

**MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**  
Ettrick Valley Committee

**On Yer Bike!**

**Ettrick Valley Macmillan Leisure Ride**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Registration from 8.45am  
Riders depart at 10.00am

£20.00 per rider  
22-mile, 34-mile and 56-mile routes

**Ettrickbridge Sports Field**  
By kind permission of Ettrick Forest Sports & Recreational Club

For more information and to register visit:  
[www.rideettrickvalley.wordpress.com](http://www.rideettrickvalley.wordpress.com)  
or email: [rideettrickvalley@outlook.com](mailto:rideettrickvalley@outlook.com)

Ettrick Valley Macmillan Cancer Support - Find us on Facebook - Follow us on Instagram

### Valley Birls

Get on your bike on quiet roads with friends and support a worthwhile charity at the same time, with the **Macmillan Leisure Ride on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May**. Based at Ettrickbridge Sports Field, registration is at 8:45am. Ding ding!

## SELKIRK EVENTS IN JUNE

01	Farmers' Market, Market Place
01	Cuff Night, Masonic Lodge
04	Casting Practice, Viewfield
05	Selkirk Hill Management Group meeting
07	United Crafts dinner
08	Fleshers Bussin'
12	High School exhibition, Burnside gallery
12	Casting Practice, Thornfield House
12	Casting Practice, Selkirk High School
12	Colonial Society Bussin'
12	Dementia Singing Cafe, Masonic Lodge
13	Roads closed, Night Before the Morn
13	United Crafts Bussin' Concert
13	Ex-Standard Bearers wreath laying at Flodden Memorial
14	Selkirk Common Riding Day
14	Common Riding Procession and Casting
14	Gala Rig Race Meeting
14	Common Riding Ball
15	Sports - Games and Gymkhana, Philiphaugh
17	Community Council Meeting, Victoria Halls
22	Harris Fest, Selkirk RFC
26	Dementia Singing Cafe, Masonic Lodge

For more details, see [www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk/calendar](http://www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk/calendar)

## The Mane's Blonde - Legally Blonde



Photos by Yvonne Mitchell of the recent successful production of Legally Blonde by the Selkirk Musical Theatre Company.



## SELKIRK EVENTS IN JULY



06	Farmers' Market
06	Selkirk Ex-Standard Bearers' Cup Night
08	Community Council Meeting, Victoria Halls
10	Dementia Singing Café, Masonic Lodge
24	Dementia Singing Café, Masonic Lodge

For more details, see [www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk/calendar](http://www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk/calendar)

### All the Fun of the Fair

In 2023, on the May Bank Holiday, Selkirk Community Council staged a musical / local organisation event in the Cross Keys space, which ended up being a big success, even in the wind & rain: an estimated 300 people came, over the afternoon.

For 2024 there is a 'Volunteer Fair' for Selkirk organisations and clubs to recruit more volunteers / members, for which everyone is crying out.

It's a common theme across the Borders that volunteering and club membership has reduced since lockdown, so publicity for the positive aspects of various activities may help boost profiles and attract more sign ups.

Following the Farmers' Market, the fair includes various local and national organisations, Ed Strang Steel as DJ/MC and a performance from the Selkirk Silver Band.

**VOLUNTEER FAIR**  
**SELKIRK MARKET PLACE**

**BANK HOLIDAY SATURDAY**  
**4 MAY 1:30-3:30PM**

- Right after the Farmers' Market
- DJ Ed Strang Steel
- Presentations from Selkirk Community groups
- Learn about volunteering
- Get involved
- More details at [www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk](http://www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk)
- **Selkirk Silver Band performance**

Selkirk Community Council

SELKIRK FARMERS MARKET

## Save On Energy Bills at the Rugby!



**M**ay 11th is shaping up to be a busy day, with the Seven a Side rugby at Philiphaugh, but there is another item of interest, which is an 'Energy Roadshow' staged by Scottish Gas, in Selkirk Rugby Club's building. The aim of the roadshow is to bring to the community a team of renewable experts, who can will discuss energy efficiency and renewable technologies, aiming to reduce carbon and save money. The event plans to feature experts from various areas, including Home Health Check, Hive Smart Home Technology Solutions, Electric Vehicle Charging solutions, Air Source Heat pumps, Solar power, Battery Storage and Energy Efficiency advice. As well as Grant Funding information for homeowners, details will be given of Skillsminer, free Skills Ecosystem software access for recruitment, training and talent. This is aimed at developing and capturing a green skilled future workforce to deliver on Net Zero obligations by 2050.

## There's No Place like Rome for the Cycling Souters

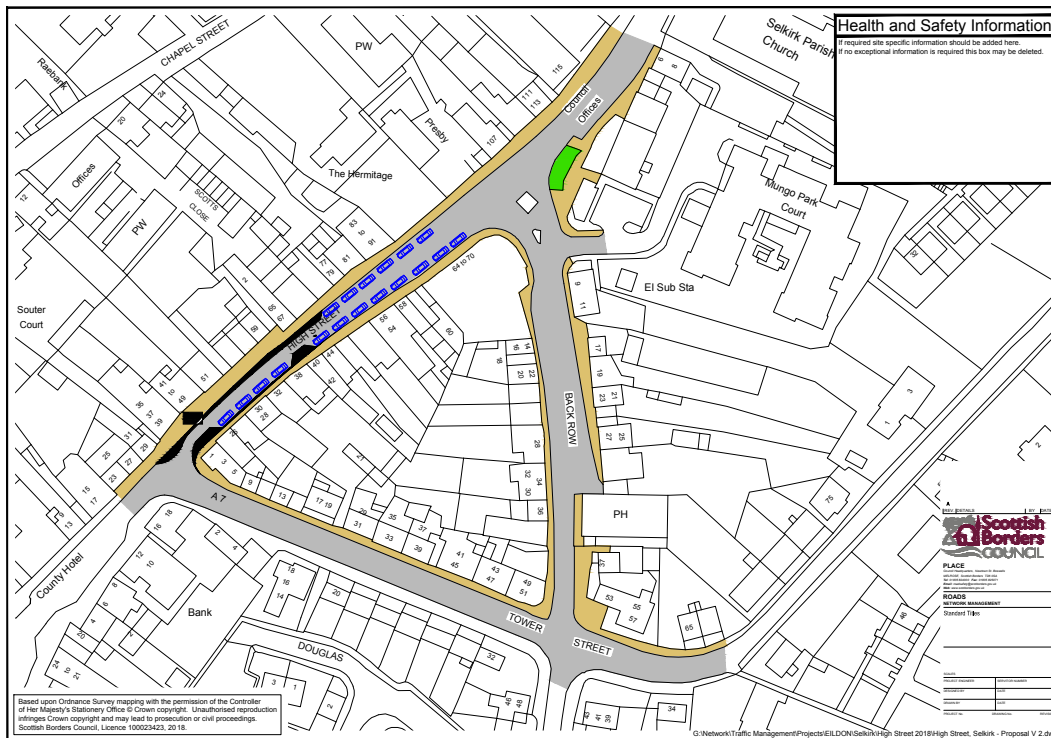
**S**elkirk-based Cycling Souters deserve much acclaim for their great achievement in cycling 1600 miles from Selkirk's Market Place to Rome's Piazza Navona. Raising money for the My Name's Doddie Foundation, the Cycling Souters were one of 19 teams taking part in the relay ride to Rome, accompanying ex-Scotland rugby captain Rob Wainwright as he delivered the match ball for the current national team's Six Nations fixture against Italy on Saturday, March 9.

When the group decided to take on the challenge, their goal was to raise £30,000 for the Foundation, which they accomplished, with contributions currently totalling more than £37,000. Congratulations are due to all concerned.





# New Developments



A preliminary drawing of one idea for a High Street one-way system. The proposal would be subject to a full public consultation

**New ideas for the town** include a much-discussed a one-way system on the High Street to help control dangerous parking and suggestions to further improve the former Cross Keys space off the Market Place. These and other ideas are being discussed by the Selkirk & The Valleys team, as part of the follow up to the successful ideas sessions undertaken in 2023. Look out for more presentations and consultations over the Summer.



Former Cross Keys space improvement

## Cricket Club Update

The new season kicks off with a trip to Hawick for a 40-over match on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. For the first home game we welcome Haddington CC to Philiphaugh on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. It's a busy start to the season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, who are looking to put themselves in the frame for a return to Division 2 next season. The bowling boards were stacked away for the winter following a busy Friday night league seeing a 'Factory Cup' win for SCC 1 - a team of current and ex-Selkirk cricketers.

The junior hard ball training started on the 18<sup>th</sup> April and the juniors are looking forward to the season with hopes of success against local rivals Kelso, Gala and St.Boswells who are all fielding junior teams this year. Fixtures are due to be set but the junior set up received a welcome boost from the shirt sponsor Allied Surveyors and a generous donation by long standing members.

One of our targets this year is to get more girls playing cricket, and with that in mind we are running an after school group for P4-P7 Girls:

Sign up here: <https://form.jotform.com/212912574787365>



Kit day at the club and the juniors thanked Eck, Jean and Fraser Heard for their generous sponsorship of junior cricket at Selkirk this year

Into the spring, the club received funding from the Warm Spaces initiative to open the club on a Sunday morning from 8-30am to 11.30am and on a Wednesday evening from 7-10pm. For both sessions refreshments are free and we are grateful to those who have supported this initiative. The Wednesday evening has the added attraction of a screening of a film chosen by attendees. On the 24<sup>th</sup> April we will be showing the film 'Priscilla'.



Winners of the Factory Cup Carpet Bowling League:  
'The Past and Present Cricketers'.

Memberships were due at the beginning of April and subscriptions have been kept low again this year. For those who want to support the club through sponsorship there are a number of opportunities to do this e.g. sponsoring a match ball or sponsoring equipment. Please visit our website and follow us on Facebook to keep up with fixtures and events. A couple of dates for the diary - on 30<sup>th</sup> May we welcome all of our locally primary schools to the club for the annual festival and on 7<sup>th</sup> September we welcome the return of the MCC to Selkirk for a fixture against a Selkirk invitational side.

Please visit our website (<http://www.selkirkcricketclub.co.uk/>) or contact us t [selkirkcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:selkirkcricketclub@gmail.com).

## Quality Street

First in a series dedicated to things that we perhaps take for granted, is a focus on two Selkirk High Street businesses dedicated to quality and service - Down To Earth Food and the Peony Rose Coffee House. Don't worry - we will be featuring the Jazrose (West Port) and 3 Hills (High Street) cafes in the future!

**The Peony Rose Coffee House** in the High Street opened under new ownership in January 2021. Unfortunately the second Covid lockdown happened, but Catherine Inglis managed to weather the storm, praising the help of her 'wonderful' staff and the loyalty of her customers.

The cafe has become a popular place for light lunches, teas and coffee, with a speciality of home-baked cakes and scones. Owner Catherine also uses local produce from the bakers, butchers and fruit shop. Open Monday to Saturday 9am to 4.30pm and Sundays 10am to 4.30pm, the cafe is a very friendly place to meet. Afternoon teas are also available from 2pm on Saturday and Sundays, and vouchers are available.



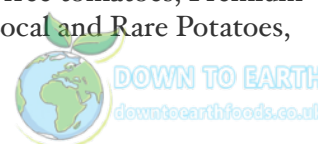
Andy Beatt set up **Down To Earth Foods** on Selkirk High Street in January 2013, with the aim of supplying the freshest and highest quality fruit, vegetables, whole foods and plants. Andy works hard to support local farmers by sourcing as much as possible of their fruit and vegetables locally, another benefit being the reduction in food miles travelled. Most of Down To Earth's potatoes come from within 15 miles, with a large proportion of vegetables sourced from the Scottish Borders, the Lothians, Fife and Northumberland. The emphasis as much as possible is on local suppliers for soft fruit, some of which are grown just five minutes from Selkirk and picked on the day of sale.

Down To Earth supplies wholesale fresh fruit and vegetables to trade customers, and are proud to supply numerous businesses in Selkirk, Hawick, Galashiels and even further afield, including several butchers, schools, nursing and care-homes, as well as cafes, restaurants, pubs and hotels.



10 things you didn't know you could get from Down To Earth include: Plants, Air mile-free tomatoes, Premium CBD Oils, Vegetable boxes, Artisan Bread, Pasta Sauces and San Marzano Tomatoes, Local and Rare Potatoes, Purple Carrots, Sweets, Jams & Local Honey and Recipes.

For more information, go to <https://www.downtoearthfoods.co.uk>



## Plattling Realschule in Selkirk 2024

A packed schedule greeted visitors from the Realschule in Plattling on their 2024 trip to Selkirk. Youngsters start the Realschule at the age of ten or eleven, and normally finish school at the age of 16-17. The students visiting Selkirk were all 14 years old, so a visit to Selkirk High School enabled much swapping of experiences between Scots and German scholars.

The trip also took in such experiences as a tour round by The Eildons and Scott's View; a woodcraft session round a campfire at The Haining; a thrilling archery experience, courtesy of the Ettrick Forest Archers; and a 'Discover Selkirk' journey along the Town Trail taking in various places, including Halliwell's House Museum.

The visitors found time to squeeze in an authentic ceilidh experience, hosted by Selkirk Scottish Country Dance Club, at the Conservative Club, where everyone was encouraged to join in, from beginners to experts, and a lively time was enjoyed by all. But it didn't stop there: attractions enjoyed on trips to Edinburgh featured Edinburgh Castle (including the One o'clock Gun), the Camera Obscura and the National Museum of Scotland, plus a visit to the former Royal Yacht Britannia.

Back in Selkirk, an eventful week was rounded off by attendance at Appointment Night celebrations in the Market Place, followed by fish and chips and a 'Scotland Quiz' back at their hotel.



Another school day for Young Plattlingers - but at least at someone else's school



At the sharp end - young Plattlingers learn about the craft of wood



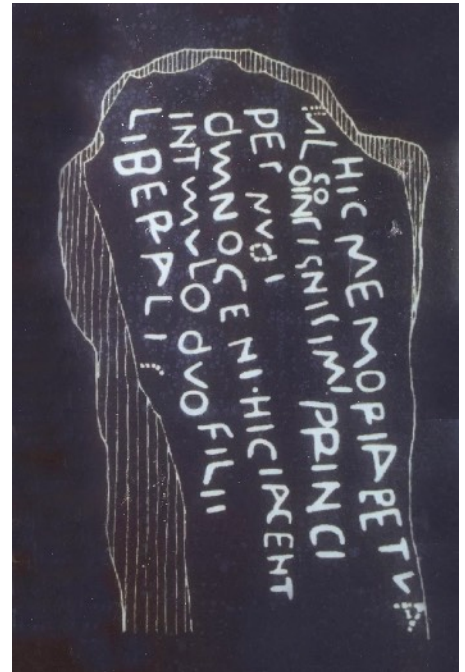
Young & old, Scots & Bavarians, meet on the dance floor



Our Plattling friends are presented with gifts to remember Selkirk

## The Yarrow Stone Story

Just off the A708 from Selkirk to Moffat rests the inscribed Yarrow Stone, marking the resting place of two Christian Princes who lived during the 5th or 6th Century AD. Uncovered around 1803, it features a Latin inscription, translatable as “This is the everlasting memorial. In this place lie the most famous princes Nudoss and Dumnogenos. In this tomb lie the two sons of Liberalis.”



After the end of Roman Britain, in the 5th Century AD, much of the Scottish Southern Uplands became part of the British kingdom of Strathclyde. The description panel beside the Yarrow Stone suggests that the memorial marks the fatal battle of Prince Nudd of the Damnoni (Strathclyde). Nudd ruled from about 575AD until around 600AD. It goes on to say that this fits with a confederate British campaign from 583 to 590AD, which retook all the territory occupied by the Angles, driving them back to their stronghold on the Northumbrian coast. The Yarrow battle may have been part of the victorious advance, but that is just speculation. What appears to be certain, however, is that the Angles regrouped and returned, decisively defeating a strong British force in 603AD, such that, by c.615AD the Yarrow area was completely under Angle occupation, with Selkirk an important centre.

### Selkirk Film



Just for your entertainment, here is a short film about Selkirk featuring snapshots of Selkirk through the seasons in 2022. See it on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joYmWiNvrRw>

### Going For Silver



The Selkirk Silver Band presents its concert on May 18 at the Victoria Halls. Guests are the Selkirk Musical Theatre Company and the Silver Band Learners group. Compere is John Nichol.

### To The Edge at Burnside Gallery



Burnside Gallery's latest exhibition 'To The Edge' runs from 01 May - 01 June, and features Mooie Scott and Vivienne Haig. Check it out at 48 Market Place, Selkirk.



## Golf Update

Club Dinner Top Table (L. to R.)  
Les Millar, Rodney Pow, Captain Norman Purves, Gordon Rae and Graham Brown.

Selkirk Golf Club's season got under way on the last Saturday in March with the traditional Captain v President match, which took place in very windy conditions. Captain Norman Purves' team won the match 10-7 against Club President Jocky Hume's team.

Friday night, the evening before, saw the Selkirk Golf Club Pre-Season Dinner taking place in the Club rooms. New Captain Norman Purves chaired the evening. Speakers for the evening were former Hibs Footballer Gordon Rae, former Captain and current Hon. Selkirk Provost Rodney Pow, Melrose Golf Club's Graham Brown and Les Millar. Vice-Captain Neil Purves gave the Vote of Thanks.

The season is now well under way, with Gents' competitions taking place on a Saturday and the Ladies' on a Thursday afternoon. May will see the qualifying Rounds take place for the Club Championship, which takes place in the last two weeks in June, finishing with Finals day on Saturday 29th of June. New members are always welcome at Selkirk Golf Club; anyone wishing to join should contact [selkirkgolfclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:selkirkgolfclub@yahoo.co.uk)

Selkirk golfers before the traditional Captain v Presidents match that gets the season underway at Selkirk Golf Club

Photo: © Grant Kinghorn



## Masonic Lodge presentation to Selkirk Foodbank

Following a very successful Burns Supper in Lodge St. John Selkirk 32 at the end of January, the charity fundraising part of the evening raised the wonderful sum of £315.

Here, presenting the Cheque to the Selkirk Food Bank's Peter Birney on behalf of the Lodge is Bro David B. Mitchell PM.

Photo: Grant Kinghorn

## It Was 10 Years' Time Ago... Pringle Park



Children enjoying the playpark

The town's new £330,000 adventure park finally opened on Sunday 22nd June ten years ago at the **Pringle Park**. It took five years of fundraising by a small group of mums, and a further twelve months of planning and construction. Margret Sweetnam, Alison Cullen, Kerry Gentleman and Sheila Cochrane baked, walked, sold and campaigned in an effort to give their town the playpark it deserved. They raised over £330,000 since forming the group in 2008.

The new park would not have been possible without major additional support - £250,000 from the Big Lottery Fund's Community Spaces Scotland Fund, as well as £10,000 support from The Robertson Trust, £5,000 from Scottish Borders Council's Community Grants Scheme and Landfill Communities Fund of £35,000. They also received countless donations of money and precious time over the years from groups and individuals.



Sheila Cochrane, Ali Cullen, Margret Sweetnam, Kerry Gentleman



A huge turnout for the opening



Royal Burgh of  
Selkirk  
Community  
Council



Scottish  
Borders  
COUNCIL

# Working For You

## SBC Councillors and Selkirk Community Council Members

**Meet SBC Councillors  
Caroline Cochrane and  
Elaine Thornton-Nicol**  
at the Selkirk Farmers' Market,  
Market Place, Selkirk  
**First Saturday of each month\*,  
09:30 - 12:00**  
[caroline.cochrane@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.cochrane@scotborders.gov.uk)  
01835 826565  
[e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk)  
07811 976943 **\*except Feb**

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