

# SELKIRK NEWS

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## Selkirk News Issue 6

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 in a limited quantity.

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**Or sign up to our mailing list! Email and we will send you a copy as a PDF file to read/ share.**

Please send news and photos to **info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk**

## 1st March Market

Just a reminder that the **Selkirk Farmers' Market** will restart on **Saturday 1st March**, in Selkirk Market Place, 09.30-1pm.

Scottish Borders Councillors Caroline Cochrane and Elaine Thornton-Nicol will be in attendance to answer queries from 10.00am-12 noon.



## Graham Coulson honoured

### Scout veteran recognised for service to the town

Graham Coulson was awarded an MBE in 2024 for his services to Scouting in Selkirk, and to mark the occasion the Community Council decided to present him with a certificate of recognition, on behalf of the town.

Graham works relentlessly and reliably, not just on behalf of the scouts, but also behind the scenes for other local groups, including organising the staging and catering. He is also an integral part of the Selkirk Musical Theatre Company and occasionally performs himself, sometimes as a comic duo in partnership with local actor and author John Nichol.

The award, created specially for the occasion by the Selkirk & District Community Council, was presented by Chair Andy Murray, at the talent-packed Scout's fundraising concert on December 28 at the Victoria Halls.

See Page 4 for more details.

Photo: Grant Kinghorn



**Some useful contacts:**

Selkirk Health Centre  
01750 21674

Call 105 to report a power cut  
and 999 for an emergency.

NHS - 111

Police - 101

SGN - 0800 111 999

Scottish Water - 0800 077 8778

Scottish Power - 0800 092 9290

Scottish Borders Council -

0300 100 1800

Scottish Borders Council emergency  
out of hours number 01896 752111

Borders Buses

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

SBC Councillors:

Caroline Cochrane

[caroline.cochrane@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.cochrane@scotborders.gov.uk)

Elaine Thornton-Nicol:

[e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk)

Leagh Douglas:

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Royal Burgh of Selkirk

Community Council

[www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk](http://www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk)

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

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Send stories to:

[info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk) before  
April 5

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Thank you.

**So That's What New Looks Like**

A new bench has been installed in the Market Place

**No Bumps, But Here's Bob**

The petition for a Kirk Wynd speed bump was refused by the SBC committee, but PopUp Bob will be dropping by occasionally to remind drivers of the speed limit.

**Meanwhile, On The High Street**

A driver gets a ticket for parking on the High Street yellow line (restricted parking, 08:30-5:30pm, Mon-Sat).



## Post Office Closure - SBHA open

The Post Office has advised that, following the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the **Selkirk Market Place branch closed on Tuesday 21 January**

This doesn't mean that no-one has proposed taking over the business and Post Office, only that we don't know of anyone having done so yet.

In the meantime, there is another Post Office counter open from Monday to Friday: the branch situated in the **SBHA offices, in Whinfield Road, Riverside, TD7 5DT.**

**Hours are: Mon, Wed, Thurs: 09.00-17.15; Tues: 09.00-17.00, Fri: 09.00-15.45. Closed Sat & Sun.**

Although the deadline for applications for a new Selkirk Sub-postmaster close on May 26th (!), discussions have started to explore the possibility of setting up a Banking Hub, as in Jedburgh.



## Lyle & Scott Mid-March Opening



Clothing manufacturers Lyle & Scott have taken over the former Lochcarron showroom on Dunsdale Road and transformed it into their own coffee shop and showroom, which is planned to open mid-March.

It is hoped that it will contribute to the continued development of Selkirk Riverside as a visitor destination.

## Victoria Halls Notice Board Down

The Victoria Halls notice board blew over in the recent gales, smashing its perspex and rendering it irreparable. However, an alliance between the Flodden 500 group and the Community Council has already secured funding for a replacement, which should be installed soon.



## SELKIRK EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- 15 Mrs. B'Spoke Jewellery, Pop-up Shop
- 16 Mrs. B'Spoke Jewellery, Pop-up Shop
- 19 Mauldsheugh Woodland Open Day
- 19 The Border Brochs, Antiquarian Society, Parish Church Hall
- 20 You Can Cook, Philiphaugh Community Centre
- 21 Shoplifters, Selkirk Film Club, Parish Church Hall
- 25 Cry-Baby The Musical, Victoria Halls
- 26 Cry-Baby The Musical, Victoria Halls
- 27 You Can Cook, Philiphaugh Community Centre
- 27 Cry-Baby The Musical, Victoria Halls
- 28 Pop-up Shop: Pop-up Shop - High School Preloved Clothing event
- 28 Cry-Baby The Musical, Victoria Halls + Matinee

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

Events across the Borders can be found at the Live Borders events page:

<https://www.liveborders.org.uk/whats-on/>

## Scout Group Concert at the Victoria Halls

Notes & Photos by Grant Kinghorn

**A**s a fundraiser for Selkirk Scout Group, it was decided to put together an evening of entertainment featuring local artists from Selkirk and the surrounding area.

Developed from initial discussions, an evening called Viva Entertainment was put together, featuring the Selkirk Scout Group, Friends of Selkirk Scout Group, Gael Force, the Selkirk Community Panto Group, violinist Chris Dyos, Selkirk Musical Theatre Company, John Nichol & Andy Murray, Gary Smith & Phillip Balsom, Darren & Tommy Knox, with the addition of Ian Wilkie on piano.







Gael Force

The evening was co-hosted by the comedic duo of Graham Coulson and John Nichol.

Selkirk Scout Group are extremely grateful to the performers and the support team in facilitating the event, which was an excellent evening of entertainment, showcasing an amazing range of incredible local talent.

Selkirk Musical Theatre



Graham Coulson and John Nichol



Andy Murray and John Nichol

At the end of the concert, several presentations were made, including one from Selkirk and District Community Council by Chair Andy Murray to organiser Graham Coulson to celebrate his MBE, awarded last Summer. Derek Brown also received the Silver Acorn Scout award, while local Cubs presented Poppy Scotland with a cheque following a sponsored silence.

Thanks to Grant Kinghorn for photos

## SELKIRK EVENTS IN MARCH

- 01 Farmers' Market returns, Market Place
- 01 Pop-up Shop: Popup Shop - High School Preloved Clothing event
- 01 Cry-Baby The Musical, Victoria Halls +Matinee
- 05 Selkirk Hill Management Group Meeting, Victoria Halls
- 06 You Can Cook, Philiphaugh Community Centre
- 09 Heart Burn Hill Run, Corby Linn Car Park
- 07 You Can Cook, Philiphaugh Community Centre
- 10 Community Council Meeting, Victoria Halls
- 13 You Can Cook, Philiphaugh Community Centre
- 14 Quingo Quiz Night, Parish Church Hall
- 16 The Upper Room Concert, Parish Church
- 19 ACE meeting, Parish Church Hall
- 19 'Votes for Women in S-E Scotland', Antiquarian Soc., Parish Church
- 20 You Can Cook, Philiphaugh Community Centre
- 21 Woman At War, Selkirk Film Club, Parish Church Hall
- 21 Quiz Night, Selkirk Golf Club
- 27 You Can Cook, Philiphaugh Community Centre

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

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## Silver Band New Year's Day



**S**elkirk Silver Band were out in force on New Year's Day, despite cold and wet conditions, to begin their traditional New Year's tour of Selkirk. The band started off in very wet conditions at Elm Park, then went on to Thornfield House care home before escaping the rain by playing to the residents of the Bield in their Lounge.

After a cup of coffee it was the march along the High Street from Mungo Park in to the Market Place, where they entertained those who had braved the monsoon to listen to the band, fortified by shortbread, port or whisky, courtesy of the Chamber of Trade. The band then made a short stop to play at Souter Court before playing again in Selkirk Conservative Club in the afternoon.



Photos: Grant Kinghorn



## SELKIRK EVENTS IN APRIL

02	Selkirk Hill Management Group meeting, Victoria Halls
04	A Song & Dance for MS multi-artist concert, Victoria Halls
14	Community Council Meeting, Victoria Halls
16	'William Cowe and the Berwick Cockle', Antiquarian Society, Parish Church Hall
18	Good Friday
20	Easter Sunday
24	Center Parcs presentation, Selkirk Rugby Club
25	Appointment Night
26	Selkirk Youth Rugby Club Sevens at Philiphaugh

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

Photos (below) from the **Bannerfield and Beyond Christmas Parade** in late November, organised by SBC Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol. It was a big success, particularly with the local children, and it is hoped that it can become a regular event.



Photos (below) from the **Christmas Eve Carols with the Selkirk Silver Band**.



All photos: Grant Kinghorn

## 5 x Plattling events in '25



**C**elebrating the continuing friendship between Selkirk and the Bavarian town of Plattling, there will be five groups of Plattling visitors coming our way in 2025.

The East Bavarian Highlanders will visit for a week at the end of April. They are a club of people (not exclusive to Plattling) who are interested in all things Scottish. Souters on a trip to Plattling encountered them at a music evening in Plattling, and they visited Selkirk for the first time in 2015. This year will be their 7th visit to Selkirk.

A week in mid-May will see the 11th visit to Selkirk for a Realschule group: a group of fourteen 13/14 year olds from the local secondary school accompanied by 2 teachers.

August sees a 12-person group under the leadership of Peter Lochmahr. Peter is the Chairman of STEPS, Plattling's twinning committee, and he has been directly involved in the Selkirk/Plattling partnership since its inception in 1998, bringing numerous groups to Selkirk in that time.

Dancer Heidi Koschollek will bring her group back to Selkirk in September for the third time, having already visited in 2019 and 2023. Heidi is a Plattling Town Councillor as well as leader of dance group Akhtar.

On a personal note, Angelika, from Heidi's dance group, stayed in the Haining's Dairy Cottage in 2023, with her 3 daughters, and for her third Selkirk trip, will be returning to Dairy Cottage for 12 nights.

Keen-eyed users of the Fleshmarket Steps will notice that the Plattling-Selkirk plaque, kindly donated to the town in 2023, has been mounted on the wall of the Post Office Sorting Office. The plaque, together with a historic Selkirk town sign, is close to the Plattling plaque at the bottom of the steps themselves.



## The Silver Band Christmas Concert

Presented here are photos from the Selkirk Silver Band Christmas Concert on Saturday 21st of December in the Victoria Halls, Selkirk. The hall was packed out to witness a spectacular Christmas Concert, compered as usual by John Nichol, who oversaw the evening in his usual hilarious manner.

Conducted by Stuart Black, the band played an evening of festive treats, featuring solos from Colin Kemp, Andrew Murray, Claire Stevenson, Les Mallin and Iris Deane.

The evening also featured a set of Christmas songs from the band's learner group under the watchful eye of Coli Kemp. The band have announced their **concert dates for 2025**, which are: Friday 9th of May, Saturday 20th of September and Saturday 20th of December.



Photos: Grant Kinghorn



Stuart and Colin Kemp



Santa meets his fans

## Dog Mess Disgust

A recent upsurge in incidents of dog mess in Selkirk has provoked concern. Selkirk High School contacted the Community Council about possibly donating signs to deter dog owners from allowing their pets to create mess on the High School playing fields.

The Community Council agreed to fund the creation and installation of the signs, which were designed by High School pupils themselves. Two signs were installed on the 28th of January, and by the next day, one of them had already been pulled out of its concrete base and thrown on the ground. Undeterred, sign installers Advanced Signs of Galashiels returned to the site and reinstalled the fallen sign in a larger and more secure concrete base.

Echoing concern about the conduct of a minority of dog owners, residents have contacted the Community Council about dog mess, specifically in the Closes of the town, including Halliwell's Close, Bogie's Close and Doctor's Close. This of course makes a mockery of the recent completion of the Close painting, organised and paid for by the BIDS group.

There is no specific agency employed to clean these areas, but it should be reported straight away to the Council - see below. However, the Community Council was able to do some remedial work with the aid of a pressure washer, kindly enabled by Scottish Borders Council, and donated by the BCA group of North Lanarkshire.



The High School Playing Fields sign



## Report. Report. Report.

This can only be a temporary solution; it is a change in behaviour that is required.

To that end, SBC Councillors have offered more signage and have reminded all of the existence of the **Dog Control Officer**, who can catch and fine persistent offenders if advised.

**Reporting mess, and requesting cleanup**, can be done via the SBC website at this link:

**<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/xfp/form/665>**





## Some Fouling FAQs:

*What if there are not any 'No Dog Fouling' signs in the area?*  
The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 covers almost all land open to the public with very few exceptions. Lack of signs is no defence if you are caught allowing your dog to foul and not removing the waste.

*Do SBC still provide free dog poo bags?*

SBC will not be providing free dog poo bags for the foreseeable future. These were previously provided as part of a partnership with Dogs Trust to promote responsible dog ownership.

*I have seen someone not clean up after their dog.*

*What can I do?*

You can **report it online** at

**<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/xfp/form/665>**  
**or phone 0300 100 1800.**

SBC will require some details of the:

- Offender
- Dog
- Time and place the incident occurred

The more accurate and specific the information that is provided, the greater the chance that this will result in an offender being penalised.

So the answer appears to be:

**Report. Report. Report.**



Halliwell's Close



Vandalised after one day



Bogie's Close



..but on the third day.



## Lodge St. John No. 32 Burns Supper

Lodge St John No. 32 held its Annual Burns Supper on Friday 31st of January in the Masonic Lodge in Back Row, Selkirk. The evening was chaired by Neil Purves, and the haggis Addressed by Duncan MacDougall. The Immortal Memory was given by Les Millar and Craig Douglas recited Tam O' Shanter. Members and guests enjoyed a lighthearted Burns Night, while raising money for the local charities supported by the Lodge.



Top table: Duncan MacDougall, Craig Douglas, Les Millar and Neil Purves

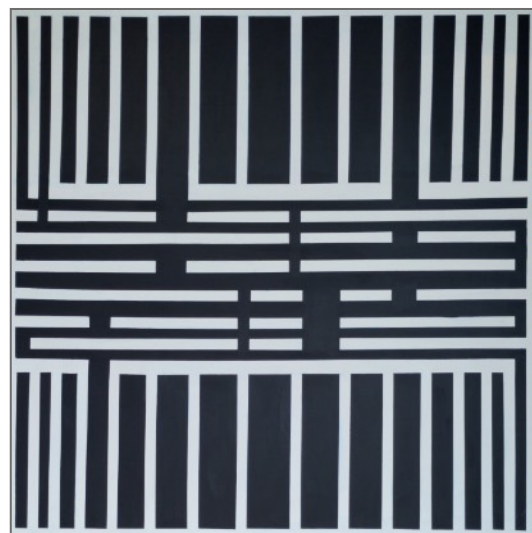


Colin Turnbull piped in the haggis

Photos: Grant Kinghorn

## Morris Manson exhibition

**Burnside Gallery  
Wednesday 19 March  
– Saturday 19 April**



Local Selkirk artist Morris Manson is known for his large geometric paintings. Morris attended Kingston upon Hull College of Art in the late sixties and afterwards found work as a potter with Aiden Dixon at the world-famous Wold Pottery near Beverley.

After two and a half years gaining experience he moved to the Isle of Skye with his wife Jane, founding Skyeramics Pottery at Dunvegan. In the 1990's the family settled in Selkirk, where Morris returned to his first love, painting.

His work is continually evolving and he finds great inspiration in the works of the Californian school, the hard edge painters and the multitudes of geometric artists working in South America. Morris makes works with sophisticated simplicity, and says: "I have great pleasure in just observing shapes/ marks for what they are".



## Hammermen Burns Supper



Piper Colin Turnbull and 2024 Hammermen Standard Bearer Derek Easson



The Top Table at the Incorporation of Hammermen Burns Supper 2025

Friday the 17th of January saw the Annual Incorporation of Hammermen Burns Supper take place in the Lesser Victoria Hall in Selkirk. Deacon David Main was in the chair for the evening, while 2024 Hammermen Standard Bearer Derek Easson carried in the haggis, piped by Colin Turnbull.

Ex-Hammermen Standard Bearer Neil Purves Addressed the haggis, and the Immortal Memory was given by the Rev Fr. Philip Blackledge. Stuart Gammie recited Tam O' Shanter, while the Toast to the Lassies was given by Euan Welsh. The "Last Word" fell to Ex-Hammermen Standard Bearer Ryan Legge and the Vote of Thanks was given by Ex-Hammermen Standard Bearer Neil Purves. Entertainers for the evening were Jimmy Gibb, Tommy Knox and Darren Knox.

## Edinburgh and Lothian Souters Society Burns supper



Mathew Stanners, John Nichol, May Stark, Rodney Pow, Tommy and Darren Knox.



John Nichol

Friday the 7th of February saw the Edinburgh and Lothian Souters Society Burns Supper take place in Prestonfield Golf Club in Edinburgh. There was around seventy in attendance including Souters who live in the capital, friends and some who had travelled up for the night from Selkirk. Edinburgh Souters President May Stark welcomed everyone, including 2024 Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Mathew Stanners, Hon Provost Rodney Pow, New Ex-Standard Bearers Chairman Alasdair Craig, other members of the Selkirk Common Riding Trust and those who had travelled up from Selkirk.

Compere for the evening was Selkirk's John Nichol, who was in fine form, performing The Immortal Memory, Tam O' Shanter and other Burns works. The Haggis was addressed by Alan Elliott. There were recitals from Andrew Anderson and May Stark, and the musical entertainment was father and son duo Tommy and Darren Knox. The Vote of Thanks was given by Andrew Anderson. The evening was a fantastic success as the Society build up to their 100th anniversary in 2027. Over the years the Society have presented Gold Medallions to the Royal Burgh Standard Bearer each year and also have presented the Standard Bearer's Sash to the town.



## Rugby Update

by Grant Kinghorn

Selkirk Rugby team's fine form in the Arnold Clark Scottish Premiership and the Border League has continued into 2025. At the time of writing Selkirk have won their last five Premiership games against Marr, Kelso, Melrose, Edinburgh Accies and Hawick. They currently sit in 4th place, but still face some very tough Away games in their quest for a top 4 position and a place in the play offs. Hooker Corey Tait is currently Selkirk's top try scorer, with 11 tries so far, including a hat-trick against Hawick, while Hugo Alderson has kicked 91 points. The Souters currently also sit top of the Border League, unbeaten after 4 games, with a Home game against Gala and an Away fixture at Peebles remaining, as they try to secure an 8th Border League title.

This year's Selkirk Sevens take place on Saturday 10th of May. Full details of the tournament will be available on the club website and social media nearer the time. Selkirk A team are currently playing in the Border Junior League Cup in the second half of the season, but have not played yet due to frozen pitches.



Selkirk's leading try scorer Hooker Corey Tait



The experienced Ross Nixon on the attack for Selkirk



## Selkirk Victoria

by Chris Silverstein

After steadying the sinking ship at Selkirk Victoria last season, the 1st half of this season has gone quite brilliantly for manager Ian Stephen and his side. Ian has gathered a team of good willing lads from all over the borders - Selkirk, Gala, Hawick and Lauder - and it really seems to work.

Losing the first 2 league games wasn't a great start, but the Vics went on a really good unbeaten run to lift them up to joint 2nd over Christmas in the BAFA B division. 2025 started with a victory in the league and they are dreaming of a promotion party come May, as well as still being involved in cups. With plenty of hard work, this year could be a really great year for Selkirk's local football team.

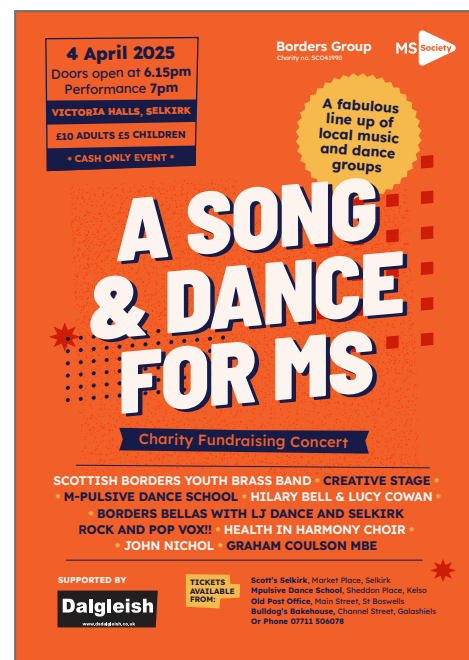
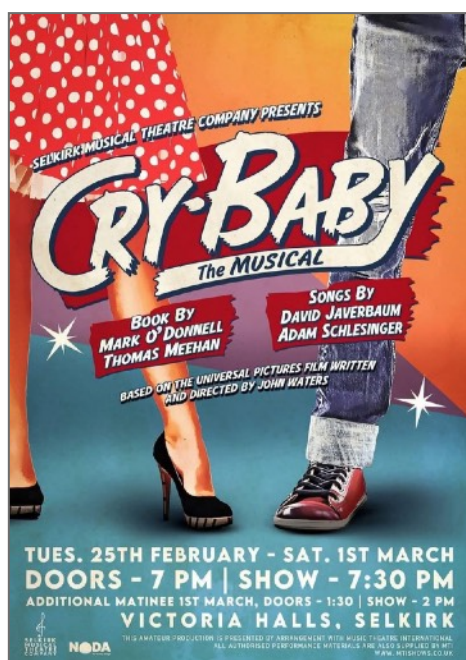


Selkirk Vics game with Gala Fairydean Rovers Amateurs in November

Photos: Grant Kinghorn



## Local Events



**Selkirk Musical Theatre Company's** upcoming production of *Cry-Baby: The Musical*, runs from **February 25th to March 1st** at the Victoria Halls, with nightly shows at **7:30pm** (doors at 7pm) and a **Saturday matinee at 2pm** (doors at 1:30pm). They say: "Step back into the rockin' 1950s into a world where the strait-laced Squares clash with the rebellious Drapes". Tickets are available now at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/selkirkMTC](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/selkirkMTC)

**The Selkirk Hill Management Group** meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, to discuss the latest initiatives in preserving one of Selkirk's finest assets. All welcome.

**'A Song & Dance for MS'** is a multi-artist concert at the Victoria Halls on **Fri 4th April**. Featuring musical and dance artists, performers include The Scottish Borders Youth Brass Band, Creative Stage, M-Pulsive Dance School, Hilary Bell & Lucy Cowan, Borders Bellas with LJ Dance and Selkirk rock and Pop Vox, Health In Harmony Choir, John Nichol, Graham Coulson MBE. Tickets on sale in the last week of Feb.

### Common Riding Executive tickets and fundraiser in early May

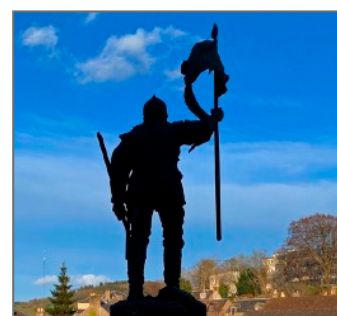
It's never too soon to plan, or save up, so please note these Common Riding events in early May - **Saturday 3rd of May, Victoria Halls:**

**Children's Common Riding Picnic Committee coffee morning** 10am - 12pm.

**Selkirk Common Riding Ball Tickets On Sale:**

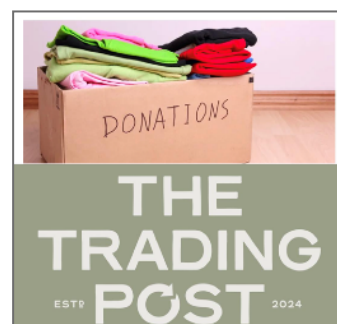
Associations	10am - 11am
General Public	11am - 12pm.

Tables of 10



### General Store sets up Trading Post for clothes donations

Selkirk's General Store is asking for Clothes donations for its new charity clothes store, 'The Trading Post'. They say: "Selkirk has no clothes charity shops any more so we've decided to fill the gap. We have opened the Trading Post, Selkirk in the old Rogersons/Selkirk gin shop on the High Street and we need your clothes donations, plus hangers. The usual stuff, clean and in good condition: men's, women's and children's items."





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\*,  
10:00-12:00**  
[caroline.cochrane@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.cochrane@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk)  
\*except Jan/Feb

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