

SELKIRK NEWS

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Selkirk News Issue 5

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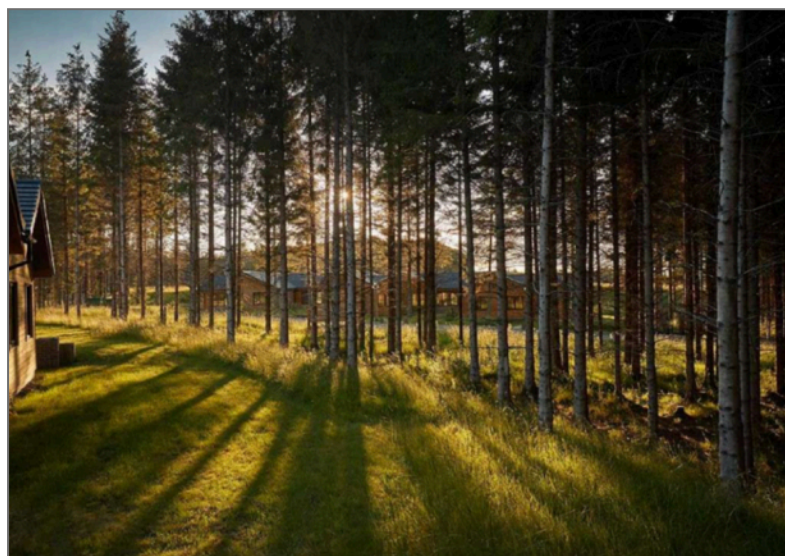
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Please send news and photos to **info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk**

December Market

Just a reminder that there will be a **Selkirk Farmers’ Market** on **Saturday 7th December**, in Selkirk Market Place, culminating in the Christmas Lights switch on, at 5pm.

Poppies at Mungo Park



Center Parcs arrives in Borders

First Scots park to be situated 3 miles north of Hawick

Center Parcs, the UK and Ireland’s provider of short holiday breaks, has announced it is developing proposals to create its first holiday village in Scotland, just off the A7, north of Hawick.

Proposals are at an early stage and they intend to submit a planning application in 2025. It is expected that the holiday village will boost the local economy, including by job creation. A planning application will be submitted for approximately 700 lodges. The site will offer a range of indoor and outdoor activities, shops, bars, restaurants, an Aqua Sana Forest Spa and the Subtropical Swimming Paradise indoor water park.

Center Parcs plans to undertake an extensive programme of afforestation, carefully cultivating new woodland and delivering significant biodiversity net gain on the site. The company outlined its proposals on November 5th in Hawick, and followed up with presentations to the Hawick and Selkirk Community Councils.

When plans are more advanced, it is expected that Center Parcs will mount a comprehensive presentation in Selkirk, probably at the Victoria Halls.

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

Some useful contacts:

Selkirk Health Centre
01750 21674

SBC Councillors:
Caroline Cochrane
caroline.cochrane@scotborders.gov.uk

Elaine Thornton-Nicol:
e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk

Leagh Douglas:
leagh.douglas@scotborders.gov.uk

Royal Burgh of Selkirk
Community Council
www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk
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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Editorial Committee:
Andy Murray, Grant Kinghorn,
David Playfair

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Tree-mendous!



Selkirk Christmas Tree 2024 in the Market Place



and watch out for the wooden ones, here being painted

Black Bob Destruction

There is concern and anger about the wanton destruction of first the glass display cases at the BlackBob stell in Philiphaugh, and then a portion of the dry stane wall. If you have any information about the damage, please contact the Police, whose enquiries are ongoing.



You Wait for One Bar to Re-open...

.. and suddenly two come along. **The Fleece** has opened its doors again, after a change of ownership. Run by two pairs of partners, the traditions of quality drink and friendly service are due to be maintained. The bar is open at present, with the restaurant due to reopen in the New Year. One of the new featured beers is Cromarty, from... Cromarty. Worth a try!



The County Hotel on Selkirk's High Street, now under new owners, has just announced that both its bars will re-open. The Shuffle Bar (up the Pend) is open: Friday & Saturday: 5pm-1am. The Lounge Bar is open: Monday-Thursday: 5pm-11pm. Friday & Saturday: 5pm-1am.



Sunshine On The Haining

With The Haining due to reopen in 2025, it's fitting to admire some recent photos taken by [Grant Kinghorn](#), of the building in its restored state, in September of this year.



SELKIRK EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

- 25 Bannerfield & Beyond Parade and Market place
 - 27 Not Perfect But Nice, Pop-Up Shop
 - 29 Selkirk Shedders, Pop-Up Shop
 - 29 Alan Scott, The Fleece
 - 30 Christmas Craft Event, Pop-Up Shop
 - 30 Celebrating Selkirk This Christmas, Victoria Halls
- For more details, see 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/>



The winning flowers at the 102nd Show

The Yarrow Show 2024



Minions



Sheep judging



Judging of young heavy horse

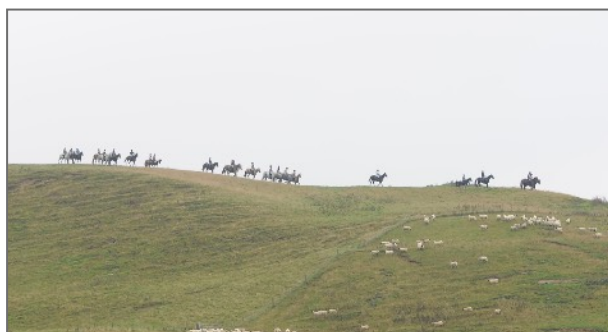


Show jumping at the Yarrow Show

SELKIRK EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- 1-7 Christmas Craft Event, Pop-Up Shop
 - 04 Selkirk Hill Management Group Meeting, Victoria Halls
 - 06 Food Bank Coffee Morning, St.Joseph’s Church
 - 07 Farmers’ Market & Christmas Lights Switch On, Market Place
 - 07 Muppet Christmas Carol Film, Philiphaugh Community Centre
 - 07 Tide Lines, Victoria Halls
 - 08 Silver Band Carols & Coffee, Parish Church
 - 09 Community Council Meeting, Victoria Halls
 - 09 Silver Band concert, Kirkhope Village Hall
 - 13 Riverside Charity Event, Pop-Up Shop
 - 13 The Taste of Things, Selkirk Film Club, Parish Church Hall
 - 20 Not Perfect But Nice, Pop-Up Shop
 - 21 Silver Band Christmas Concert, Victoria Halls
 - 24 Silver Band Christmas Carols, Market Place
 - 31 Hogmanay Party, Victoria Halls
 - 31 Hogmanay Party, Conservative Club
- For more details, see www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk/calendar

Ex-Standard Bearers Association Charity Rideout



The riders on the skyline near Howden



Standard Bearer Stanners near Middlestead



Standard Bearer Stanners and his attendants lead the ride up Mill Street



Attendants Derry Alexander and Darren Knox cross the ford at Howden

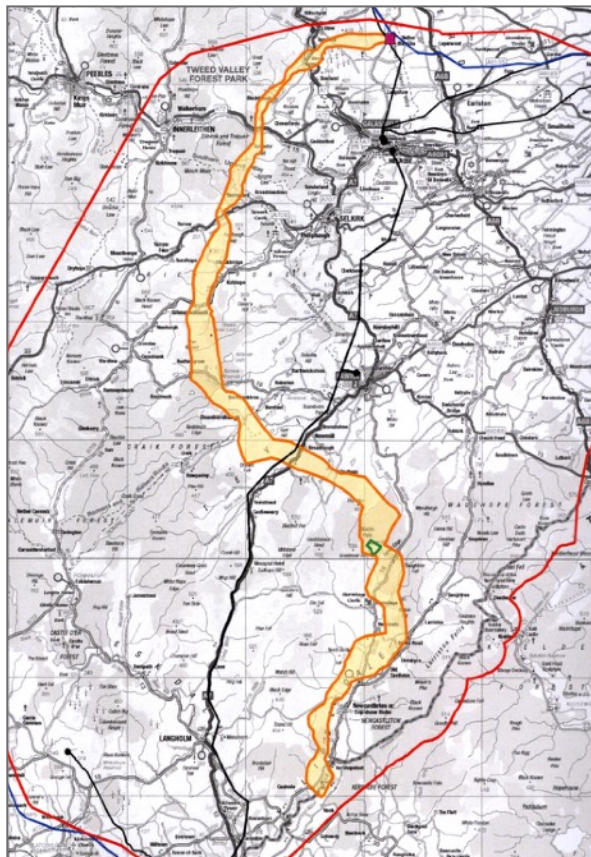
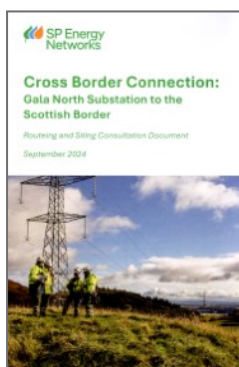
Saturday 7th of September saw another Selkirk Royal and Ancient Burgh Ex-Standard Bearers Association Charity Rideout take place. Around about 40 riders enjoyed the fantastic countryside in the Ettrick Valley as riders made their way via the Haining, Howden, Middlestead, Hartwoodmyres and on to Ettrickbridge. The ride returned to Selkirk on a similar route, apart from joining the Borders Abbey way for a short while. When the ride returned to Selkirk, Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Mathew Stanners presented the match ball at Philiphaugh for the Selkirk v Glasgow Hawks Scottish Premiership match. This year’s beneficiary was local charity The Katie McKerracher Trust.

Pylons To Bestride the Valleys

Concern is being expressed about the plans by SPEN (Scottish Power Energy Network) to create a new power line, connecting an electrical substation in Galashiels to a similar one south of Hawick using metal pylons, 50- 61 metres tall. The pylons would take a route going west of Galashiels, and then progressing roughly south across both the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys.

Consultation has started, including public meetings in village halls in the valleys, with residents expressing concern about the effect that these large pylons, planned to be 200-300 metres apart, would have on the valleys, both aesthetically and practically. SPEN's pylon route would connect power generation in Scotland to distribution in England, via new substations, by Galashiels and to the south of Hawick, and a nearly 50 mile route to a point at the Scotland - England border.

At one of the recent consultation meetings, it was revealed that some compensation will be available, and suggestions were invited for how this should be allocated. The most popular suggestion was to use the money to run the Ettrick & Yarrow section of the line underground, although this is estimated to be four times more expensive. Scottish Power is a subsidiary of Spanish utility firm Iberdrola. An action group has been formed - Ettrick & Yarrow Valleys Pylon Action Group.



The period for the first round consultation has been extended to the end of November, with a second round intended for 2026. The project website is at: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_connection.aspx

Comments can be made by phone on 0203 861 3742 or by email at: info@crossborderconnection.co.uk

Residents are being encouraged to fill in the Feedback Form at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_feedback_form.aspx

Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) is proposing to build new 60m steel towers and 400kV overhead line running through the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys

First round of consultation closes on 30th Nov. Have your say on the impact this will have on this unique environment please visit: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/gala_north_to_scottish_border_have_your_say.aspx or scan the QR code here:




Ettrick & Yarrow Valleys Pylon Action Group

SELKIRK EVENTS IN JANUARY

01	Selkirk Silver Band tour of the town / Conservative Club
02	Selkirk Golf Club Race Day
13	Community Council Meeting, Victoria Halls
15	ACE Meeting, Parish Church Hall
17	Hammermen Burns Supper
17	Sicilian Ghost Story, Selkirk Film Club

For more details, see www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk/calendar

Selkirk Hill



The Ancient and Royal Burgh of Selkirk stands above the Ettrick valley and was once part of the ancient Ettrick Forest. Around 1113 AD, King David I granted land in this area to monks from Tiron in Normandy, so that they might build an abbey here. Incidentally, Selkirk Abbey was probably founded in the vicinity of Lindean Church to the north of present-day Selkirk. However, the abbey was short lived and was relocated to Kelso around 1128 when the monks complained to the king that the land at Selkirk was not suitable.

Later, in 1535, the grant of the land containing Selkirk Hill was reaffirmed to the town in recognition of the heroic Souters (Selkirk people) who fought and died at the battle of Flodden in 1513. Since then, the land has remained as part of the Selkirk Common Good - administered and managed by successive local authorities in the interest of the people of Selkirk by whom it is owned. It is now managed by Scottish Borders Council on behalf of the Selkirk community and each of its elected members is a Trustee. In Selkirk, we have elected three elected local Councillors and they form part of an SBC subcommittee, together with a representative of the Selkirk Community Council, to look after the interests of the Common Good - and Selkirk Hill.

The Selkirk Hill management group was established to maintain the boundaries, restore the Hill and conserve its natural environment against various invasive species. Its purpose is also to keep it open, safe and workable for the local community and visitors who wish to use it for recreational purposes, such as those that want to walk and enjoy the area as the place for exercising their dogs. The hill is also a useful educational resource for pupils and students from local schools.

Selkirk Hill (140 acres / 56 hectares) has moor ponds, trees and meadows. The Hill Group endeavours to conserve the natural flora and wildlife habitats as a form of tended heathland by balancing what is present against the requirements of those using the Hill.

In the summer months, Common spotted orchids, Mountain Pansy, Tormentil and Harebell can be found in the meadows and Yellowhammer can be heard singing from the Hawthorn bushes. And very recently, a white (not albino) Blackbird has been seen on the Hill by the warden. The Hill also has two natural wells within its boundaries: the Caulks Well and Currie's Fountain, where a refreshing drink may be had during hot weather. And, last but not least, the use of the Hill is shared with Selkirk Golf Club, who have an active membership looking after an attractive 9-hole course. The next Hill Group meeting is on Wed 5th February, but community members can still report issues or keep in touch via the contacts listed on the Community Council newsletter/website.

- Ian King

Remembrance Sunday

Photos by Grant Kinghorn



Pipe Band leads the way



Lowered flag at the War Memorial



David Deacon



Wreath Bearers



Colin Turnbull



Rev Dr. Kwame Ahaligah takes the service at the War Memorial



The parade makes its way to the War Memorial

The Jim Oliver Memorial Award 2024



Moira and Dougie with members of their family



Moira and Dougie Squance with Falconer Grieve, Master of Selkirk Merchant Company

Friday 8th November was the Selkirk Merchant Company Winter Function in Selkirk Rugby Club, and Moira and Douglas Squance were the choice to receive the Jim Oliver Memorial Award for the Selkirk Personality of the year for 2024. The award is in recognition of over 50 years' service to Selkirk Flute Band, in teaching the flute to youngsters in the town and running the band over the years.

Selkirk Flute band play a big part in Selkirk Common Riding, be it playing on Appointment Night or playing as the Senior Burgh Officer Cries the Burley on the Nicht Afore the Morn. On Common Riding morning the band parades round the town from 4am, visiting the Provost's house before collecting the Royal Burgh Standard Bearer and marching to the West Port in time for the First Drum at 6am. There is something special about being wakened by the Flute band marching past your house on Common Riding morn. The Flute band also plays at various other events throughout the year, including Scott's Selkirk and the Yarrow Show.

In the early 1970's an appeal by the Town Council for new members to learn the flute was made, as the band was down to about six elderly players. Jimmy (Cookie) Brown volunteered his three daughters Elaine, Moira, and Anne, who were taught by the band master John Watson. In 1974 Moira married Dougie Squance, who joined the band as side drummer playing beside Colin Watson.

Dougie and Moira had two sons, Steven and Colin, Steven playing flute and Colin playing drums. By this time Moira's younger brothers Dave and Alan had become members as well, while later, nephews Chris, Stuart and Allan, as well as niece Laura, joined the band. The family story does not end there, as daughter in law Lorraine and granddaughter Emma and grandsons Ross and Callum have all joined.



Picture Quiz

Use your skills and think where this might be.

Answer on Page 11.

Coldstream 1513 Club Commemoration at Flodden Field Joined by Selkirk Ex-Standard Bearers



The Flags dipped in remembrance



The 9th Sept commemoration at Flodden

Monday the 9th of September saw the Annual Coldstream 1513 Club Commemoration at Flodden Field under cloudy skies. Selkirk Ex-Standard Bearers joined Borderers from Coldstream and most Border towns and beyond, who gathered to honour those who fell on Flodden Field on the 9th of September 1513.

This year's 1513 Club Standard Bearer was Willie Johnson. The Borders Return Flag was carried by Jethart Callant Lewis Stewart and wreaths were laid by Coldstreamer Jake Kerr and Selkirk Standard Bearer Mathew Stanners. Coldstream 1513 Club Chairman Iain Dickson chaired the service.

Toasts were proposed to "King James IV" by Burnet Smith from Hawick, and "The Border Men Who Fell" by Ex-Coldstreamer James Balmbro. There was also a Silent Toast and a Toast to the "Selkirk Men Who Fell - The Floo'ers of the Forest" by Ex-Standard Bearers Chairman Scott Tomlinson..

Past 1513 Club Standard Bearers present laid thistles, while the piper for the service was Ex-Coldstreamer Jamie Nicholson. Following the service, those present retired to the British Legion in Coldstream for stovies and a blether.



Selkirk Standard Bearer Mathew Stanners and Coldstreamer Jake Kerr

Photos: Grant Kinghorn

The Silver Band Autumn Concert

Selkirk Silver Band held their Autumn Concert in the Victoria Halls in Selkirk on Saturday 21st of September. A large audience were treated to a bumper night of music, while comper for the evening John Nichol was his usual hilarious self throughout the evening.

The guest artist for the evening was world famous Tuba player Les Neish. Les performed with the Silver Band on several numbers in the programme, including tunes such as Jennie Jones, Londonderry Air and Leader of the Big Time Band. Les also performed a duet with Selkirk Band member Chris Highton on 'Parting'.

Selkirk Silver Junior Band also played several tunes just before the interval, and all of the evening's artists united later to perform in the finale - a fantastic rendition of African Funk.



World famous tuba player Les Neish was the guest artist for the evening



Selkirk Silver Band under MD Stuart Black



Selkirk Silver Junior Band and Learners group



All the performers joined in the finale

Photos: Grant Kinghorn



Selkirk Parish Church welcomes Rev. Dr. Kwame Ahaligah



Church Induction Social



Kwame and Annabel

After more than 2 years of “vacancy”, Selkirk Parish Church (now united with Ashkirk) has a new minister. On Thursday, 12th September, the congregation, welcomed Rev. Dr. Kwame Ahaligah as their new pastor. The church was full. As well as the Selkirk congregation, friends came from the community, and ministers and members from other local churches. The service started with a specially composed song, “How lovely are the feet of those who bring good news”, sung by an ad hoc choir of local church members. What followed was an uplifting and positive hour of worship, with both minister and congregation declaring their faith, and their commitment to each other. During the service a young person, a Selkirk member and a representative on the linked congregation of Ettrick & Yarrow, presented symbols - a Bible, a jug of water and a communion cup - to Kwame, as signs of shared ministry. The service closed with a rousing rendition of Great is thy Faithfulness.

The serious part over, everyone moved through to the church hall - 120 folk squeezed in - to celebrate the start of this new chapter in the congregations’ life. A glass of fizz and an amazing array of canapés set the mood for the evening. Kwame, along with his wife Annabel and daughter Bethany, were regaled with a humorous song, written for the occasion, with verses about life in Selkirk and the Valleys, such as “Now about the Common Riding, your involvement is a must; you must ken a flag’s no’ broken when they tell you it’s been bussed; we’re glad you are right holy, and a man God can endorse; but the thing that really matters - Kwame, can you ride a horse?”

Well, that was all 2 months ago, and many of you will by now have met Kwame in church or along the street. If you haven’t met him yet, look for a chance to say “Hello”. We know Selkirk folk are already making him, and his family, welcome. Kwame is originally from Ghana, and comes to Selkirk and the Valleys via the USA, London, Leeds, and most recently, as minister in the Lanarkshire village of Law. Quite a journey!

- **David Bethune** (joint Session Clerk, Selkirk & Ashkirk Parish Church)

David adds: “As we come to the festive season, the church offers a friendly, relaxed welcome to all, so why not pop in sometime to meet with us and Kwame. Among all the busyness of modern Christmas, it is good to take some moments to reflect on what it is we are celebrating, in a world that more than ever needs the peace, hope, love and joy that Christian faith can bring.”



Petanque For The Memory



Reiver Pétanque is based at the Waterwheel Tearoom at Philiphaugh and recently held a fund raising event at their playing area, raising £545 for the Memory Cafe at St John's church in Selkirk.

Selkirk Memory Cafe provides a safe and supportive place where people with memory loss, and their carers, can meet with others twice a month, to enjoy handicrafts, play games and chat over a cup of tea and cakes. Teams consisted of three players drawn from local clubs. Each of the three rounds were very competitive but played in a friendly and enjoyable manner. Heather Sceats of the Memory Cafe presented the prizes. Heather said the money raised would be used to buy a special trolley, for which they had been saving.

Peter Harrington, President of Reiver Pétanque said: "Reiver Petanque Club has been in Selkirk for just two years and on Saturday we held our first fundraising competition. I was very pleased by the turnout of players for a mixed triples event. We were all delighted by the support and generosity we had from local businesses and individuals which resulted in us raising £545 for this worthwhile enterprise. A sincere thank you to all concerned."

Reiver Pétanque meets at their playing area in the car park of the Waterwheel Tea Room every Sunday and Wednesday afternoon. New members are always welcome.



Pantry Thursdays in Philiphaugh

Selkirk pantry operates from Philiphaugh Community Centre on a Thursday morning from 11am-ish through to 12:30-ish under the umbrella of Rowlands. Food is ordered from Fareshare on a Wednesday and is delivered on Thursday morning to the Community Centre.

Quantities should always be available of vegetables, fruit, pasta, dried and/or tinned food and meals, egg Cornish pasties or pies, as well as meat, plant based food and bread. There is a charge of £3 to cover the cost of Fareshare food.

Surplus food is either frozen for use the following week at cook club or taken up to Rowlands on West Port for people to help themselves. Around 50 people a week use the service and no referral is required; no questions are asked.



Rugby Update by Grant Kinghorn

Selkirk Rugby Club got off to a great start in the Arnold Clark Scottish Premiership - despite the first day defeat at Marr they were to beat Glasgow Hawks, Kelso, Edinburgh Accies and Melrose to consolidate their position in the league. A tough run of fixtures saw them slip down the table a bit, losing to Ayr, Hawick, Heriots, Currie and Watsonians. Selkirk still have struggling Musselburgh to play away before the halfway point of the season and then start the second half of the season with a home game against Marr. Therefore it is important that Selkirk do well in these games and in the games in the run up to Christmas.

A very young Selkirk A XV have been again putting in some decent performances on a Friday night in the Border Junior League and have been unlucky not to have picked up a few more wins.

The Club has hosted a successful Sports Dinner in late October honouring Selkirk's Olympians, a very well supported Ladies Lunch and the ever popular Selkirk Past Players Lunch. The Club will be hosting its Annual Christmas Lunch before the Selkirk v Kelso Match on the 14th of December and the Mad Friday meal and Entertainment on Friday 20th of December.

Details of these functions can be found on the Club's social media sites.



Josh Welsh scored in the corner at the Greenyards to give Selkirk an important win at Melrose at the end of September

Photo: Grant Kinghorn

We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year when it comes.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter this year.





SVLGA President Marjorie Rae presents Martine Pow with the trophy following her successful defence of the title. Photo by Carol Purves

Selkirk golfer Martine Pow successfully defended her SVLGA Championship title at Blairgowrie in late September. Martine beat Scottish Senior internationalist, Gillian Kyle (West Vets) 2/1 in the final. SVLGA President Marjorie Rae from Selkirk refereed the match.



Edinburgh & Lothian Souters Golf Winners Rodney Pow (individual) and team winners the Hammermen with President May Stark.

The Edinburgh and Lothian Souters Society again held a successful Golf day at Prestonfield Golf Club on Friday 27th of September, with 45 golfers from Selkirk, Lauder, Berwick Upon Tweed, Dunbar and the Edinburgh and Lothians.

The Hammermen's team of Les Millar, Alan Tough and Tommy Knox were to win the Stableford team event with 48 points. Hon. Provost Rodney Pow won the individual Stableford event with 38 points. Edinburgh & Lothian Souters President May Stark made the presentations after the golf. The Edinburgh & Lothian Souters Society's next event is their Burns Supper on Friday 7th of February. Details can be found soon on their Facebook page.

Happenings 10 Years' Time Ago

Photos from the 2014 Selkirk Vintage Car Rally at Sunderland Hall, just outside Selkirk. Good weather ensured a bumper turn out of vintage cars and spectators over the September 2014 weekend.

Photos: Grant Kinghorn



Steamer



Military jeep



Some of the silverware up for grabs



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
01835 826565
e.thornton-nicol@scotborders.gov.uk
07811 976943 ***except Feb**

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