

Old Ginger – 175 Years

Founding Father of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Three Days of Breed History, Discovery and Friendship

Friday June 2nd, Saturday June 3rd, Sunday June 4th 2017

June 2017 is a very important anniversary for the Dandie Dinmont Terrier - the 175th birthday of the breed's "Founding Father" – Old Ginger, bred by Robert Pringle and born at The Haining, Selkirk, Scottish Borders, on June 4th 1842.

To mark this unique anniversary we created a magnificent three day event, a chance to step back in time and explore the very foundations of the breed we love today. Every Dandie you have ever owned, now, or in the future can trace its male line back to Old Ginger. His importance cannot be underestimated. In his honour, our one surviving breeding line has always been named the "Old Ginger Line".

In February 2015, Mike and I organised the "Dandie Dinmont 200 Years" event. Although that will be a difficult act to follow, we are convinced that we have put together another compelling event sufficiently different, yet retaining the backbone of its success, providing a non-competitive and informal gathering of like-minded breed enthusiasts and their dogs from around the world.

There will be some important differences to DD200. As we will not be visiting the Borders "out of season", we do not need to restrict the numbers who attend this event. Once again our "base hotel" will be the historic, dog friendly, 4 Star Dryburgh Abbey Hotel. However guests may prefer to book their own accommodation elsewhere in the area. Guests will be free to dip in and out of the organized events and attend just one day, or two days, or the entire 3 days. But we suspect all will be so compelling you'll wish to attend everything!

Because Mike and I are certain that breed enthusiasts from all over the world will wish to attend, we are launching the event 12 months in advance to give everyone plenty of notice. Naturally at the time of writing we are still working on the finer details and exact timings, but do please take a look at what we have planned so far.

THURSDAY June 1st: “Gathering of the Clan”

Informal pre-event get-together at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel (late afternoon), when we can introduce all our guests and briefly explain the itinerary. Meet old friends, people you only know via Facebook and feel that unique camaraderie which existed last time at DDT 200!



FRIDAY June 2nd “Weaving & Sir Walter Scott” (Events in no particular order)



As the Dandie is the only breed with its own tartan, join us on a “Textile Trail” as we explore the areas rich heritage in cloth weaving and tartan production as we visit two state of the art visitor centres. See tartan and tweed being made and learn the history of this fascination industry.

Abbotsford will once again offer Dandie enthusiasts a warm welcome with a special area for us to gather with our dogs. Ranger led walks of the estate and timed guided tours of the house (without dogs) + a picnic lunch by the river Tweed and the opportunity of a group photo in front of historic Abbotsford House.

EVENING:

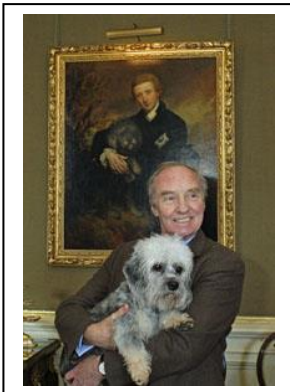
A very exciting event is planned at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel to which all attendees are invited. Something that has never been done before – trust us – you will not want to miss this. Plus your chance to dine at the hotel with other Dandie lovers.

SATURDAY June 3rd - “Old Pepper Day and Bowhill”

Old Gingers father was a dog called “Old Pepper”. He was caught in a trap on the Bowhill estate by the estates’ head gamekeeper, James Kerss. Dandies were already being bred at Bowhill and Kerss recognised the potential of Old Pepper and he was incorporated into the Buccleuch kennels. Old Pepper is the very first piece in the Jig Saw of today’s Dandie but we cannot trace his breeding.



Mike and I visited Selkirk back in March and after a bit of



a search located the grave of James Kerss, which is in a wonderfully secluded and evocative cemetery. Kerss’ role in the formation of the breed we have and love today has always been much underappreciated. To rectify this, we plan a service of appreciation and celebration for his life and work, next to his grave, to be followed by a “blessing of the Dandies” with water taken from the Etterick, a river which flow past Kerss’ Gamekeepers Cottage and the old kennels. We believe a direct descendent of James Kerss will be in attendance.

It is also hoped that we will be greeted once again at Bowhill by Duke Richard of Buccleuch, who was so enthusiastic about our last visit, when as Chief of Clan Scott, he gave his blessing for the Dandie to adopt the Black and White Walter Scott Tartan as its own. This has now been universally accepted by the breed and it will give us a chance to thank the Duke for his kindness. Another group photo with His Grace and see the earliest known painting of a Dandie Dinmont at Bowhill, the 1770 Gainsborough.

Other things in the planning stage include (subject to confirmation) Ranger led walks of the grounds; the fascinating history of Scottish game keeping; lunch at the Bowhill café plus we are working on a “Meet the Dandie” public event with the Bowhill events office.

EVENING:

A get-together BBQ at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel – when ALL guests are invited to join us. Followed by an illustrated talk about Old Ginger, his history and influence.

SUNDAY June 4th “Old Ginger Day at The Haining”



The main event! Join us for Old Gingers 175th birthday party at his birthplace, The Haining.

Preceded by a “Parade of the Dandies” through the streets of Selkirk; a visit to Scott’s Courthouse; a trip to the Fleece Hotel, where the world’s second oldest breed club (the DDTC) was formed in 1875; then follow “Walter Scott” down the footpath from the town centre to The Haining. Visit the historic kennels where Old

Ginger was born (now confirmed as the ONLY surviving kennels of a founding father for ANY breed ANYWHERE in the world). This sturdy kennel run was the work of the Selkirk Blacksmith, John Stoddart, whose dogs appear in the female line of Old Ginger. An opportunity to have your dog photographed here – at the very birthplace of the breed.

A remarkable Bronze Statue of Old Ginger has been commissioned and will be unveiled. We have our sculptor in place and an announcement will be made soon. All we can say for now is that you will not be disappointed!

We will be inviting VIP guests and dignitaries to attend the event. Catering will be available. Guided walks around the historic Haining Loch, talks about the history of the Pringle Family (the breeders of Old Ginger) and The Haining Estate and its important architecture will also be part of this historic day.

Finally, this superb three day event will be rounded off by the third annual running of the “**Dandie Dinmont Derby**” an event which has proven hugely popular with the Dandies, their owners, breed enthusiasts and the public. Once again this will be organised and run so ably by Kenny and Shone Allen.



“Once in a Lifetime” is much overused, but in this case is totally justified as Mike and I have decided that this is to be the last ever event we organise together in the Scottish borders. Even if you attended DD200, we believe that you will not want to miss OG175. If you missed out in February 2015, perhaps you followed our remarkable adventures live on Facebook?

The return of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier to these historic properties, meeting the Duke of Buccleuch, the house tours, the unique group photos, Old Gingers 175th Birthday Celebrations, the unveiling of a monument to the breeds founding father at the birthplace of the breed, the **Dandie Dinmont Derby** and some incredibly special surprises we cannot yet reveal, all add up to create memories of a lifetime. This is your chance to be part of an event which will be remembered for many, many years.

We hope to welcome a truly international group of Dandie enthusiasts to Scotland in June 2017. We want to encourage our overseas guests to also bring their Dandies to the OG175 celebrations in Scotland. To visit the very birthplace of our breed and experience the history of the Dandie first-hand will be an unforgettable experience.

Dandie Dinmont Terriers will be made especially welcome at our base hotel and at each venue throughout the three days.

(NOTE: Access may be restricted to certain parts of the historic properties)
More detailed information will be forthcoming in future news releases.

Please note if you are going to join us in June 2017, it is **ESSENTIAL** that you **REGISTER** with the **ORGANISERS**. If you do not, your name will not be included on our guest lists for the venues and events and you will not be on the email list to receive the updates which will be sent out during the next 12 months.

We ask that you share this information with your friends and breed enthusiasts, so they can save the dates in their diary and plan to take part in this important “step back in time”, walk through history and a return to our Dandies’ roots.

Nearest international Airport – Edinburgh – less than 50 miles from Selkirk

For more information please contact one of the coordinators below:

UK Coordinator Paul Keevil paul.keevil@gmail.com Tel:0044 (0) 1342 836240
--

International Coordinator Mike Macbeth dinmont@netscape.ca Tel: 001 905 473 2817

A Note About Costs:

Each visitor will be responsible for their own food, accommodation and transportation costs.

We have negotiated rates at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, which start from just £60.00 per head, per night B&B (based on a shared standard double/twin room). To book at these special rates, you will need an event code, (which is “Old Ginger”).

Please contact the hotel directly for all enquiries, prices and to reserve a room. You will not be able to book on any accommodation booking website as the hotel has restricted all rooms for this event.

Dryburgh Abbey Hotel - Tel: (+44) 01835 822261 - (e): enquiries@dryburgh.co.uk

NOTE: The Dryburgh Abbey Hotel has just 36 double/twin rooms and 2 luxury suites, so early booking is highly recommended. Alternative accommodation to suit every budget is also available in the Selkirk/Melrose area. Please do a “Google” search.

For those of you without dogs, the Waverley Castle Hotel in nearby Melrose is well regarded.

Waverley Castle Hotel - Tel: (+44) 01896 822244 - (e): gm.wav@shearings.com

Optional House Tours (Bowhill and Abbotsford) at special visitors’ rates: (from £10- per head).

In order to assist with the organisational costs, attendees will be asked for a one off donation of £25- per head.

Details of how to make this payment will follow in future event releases.

Please register your potential interest in attending with a coordinator now.

Please visit our Facebook page ***Dandie Dinmont – 200 years*** – for regular updates