

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8352

Established May 1848

Thursday April 23, 2020

www.eladvertiser.co.uk 80p

BRIEFING

NEWS

100 not out for Jean



CENTENARIAN Jean McKie celebrated her 100th birthday on Monday with a greeting from Her Majesty the Queen.

Full story: Page 3

NEWS

Centre delivers 600 meals



WEEK four of the COVID-19 lockdown and Langholm Day Centre staff are busy making and delivering fresh meals to their members.

Full story: Page 10

SPORT

McArthur's visit still on the cards



COMMONWEALTH Games athlete Holly McArthur will keep her date with Langholm Academy as soon as it is safe to do so.

Full story: Page 16

Jobs at risk at mill after orders dry up

Most of the 16 workers face being made redundant by company

C'mon and blow Alex, blow!

THE weekly applause for NHS staff is giving people all over the country the chance to show their appreciation not only for the health service but also many other key workers.

But people aren't only applauding; they're playing instruments, too.

Alex Weatherstone of Elizabeth Street dug out a 100-year-old horn which had been hanging in his garden shed for 40 years.

Alex, 89, stands on his doorstep to blow the horn which was previously owned by Johnny Storey. He has no idea where Johnny got it from.

An inscription reads: "Church Lads Brigade, 13 Craven Street, London 1902" so it's 118 years old.

The copper and brass horn still plays beautifully.

For more photos, turn to page 9.



Alex Weatherstone of Langholm blows his horn on Thursday evening in support of NHS staff

MOST of the 16 employees at Drove Weaving in Langholm are at risk of redundancy, it has been revealed.

Lochcarron of Scotland has announced that Drove Weaving will enter into a period of consultation to consider the cessation of all production at the mill.

The proposal under consideration means most of the staff are at risk should the business be unable to find a solution to the current situation.

Trading has become increasingly difficult and the current global situation relating to coronavirus has only exacerbated this.

In an attempt to avoid compulsory redundancies the management is willing to consider any viable options which may help.

Drove Weaving is a division of Lochcarron and manufacturers for the Selkirk company.

It also undertakes commission weaving for a number of UK textile brands.

Some have their own manufacturing base and use Drove for specialist projects or when they need increased capacity. Others are manufacturers without looms.

A spokesman for Lochcarron said: "The commission work has been reducing steadily over time and in the current circumstances there are indications that it is unlikely to recover for some considerable time.

"Lochcarron has been able to support weaving at Drove through a range of qualities, woven specifically there and by sharing other work which would normally have been undertaken in our Selkirk mill.

Capacity

"Recent investment in new machinery in Selkirk has helped increase capacity to manage what had been growing demand but, with the global downturn, it is experiencing a dramatic reduction in demand and, as a consequence, has excess capacity.

"We don't see a return to anything like sufficient work to maintain Drove Weaving either from Lochcarron or external customers for some considerable time.

"We are taking up schemes such as furloughing and applying for government loans for the whole business.

"Drove has provided weaving for many companies for more than four decades and it is regrettable that circumstances beyond anyone's control have led to this situation.

"The management team will work with both staff and interested parties should any other viable solutions become apparent."

Robbie Trussler and his wife, Sheila, founded the company in Drove Road more than four decades ago and Robbie still manages it.

>Turn to page 2