

Flood Scheme Forum

MORE QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY COUNCIL AND MORE POSED: PAGES 8 & 9



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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BRIEFING

NEWS

Muckle Toun tartan launched



LANGHOLM now has its very own tartan, produced by Yarns to Yearn For. Alan Miller has designed The Muckle Toun tartan, based on colours associated with the town.

Full story: [Page 4](#)

FEATURES

School cluster has a dynamic new head



Lauren McLean-Gill, who has been acting headteacher at the Langholm and Canonbie Schools Cluster, has just been appointed headteacher.

Full story: [Page 7](#)

SPORT

Hill hounds hat-trick



THE Hill Family were celebrating at Teviothead last Saturday after winning the kennel trophy for most points.

Full story: [Page 16](#)

Housing developer is ready to move onto site

Plan put in for initial works, including improved A7 junction

WORK on preparing for the construction of the long-awaited extra-care sheltered housing outside Langholm is set to start.

Developer Loreburn Housing Association is delighted that the development of the Murtholm site is progressing to the next stage with the submission of a planning application for enabling works.

The application covers work to create an access road from the A7 into the new development, including alterations to the existing traffic signals and service diversions such as Openreach cables and power lines.

The application follows the submission of the Masterplan in August.

A further planning application is scheduled to be submitted by the middle of December.

It relates to the new pedestrian and cycle footbridge and the extra care housing.

Loreburn plans to be on site in early 2021 to begin the enabling works which will be followed by bridge-works and the start of the housing development which is scheduled to begin next spring.

Loreburn is working closely with Sustrans over the bridge's design and development.

Moving forward

Lorraine Usher, chief executive, said: "Community representatives have worked with Loreburn for some time on developing this project and we're delighted it is, slowly but surely, moving forward.

"It is good to share this positive news during such difficult and challenging times.

In Dumfries and Galloway people are living longer and new models of housing for older people must be developed to enable them to live independently for as long as possible.

"We're pleased to have this opportunity to work with Langholm people and bring this specialist housing to the town."

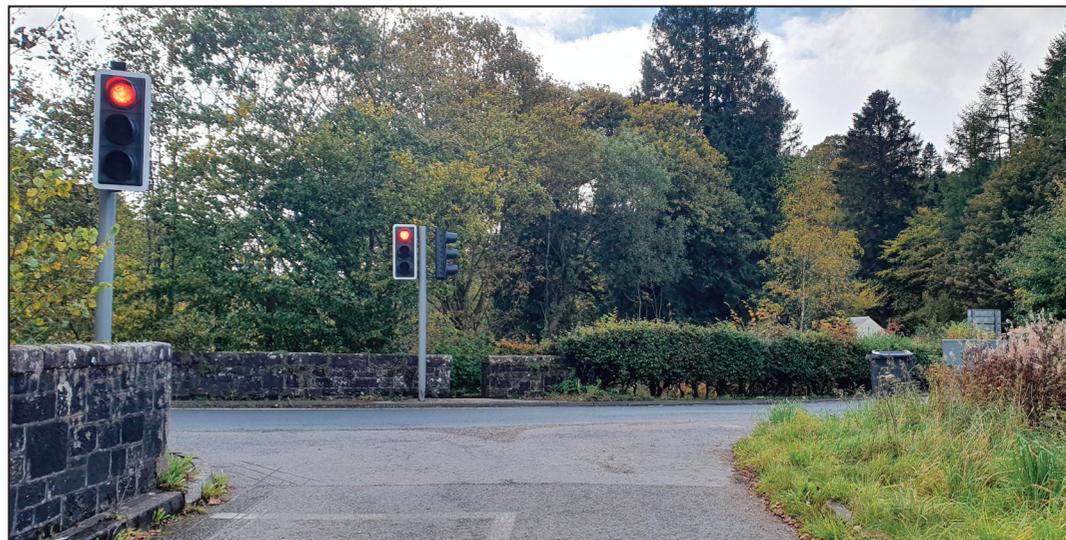
Nicol Nicolson, the Langholm Alliance's community enterprise manager, said: "The alliance welcomes the progress in planning for Loreburn's extra-care sheltered housing development at the Murtholm.

"Wider provision of accessible, local care for our ageing population is a key component of Langholm's 10-year action plan.

>Turn to Page 2



The junction of the A7 and the road to Murtholm will be improved as part of the housing development



Loreburn Housing Association has applied for planning permission to begin enabling works at Murtholm

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Deaths

IRVING

Peacefully on 30th September 2020 in Dumfries Infirmary, Nan Irving, née Jackson, Castle O'er, Eskdalemuir, dear wife of the late Allan and a much loved mother, mother-in-law, granny and great granny.
Funeral private due to current circumstances.

Thanks for Sympathy

BELL

To all who have supported us following the sad loss of Verney, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation.
Your many expressions of condolence and kindness have been a great comfort.
We also send our gratitude and appreciation to the Health Centre, Ambulance and Care staff who provided help and support through a difficult time.
Jackie Bell and Family.

In Memoriam



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and charitable trusts and individuals from the community of Langholm.



Church Notices

CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

Sunday 11th October

Sunday Morning
Worship

Liddesdale 10am
Canonbie 11.30am

Services led by
Eric Dempster

All welcome but please
note limited seating due
to Covid restrictions.

Charity no. SCO00717



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Church service on
11th October will be in

LANGHOLM Church
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Contact us for transport
0744 885 8818.

Social Distancing
will be observed.
Please wear masks.

Preacher: the Minister.

Tel: 013873 80859.
Mobile. 07543 179469
Charity no. SCO11946

Phonebox goes

Residents say that council let them down

RESIDENTS in Eskdalemuir are shocked that their phone box has been removed, despite 55 people objecting.

They believe the problem lies with Dumfries and Galloway Council which they say failed to send its objection to the phone box being removed to BT.

BT conducted a consultation on a number of phone boxes in Eskdale and Langholm because use had fallen substantially.

A spokesperson for Eskdalemuir said that in October 2019 BT gave the council a five-week extension to give it the chance to send people's objections.

But, because the council didn't send the information in time, BT decided to remove the payphones.

The only option communities had now was to apply to save the phone box for a community project which had to be done by a community council or a charity.

The council told residents that all the information would have been sent but the residents were not happy.

They did not know where Eskdalemuir's nearest payphone was now because Bentpath's was going, too.

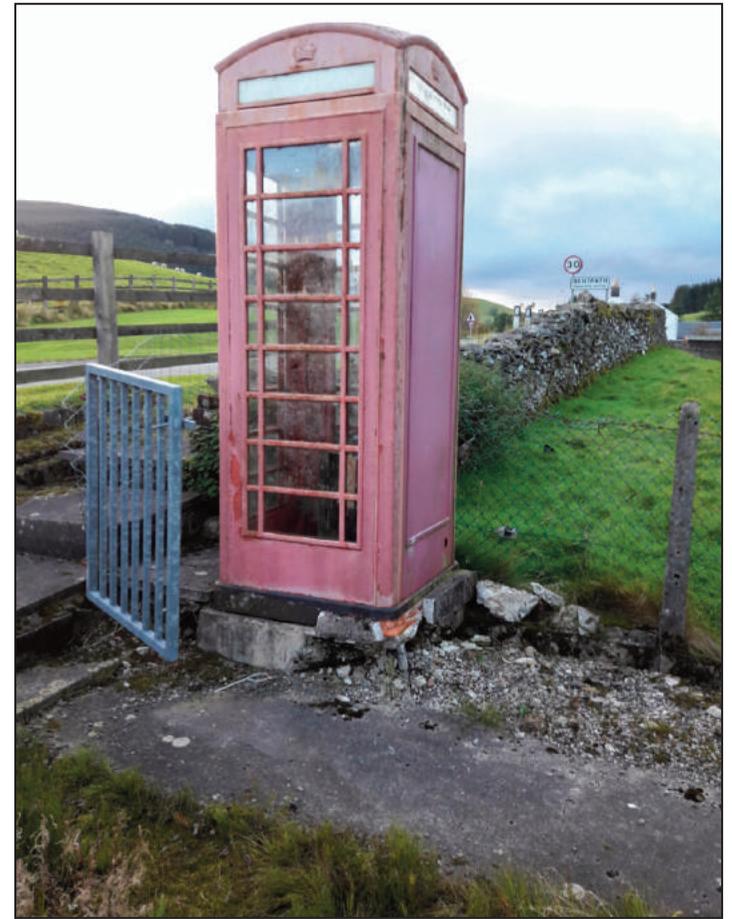
Ofcom

The spokesperson said: "BT won't change its decision. It says that, if it did this for us, it'd have to do it for everyone and it follows Ofcom's guidance.

"It's not BT's fault; just shocking that we have been let down by the council."

BT confirmed that as part of the consultation on removing the payphone service, it asked the council to submit its formal response by October 1, 2019.

"The council got an extension until November 5 but the deadline was not met."



The phonebox at the Benty is being removed and the one in Eskdalemuir has already gone

A spokesperson said: "We removed the payphone in Eskdalemuir following Ofcom's guidelines and our consultation with the council.

"We know most people have mobiles and payphone use has plummeted so we're giving communities the chance to decide how best they can use their payphone.

"For iconic red kiosks, we'd encourage communities or charities to adopt them for only £1 so they can transform them into things like defibrillators or libraries.

"If a community tells the council they want to keep a payphone, it will stay.

"We review the mobile coverage when consulting communities.

"In an emergency anyone with a mobile phone can dial 999 as long as there's at least one mobile network present, even if that mobile is on another network or doesn't have credit.

"Today, 98 per cent of UK roads have mobile coverage from at least one network, according to Ofcom."

Community welcomes update

>From Page 1

"As we seek to develop our community infrastructure in an environmentally-conscious manner, building a new pedestrian and cycle bridge promises an exciting addition to our landscape."

Councillor Ronnie Tait, Annandale East and Eskdale, said: "It's great news. Well done to everyone involved, especially the Esk valley reference group.

"It is only about the development of extra-care housing and the pedestrian bridge so Thomas Hope Hospital, I would suggest, is secured for a very, very long time which was one of my election pledges."

John Galloway, chairman of Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council, said: "I'm delighted to hear that, after nearly 12 months' delay, Loreburn has announced it's ready to start enabling works.

"This, I'm sure, will give the town not only much-needed fantastic housing for our less-able citizens but also encourage more people to set up home in this fantastic location.

"I also hope these enabling works will mean the first phase will be underway very soon and phase two will follow soon after, giving the town even more appeal for keeping families here and attracting new families to make



Langholm their home.

"All of this, of course, ensures our existing services in the town are protected for generations to come."

Fiona Pennington of Loreburn Housing Association views the work to find the best crossing point for the bridge in September last year

Village sewage works due to open next spring

Canonbie and the River Esk will benefit from better treatment

THE £4.5m construction of a new waste water treatment works in Canonbie is expected to be completed next spring.

Work was delayed by three months because of coronavirus but Amey, the contractor, put in place comprehensive measures to enable employees to return to work safely.

The treatment works are east of Knottyholm Farm and there is a pumping station next to the public hall.

The works will provide increased capacity for planned development in the area and treat the waste to a higher level.

Once the two new larger septic tanks are fitted, the contractor will build the screening and biological treatment stages and final settlement before the treated flow is discharged.



Works in the river installing emergency overflow outfall for pump station

A Scottish Water spokesperson said: "This improved treatment will deliver environmental benefits to the River Esk which is a popular fishing river."

To enable the flows to be diverted to the new works Scottish Water is building a pumping station by the public hall. This

will be mostly underground and the area around it landscaped.

The new pumps will transfer the flows about 1km to the treatment works via a new pipe, most of which is now in place.

This project has one critical road crossing at Canonbie bridge which will require a

temporary closure with a diversion in place.

This closure will begin this Saturday and run until Sunday, October 18 to coincide with the school holidays.

Scottish Water apologises for any inconvenience.

Localised sewer works to divert flows from the existing septic tank to the pumping station are nearing completion.

The spokesperson added: "The work is planned to be completed by the end of this year. Some fitting of mechanical and electrical works will follow."

"We expect the new works to begin operating next spring."

Telfords Coaches' Monday to Friday services at 5am, 7am, 9.05am, 1.05pm and 4.05pm will travel to Rowanburn and via the Moat to Longtown and



The new concrete septic tanks under construction

will not serve Canonbie.

The return journeys from Carlisle at 5.55am, 7.55am, 11am, 2.10pm and 5.10pm will take the same route in reverse.

The Saturday services at 9.05am to Carlisle and the return journey at 12.30pm will be the same.

£25k grant for centre

THE Buccleuch Centre in Langholm is among a number of performing arts venues in Dumfries and Galloway to have received funding to help them survive their forced closures.

The Buccleuch Centre was awarded £25,000, Catstrand £75,000 and Dumfries Theatre Royal £103,068 by the Scottish government's performing arts venues relief fund through Creative Scotland.

In the Scottish Borders Heart of Hawick received £68,000.

Gavin Graham, Buccleuch Centre chairman, said: "We asked for £56,000 so we didn't get as much as we wanted but it will see us through to the end of March and we won't have to make any redundancies."

"We run a tight ship and don't rely on public money."

Mundell ejected

OLIVER Mundell, Dumfriesshire MSP, was ejected from the parliament chamber for asking the First Minister to explain why she lied to parliament.

Mr Mundell quoted Nicola Sturgeon's comment from January 17, 2019 that the Salmond inquiries "will be able to request whatever material they want and I undertake today that we will provide whatever material they request".

He asked her to explain why she lied and Ken Macintosh, presiding officer, asked him to withdraw the accusation. He refused and was asked to leave.

He said: "Nicola Sturgeon repeatedly told parliament she would 'co-operate fully' with the inquiry and 'provide whatever material' was necessary."

"So, unless she gives whatever material the Salmond inquiry requests, as she promised, she has plainly lied to parliament."

"Even Linda Fabiani, the SNP MSP in charge of the committee, accused her own party leader and the government of obstruction."

"Key documents must be released or the public will never know how £500,000 of their money was wasted."

Golden eagles are soaring far and wide under southern Scotland skies

A PIONEERING conservation charity addressing low numbers of golden eagles in southern Scotland has revealed that the first eagles successfully translocated in 2018 have thrived during lockdown.

In a first for the project one of these iconic birds flew as far south as the Pennines in England.

While humans were told to stay safe indoors to avoid the spread of COVID-19, the birds translocated by the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project have soared high in southern skies, covering about 140 miles from Eyemouth in the east to the Mull of Galloway in the west and about 90 miles to the Pennines.

Beaky, a young golden eagle, who was translocated from GFG Alliance's JAHAMA Highland Estates in 2018, was the first of the eagles to venture south of the border and visit the Pennines.

This is a significant milestone for the project and its partners RSPB Scotland, Scottish Land & Estates, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural

Heritage) and the Southern Uplands Partnership.

Cat Barlow, manager, said: "Golden eagles, one of Scotland's most iconic wildlife species, play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems in southern Scotland."

Translocation

"Two years after our first translocation, it is wonderful to see our first chicks thrive in the area and interact with locally-fledged young eagles."

"This is key to addressing low numbers before they are lost to the area forever."

"We were particularly excited by Beaky's exploration into northern England because she is the first of our birds to explore that far south."

"No golden eagles have bred in the wild in England for a number of years."

"We've had fantastic support from the public, communities and land manage-

ment sectors in southern Scotland, the Highlands and wherever our birds travel.

"This support is now more important than ever to ensure this important bird soars high in our skies for many years to come."

"The COVID-19 restrictions have, unfortunately, prevented us from doing everything we would normally do this year but we look forward to increasing the numbers again next year."

More than 10,000 people have participated in the initiative to date.

The project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, project partners Scottish Power Renewables, Scottish government and Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway LEADER programmes.

The charity's work is a key project under the government's 2020 Challenge for Scottish Biodiversity.

Before the project began, there were only two to four pairs of golden eagles in southern Scotland.

A supporting study by



Beaky's satellite tag shows she has flown as far down as the Pennines after being released by the project in the Moffat Hills

Scottish Natural Heritage showed the habitat was suitable for up to 16 pairs.

The project identified the best way of enhancing this fragmented and vulnerable population was by increasing the supply of young eagles, which will eventually recruit into the breeding population.

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Newcastleton 101

COUNCILS

Dumfries and Galloway Council
.....030 3333 3000
.....www.dumgal.gov.uk
Fault reporting (potholes/street-lights etc)
0800 042 0188
Langholm Town Hall/Library ..
013873 80255
Dumfries and Galloway
bus timetables
www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables
Scottish Borders Council
0330 100 1800
out of hours ..01896 752 111
Scottish Borders
bus timetables
.....www.scotborders.gov.uk

UTILITIES

Scottish Water
.....0800 0778 778
.....www.scottishwater.co.uk
Scottish Power
.....105
.....www.scottishpower.co.uk
Scottish Gas emergency
0800 111 999
National Rail enquiries
03457 484 950
.....www.nationalrail.co.uk
Floodline SEPA
.....03000 996 699
.....www.sepa.org.uk
Amey (A7)
.....0800 042 0188
.....www.scottishtrunkroadsse
.amey.co.uk

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Newcastleton ..013873 75361
Canonbie013873 71348
Rowanburn ...013873 71542

HOSPITALS

D&G Royal Infirmary
.....01387 246246
Cumberland Infirmary
.....01228 523444
Borders General Hospital ...
01896 826000
Thomas Hope Hospital
.....013873 80417

DOCTORS

Langholm013873 83100
Newcastleton ..013873 75100
Canonbie013873 71313
NHS24111

CHURCHES

Langholm, Eskdalemuir Ewes and
Westerkirk Parish churches
Ms Joy Lunn
Session clerk...07584 357180
Canonbie United Parish church
Session Clerk..013873 25255
Liddesdale Parish church
Session Clerk..Glynis Cambridge
07469 397065

SCHOOLS

Langholm Primary
.....013873 80900
Langholm Academy
.....013873 80418
Newcastleton
.....013873 75240
Canonbie
.....013873 71336

CHEMISTS

Dalston Pharmacy, Langholm
.....013873 80220
Monday to Friday
8.45am -1pm; 2pm-5.30pm.
Saturday 8.45am-12.30pm.
Boots Pharmacy, Longtown
.....01228 792859
Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm.
Saturday 9am-5pm.

DENTISTS

Mark Buddy ..013873 80521
Emergency - outside opening hours
01461 202508

Muckle Toun Tartan

LANGHOLM now has its very own tartan, produced by Yarns to Yearn For.

Alan Miller has designed The Muckle Toun tartan, based on colours associated with the town.

Alan said: "We've been working on this tartan for some time but various circumstances over the last few months made us move a little quicker with it.

"The colours are FTS Dyers' shades, the tartan was woven at Drove Weavers and was finished at Galashiels.

"It took a while to finalise the colours I wanted to use. We took the Armstrong Clan tartan design (sett), being a local clan, and replaced the colours with those which represent the town.

"The green and purple are for the surrounding hills and the glorious purple heather which can be seen during the summer.

"The red (crimson) and navy are the colours of Langholm Rugby Club, the oldest club in the borders, founded in 1871

"The red and navy, along with the white and gold, are all present in the burgh standard which is carried on the last Friday in July by the Cornet.

"The grey represents Langholm's rich history in the textile industry which dates back to the late 1700s."

Alan added: "We had a dilemma about using toun or toon in the name, both very much acceptable, but decided to go with toun because it's written in the

Fair Crying. I'm sure this will cause some debate."

A few items have been made using the tartan and Alan said he would like to thank Leanne and Emma at Rose's Wardrobe for the trews."



The Muckle Toun Tartan



Alan Miller of Yarns to Yearn For is the designer of the tartan

Letters to the editor

Have your say on the issues affecting our area. You can write to us at Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser, 54 High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH or email your comments to rachel.norris@eladvertiser.co.uk

Is 20 plenty?

NOW that Scottish Borders Council is reducing 30 mph speed limits to 20 mph in a number of communities, can Dumfries and Galloway be far behind?

The most apparent necessity for this limit in Langholm is the excessive speed of much of the traffic through the town, particularly the narrow High Street with its extremely narrow pavements which, being the A7 trunk road, many transient vehicles ignore.

In fact, I find it hard to identify where on the town's entrances is a 30mph sign.

A less obvious reason is to try to reduce air pollution which, in many parts of Britain (perhaps Langholm?), breaks

EU and, presumably, future UK legal levels.

But that would need a reduction in the number of motor vehicles altogether and it would be a brave government which took that necessary step.

Finally, of course, any speed limits are only as good as their enforcement by the police.

They should remember that greater law-breaking has a habit of increasing when supposedly minor infringements, even littering and graffiti daubing, or, perish the thought, coronavirus regulations breaches, are not penalised.

**Richard Lennox
Henry Street
Langholm**



Pool offers a safe way to exercise this winter

A GREAT way to get some exercise and stay safe is available at Rock UK's Whithaugh Park near Newcastleton.

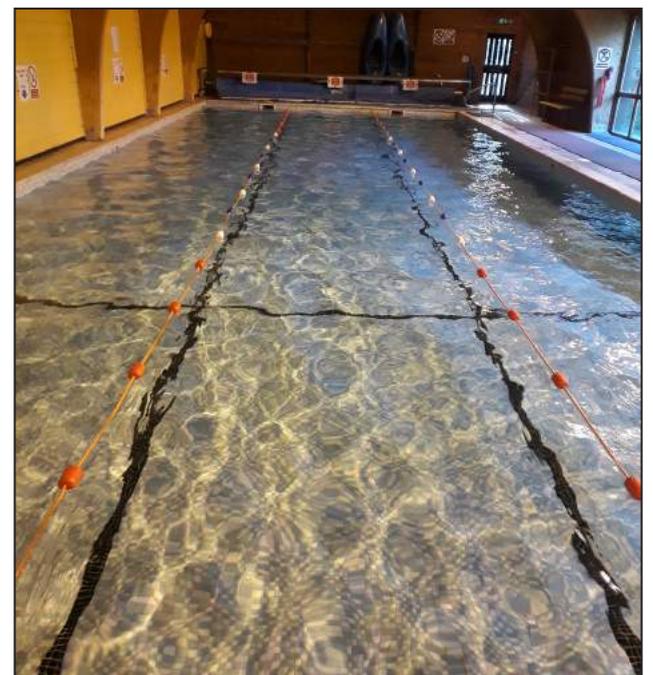
Rock UK is grateful to the Newcastleton and District Community Trust and Copshaw Outreach Group Social for contributing to the costs.

They said it was great to see folk come in for the "lane swim" in the mornings and they were thanked for sticking to the rules and staying safe.

The pool is also available for private household swims.

To find out more, please join the mailing list by emailing whithaugh@rockuk.org or call the office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Booking is essential.

The more bookings they get, the longer they can stay open through the winter.



The swimming pool at Whithaugh near Newcastleton is open

Villagers welcome a 20mph limit trial

Newcastleton's streets will be safer for pedestrians and drivers

NEWCASTLETON has become a 20mph village as part of a Spaces for People trial organised by Scottish Borders Council.

Five communities in the Borders became the first to have 20mph signs installed on Monday.

The other four places are Coldingham, Eddleston, Sprouston and Stow. Work will begin in more communities later this week.

Streets in 91 villages and towns move to a 20mph limit by the end of this year as part of the 18-month pilot.

The trial received funding worth £1.2m from the Spaces for People programme, which is funded by the Scottish government and managed by Sustrans Scotland.

Spaces for People makes it easier and safer for people to walk, cycle and wheel for everyday journeys during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The funding also supports a

number of trial 40mph areas, road closures and one-way systems in specific locations and these are currently being implemented.

Having been approved by councillors in August, a report will be brought back to council in 12 months, with suggestions on which schemes to retain or remove.

The remaining six months of the trial will be used to implement any permanent changes.

Good news

Keith Brough, Newcastleton community councillor, said the trial was "good news".

He added: "It will benefit the community and be safer for pedestrians, both young and old. Our population isn't getting any younger.

"The way the village is laid out, the junctions and having more cars in the village is a bit of a risk.

"Slower speeds will give drivers more time to react and



Newcastleton will trial a 20mph speed limit in the village

pedestrians will feel safer.

"I've noticed a real positive response and people are sticking to the limit.

"There will be a lot of self-enforcement but I would like Police Scotland to be visible and back up the new limit. It

wouldn't do any harm.

"There are signs on every road as you enter the village and several in the village as a reminder. There's been no opposition that I'm aware of.

"I hope the new limit will have the desired effect and those

people, who drive at 35mph, will bring down their speeds."

Councillor Gordon Edgar, executive member for infrastructure, travel and transport, said: "I'm pleased the Spaces for People 20mph trial is now underway and has been well received in the first communities to have the signage installed.

"We understand some people may have some reservations but this is a trial which we believe has the potential to help our communities lead healthier lifestyles.

Sustrans

"This is why we wanted to work with Sustrans Scotland to try out these new measures.

"We will ask the public for feedback in 2021 once the signage is in place in all Borders' communities."

The 20mph trial will be evaluated by a Scottish university and will show which of these temporary measures are successful and which are not.

IN BRIEF

Window smashed

A WINDOW has been smashed at the Cumberland Building Society branch in Langholm's High Street. The incident was reported to the police at about 8.50pm last Saturday. Enquiries are ongoing.

Campaign meeting

A SOUTH Scotland MSP has welcomed news that Scotland's chief medical officer will meet a campaign group after she appealed for them to be included in talks on a drug which damages babies in the womb.

Joan McAlpine backs the First Do No Harm (Valproate) Scotland group's campaign after being contacted by founders Charlie and Lesley Bethune of Chapelknowe.

They are campaigning for justice for children harmed by the anti-epilepsy medication sodium valproate, prescribed to women of child-bearing age, despite evidence it could cause birth defects.

Copshaw cloth



Lynn Elliot has designed Copshaw's own cloth

THE year 2020 hasn't been the best for any of us and some of the residents of Newcastleton suffered an extra blow on the night of February 15 when large parts of the village were flooded.

Great hardship has been endured by many and, for some people, this continues while they are still unable to return to their homes because of the damage caused that night.

However, during these difficult times there have been amazing acts of kindness and generosity, a definite feeling of the community working together.

Lynn Elliott of Elliott's Shed in Langholm, who lives in Newcastleton, decided to put together a design for a cloth to try to further cement and celebrate the Copshaw spirit for the future.

Lynn said: "The cloth is made from Shetland wool yarn and each of the shades used is made up of a mixture of six to 10 separately-dyed colours.

"The dark is midnight to celebrate the dark skies, the green/yellow for the spring bracken and the blue for the summer skies. The moor is a dark olive windowpane.

"Running through it is a yellow to celebrate the efforts and achievements of the Copshaw Common Riding committee.

"The check still has a couple of hurdles to surmount to be registered with the Tartan Authority in Edinburgh but let's hope that soon Copshaw will have its own colours on record."

The E & L Gallery

Send us your photographs!

Every week we publish a reader's photo on our Gallery page. This can be taken on a phone or a camera. Submit your photos to the Editor who will select the best for publication. Let us know what camera or phone you took it on.

Email them to sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk or drop a printed copy into our office at 54 High Street, Langholm.

Photo by: Caitlin Weatherstone

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Farming on the Border

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Farmers fight to keep standards

SCOTLAND'S farming union is asking members to contact their MPs before the UK government's agriculture bill's anticipated return to the House of Commons next Monday.

The bill got its third reading in the House of Lords last Thursday when amendments were adopted.

During the lengthy Lords' stages the union, working with the other UK farming unions, secured a lobbying success with the inclusion of an amendment tabled by Lord Curry of Kirkharle.

It will strengthen the role of the Trade and Agriculture Commission to give it an explicit, additional duty to advise parliament on all trade deals and how they have an impact on food and farming standards.

The amendment means the commission, which includes union president Andrew McCornick in its membership, will report to parliament on how best government can meet its manifesto pledge not to compromise on the UK's high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards through its international trade policy.

Parliament will have to consider such advice before any

trade deal is signed and the amendment is implicit that it will continue working as long as there are trade negotiations to scrutinise.

A further crucial win was Lords' approval for an amendment which requires ministers to specify a statement of compliance with the relevant domestic standards and regulations where a product is imported, essentially putting the UK's domestic standards of production onto the face of the bill.

The union is asking its members to write to their MPs urgently, calling for them to use their votes to support these essential improvements on the UK's outstanding standards of agricultural production.

Mr McCornick said: "Future trade deals must not curtail our ability to grow our reputation as a nation of quality food and drink by undercutting domestic production with imports produced to standards illegal or unacceptable here.

"Through my participation on the commission, I will advocate at every turn to ensure Scottish and UK standards of production are considered when negotiating new and other trade agreements.

"That is what the public wish to see."

Worms, bees and spiders are crucial

WITH evidence mounting that insect populations are declining, farmers are being encouraged to act now to save these vitally-important species.

While some can be classified as pests, many, including earthworms, bumblebees and spiders, play a crucial role in breaking down organic matter, pollinating crops or providing a crucial first line of defence against more harmful species.

A new Farm Advisory Service factsheet, *Natural enemies*, their lifestyles and how to promote them, highlights the importance of invertebrate species, particularly with the reduction in the availability and effectiveness of pesticides.

It was written by Lorna Cole, agricultural ecologist at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), and Paul Chapman, senior consultant at SAC Consulting, part of SRUC.

It says: "Managing farmland to support these beneficial invertebrates is an important component of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).



Ladybirds are natural predators and prey on pests in the crop canopy

"Understanding the ecology of these natural enemies is our first step to protecting and increasing their populations.

"Determining where in a crop these natural enemies are active gives us an insight into the pests they will effectively control.

"There is even evidence that predators in different areas of the crop can work in synergy, increasing the efficiency of bio-

control."

While ladybirds, money spiders, hoverfly larvae and parasitic wasps are frequently active in the crop canopy controlling aphids, cereal leaf beetles and pollen beetles, ground predators such as rove beetles and wolf spiders will prey on leatherjackets and slugs at ground level.

These insects can also work in synergy, with ground active

predators consuming aphids which fall to the ground to escape ladybirds.

Although it is important to support a diversity of 'natural enemies' to control the pests which damage crops, it can be difficult to achieve the perfect environment because different species need a variety of resources and these vary during their lifecycle.

Dilemma

To overcome this dilemma, the authors recommend providing a diversity of farmland habitats, including floral-rich field margins, tussocky grassy field margins and hedgerows and beetle banks to provide forage and resources for the insects which protect crops.

They write: "Maintaining a diversity of farmland habitats will favour natural enemies and other economically important groups such as insect pollinators and wider biodiversity."

For more information visit www.fas.scot

Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts Ltd had forward 7,566 store lambs and feeding ewes at Longtown on Tuesday, September 29.

A very large company of buyers attended for a poorer quality show of lambs. Trade proved to be the dearth of the season and many more could have been easily sold.

Top of £91 for Texels from Crindledykes; others to £87.50 Longformacus and £86 Ghyll Head.

Beltex sold to £88 Seymour Farm and £83 Sorbie. Suffolks to £76.50 Satchells, £74 Quarryfield and Monklaw. Charolais to £80 Kernal Hill and £79 Famelton. Greyface to £78.50 Crawfordhall, £78 Blackheddon and £77.50 Clarghyll. Cheviot Mules to £80 Crossdykes. Leicesters to £78 Crossdykes. Swaledales to £49 Hesleywell.

Feeding ewes (510) were a larger entry and trade excellent. Top of £80 for Cheviot Mules from Waterhead of Dryfe, with hill ewes to £63 for Blackfaces from Eweslees. Cheviots to £68 Barr Hill and cast rams to £71 Eweslees.

Cheviot lambs (2,563) met an outstanding trade, up £5 a head on the week and many buyers left unsupplied. Overall average of £63.77. Hill Cheviots to £77 Crossdykes, £70 Eweslees and £69 Auchlin. Hill Northies to £70.50 Priesthaugh and £69 Lymiecleugh.

Blackfaces (1,421) were another good show and met a massive trade throughout.

Top of £76 Sewing Shields, £75, £71 Little Tongue and £68 Edges Green.

A great show of 1,824 breeding sheep of all classes sold to a busy ringside of buyers, all eager for sheep. Topping the sale at £200 was a pen of Millennium Blue gimmers from N Holliday, Brow Top, with all classes of older ewes selling at extreme rates and many more could easily be sold to vendors' advantage.

Ewes: Texel £142 Low Knockrioch, £128, £121 Loanend, £118 Townhead, £116 Croft House, £114 Loanend, £112 Clonrae & Croft House. Mule £136 Townhead, £132, £124, £112 Graham House. Charolais £132, £126 Low Knockrioch, £126, £124, £120 Dalton Hook, £120 Barend. Lleyn £120, £114, £106 Carlenrigg. Cheviot Mule £115 Gillesbie. Herdwick £102, £86 Barend. Dorset £98 Barend.

Shearlings: Millennium Blue £200 Brow Top. Texel £155 Loanend, £132 Nobles. Charolais £144, £126 Low Knockrioch. Mule £130 Brigg, £128 Moss Kennels & Whitehill.

Ewe lambs: Texel £122 Low Tuirfergus, £106 Townfoot. Rouge £118 Crawfordhall. Beltex £116 Dalton Hook. Mule £112 Hill Brae, £110 Crawfordhall, £104 Lawston, £102 Crowdieknowe & Brieredge, £100 Lawston. Half-bred £110 Cronklea. North Country Cheviot £96 Kilncroft.

Shearling rams: Charolais £270, £220

Dalton Hook. Texel £210 Victoria Street.

Quality store cattle continue to be in demand and Angus bullocks sold to £1,110 from CT & J Wigham, Hethermill, Kirkclinton. Limousins sold at £1,040 and Belted Galloways to £1,015.

The North Country Cheviot Sheep Society sale of rams was held at Longtown, along with the annual Border ewe sale.

Shearlings met a good commercial trade with better sheep in good demand but only modest interest in the lesser sorts. Overall, 141 Cheviot rams of all ages averaged £348.

Robbie McCormack of Crofthead, Lockerbie took the top price of £1,100 for Crofthead's Alba, a shearling by Gospelhall Renegade out of a Kinaldy bred ewe. He was bought by Messrs Rowlands, Bala, North Wales. Robbie had another at £900 and averaged £700 for his consignment.

A Matthewson & Sons, Soutra, Midlothian had shearlings at £1,050 and £1,020, the former, by WJ Where's Uncle Tony, went to D & D Robinson, Glenarm, Ballymena, Northern Ireland and the latter, by Jethart Trigger, was bought by JG Singer & Partners, Harbottle.

£1,000 twice was paid to J Runciman & Sons, Allanshaws, Stow; they were bought by David Slone, Piel View, Barrow in Furness and C Anderson, Dunterley Farm, Bellingham. Other Park shearlings sold to £820, Carruthers; £800, Swinside

Townfoot; £800, Kelsocleugh Farming; £780, Broomhillbank; £750, North Synton; £720, Gothigill; Mrs C M Reid, Portmore led the Hill section with a two-shear ram at £750 and the unregistered Cheviot rams sold to £500 for a two-shear from Whitstonehill.

The annual sale of traditional Bluefaced Leicester rams had a good quality entry which met strong demand and a level trade with all bar one sold. Shearlings averaged £426, up £94 on the year, and 79 Leicesters of all ages averaged £393.

At £1,000, the sale leader from R McLymont & Son, Kirksteads, Yarrow went to JW Hall, Dambrook Farm, Malham Moor, Yorkshire. JI McNeil, Glenjaan, Moniave sold at £620 with the consignment from GGF Milne, Kinaldy, Fife topping at £600 with another at £520. Others sold to £580 & £520, Burgh Head; £580 & £550 (twice) Round Meadows; £550 (twice), Kirksteads; £550, High Lead; £520, Mosser Mains and £500 each to Tappitlane, Kirksteads, Raggettsyke, Glenjaan, Mosser Mains (twice), Warkshaugh and Roundmeadows.

The mart had forward 7,850 sheep comprising 3,528 prime lambs, 4,315 cast ewes and rams and 17 cast cows at the weekly sale on Thursday, October 1.

A much improved entry for both quality and quantity with mainly hill cows forward, although a pleasing trade was met for all classes. More numbers still needed

to fulfil weekly demand. The sale topped at 121p for Luing cows from A Reid & Co, Glendearg, Eskdalemuir, who also sold Angus cows at 118p and 117p. Other Luings to 120p from The Lamperts, Gilsland. Simmental cows to 116p from JA & E Dinwoodie, Archerbeck, Canonbie. Top price per head of £978 from The Lamperts.

A smaller show of 3,528 prime lambs forward to the same ring of competitive buyers, ensuring all classes were eagerly bid for, albeit slightly easier than last week's high rates of return. Topping the sale at 278p was a tremendous pair of Beltex lambs from G Mitchinson & Sons, High Greenhill, Kirkcambek. Top price per head of £126 for Texel lambs from J Elliot, Roxburgh Mains Kelso. Overall average of 196.8p (SQQ 200.9p).

Another large entry of 4,315 ewes. All classes of ewes in massive demand, being £3-£5 dearer on the week. All vendors went home delighted with their day's trading; more can be sold to vendors' advantage weekly. Topping the sale was a pen of Texel ewes which sold at £176 from R Osborne, Castlehill, Dumfries with hill ewes topping at £84 for Cheviot ewes from JG Murray & Son, Branxholm Braes, Hawick.

Cast rams again short of purchasers' requirements and keenly sought after week on week. Topping the ram section was a Texel consigned by I & G Aitchison,

The Side, Newcastleton, realising £170.

Heavy ewes: Texel £176 Castlehill, £174 Hazel Head, £172 Crumhaghhill, £170 Castlehill, £169 West Millhills, £164 Crumhaghhill, £162 Castlehill. Beltex £152 Wood Farm. Suffolk £124 Hallrule Mill, £115 Roxburgh Mains, £114, £110 North House, £106 Has-sendean. Bluefaced Leicester £122 Brownleazes. Bleu du Maine £118 Viewley. Charollais £109, £103 Beckfoot, £102, £100 Heathergleng. North Country Cheviot £106 Seaview, £97 Courstein, £95 Dunnabie. Cheviot Mule £98 Coustein, £9, £87 Gilston, £87 Thirstane Cottage. Mule £92 Faugh Beeches & Hoscot Estate, £91 Oaklands, £86 Has-sendean, £84 Milnholm, Minsca, Mount Farm & Redgatehead. Border Leicester £90 Justenlees.

Light ewes: Cheviot £84 Branxholm Braes, £81 Little Galla, £80 Crossdykes, £78 Maidencots, £75 North House. Blackface £76, £75 Prospect House, £76 Brownleazes, £70 Hoscot Estate & Chapelhope. Swaledale £64 Riggshead, £63 Woodhouse, Crawfordhall & Burn House, £60 Minsca & Mount Annan. Easycare £61 Mossfennan. Rams: Texel £170 The Side, £148 Auchengool, £130 Roxburgh Mains, £120 Viewley. Beltex £136 Wood Farm. Charollais £130 Heathergleng, £128 Beckfoot. Cheviot £100 Cossarhill, £94 Clerkhill, £90 Sor-bietrees. Suffolk £100 Milnholm.

School cluster has a dynamic new head

Dedication and love of the job leads to Lauren's top appointment

Lauren McLean-Gill, who has been acting headteacher at the Langholm and Canonbie Schools Cluster, has just been appointed headteacher. She talks to the E&L Advertiser about her career and ambitions.

Can you give some background on your career in teaching and what led you to Langholm?

I joined the education sector at 26, having completed a PGCE in 2007. My first teaching position was with Cumbria County Council as a P3 teacher at Longtown primary.

Over the nine years I spent there I taught a range of ages, including five years as a P7 teacher, responsible for Key Stage 2 SATs assessments.

I was promoted to Key Stage 2 leader at Longtown in 2014, leading on raising attainment in P3-P7.

It was with this experience that I felt ready to apply for a deputy headteacher position in 2016 and was lucky to be offered it at Langholm primary within our cluster of schools.

How long have you taught in Langholm and what was your first role?

My first position was deputy headteacher at Langholm primary, leading our nursery and primary.

I was responsible for curriculum development, ensuring we delivered high-quality teaching and learning experiences, raising attainment in maths and English and developing a pupil tracking system.

In 2018 I had a temporary two-day role as acting headteacher, while still working as deputy at the primary.

During this time I was asked by our education authority to present our work on raising attainment at the primary at Scottish Education events in Kilmarnock and Ayr, a fantastic experience which I gained lots from.

In March 2019 I was promoted to the full-time position of acting headteacher of our cluster.

How did things progress from there and how long have you been acting headteacher?

I have worked as acting headteacher for 18 months. The permanent position was due to go to interview in April this year but circumstances meant this was delayed until September once we had safely reopened our schools.

Over those 18 months I thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of leading our schools through a range of experiences.

Both our nurseries went through unannounced inspections by the Care Inspectorate, securing gradings of Very Good.

This was a fantastic experience and thoroughly well-deserved by our nursery teams who are so passionate about early years and providing the best experiences they can.

In November 2019 I led our Langholm 2-18 campus through a whole school regional collaborative review.

This involved 12 headteachers and education advisers reviewing our teaching and learning, curriculum, transitions and pupils' well-being over a two-day period.

Praised

We were praised for our consistent, good quality teaching and learning from nursery to senior phase, a coherent, well-planned curriculum, transition programme and our work on ensuring our pupils' well-being is prioritised.

In March we entered the uncharted territory of national school closures and moving to remote learning at home.

The relationships we have with our families and their support during this period has been excellent and definitely made remote learning much easier. We truly do have fantastic communities in Langholm and Canonbie schools.

What set of skills do you need to manage the cluster rather than only one school?

You need to be incredibly organised to lead three different schools with different priorities.

Ensuring each school's improvement priorities are committed to and focused on to get the best possible experiences for our pupils is very important to me.

This means working closely with our leadership teams in the schools to provide consistency and looking together at ways we can bring our pupils together more frequently.

What advantages do you find there are as headteacher of an all-through school?

The advantages are definitely that you have the unique opportunity to shape the learning experiences for all pupils from



Lauren McLean-Gill is the newly appointed headteacher of Langholm and Canonbie school cluster

nursery to senior phase.

It's a really exciting opportunity and allows for the development of a consistent approach to high-quality learning and teaching.

What are the most challenging aspects?

Understanding and leading all sectors from nursery into primary to senior phase.

Being a 2-18 headteacher means you have to have a good knowledge of teaching pedagogy from schematics of play in nurseries to delivering Advanced Higher courses for 17 and 18 year olds.

My teaching career has given me the opportunities to develop my knowledge and leadership in all sectors of the cluster.

Outside the box

I'm continually learning and looking 'outside the box' to ensure I keep abreast of Scottish educational developments.

Working with other schools, not only in Dumfries and Galloway but also nationally, really supports myself and our school staff to develop our knowledge of best practice and

bring new experiences to our cluster.

I understand what's important to our small rural communities and I want to ensure our pupils enjoy their years in our schools, they achieve personal success and they go on to make a positive contribution to our society.

How do you help pupils deal with the modern pressures they face? Are they very different from when you first started teaching or are there similarities?

The developments in social media over the last 10 years have certainly had an impact on young people, on mental health and pupils' perception of their position within peer groups.

Social media can be fantastic for lots of things such as improving communication and reaching people in ways not managed before.

The downside has led to an increased need for young people to be supported by school counselling services.

They now face increased pressure to have the perfect life because of social media and, as a result, there is a greater need to provide access to specialist services to support their mental health.

We are very lucky to have a fantastic school counsellor and our Youth Information Service allows us to bring the right support to our pupils at the right time.

What would you like to do as headteacher which you've been unable to do up to now but would like to take forward? How much freedom do you have to do this? Or are you restricted by the curriculum?

I now look forward to getting to know our families across the cluster even better, work with our fantastic community partners to widen the experiences and opportunities we can offer and lead our schools to make sure they are the best they possibly



What do you bring as a person to the role?

I am very focused on getting the best for our pupils and committed to ensuring they leave us with the skills they need to succeed in life.

I grew up in Annandale and Eskdale and had a great experi-

IN BRIEF

Canonbie to Copshaw closures

IMPROVEMENTS to the B6357 near Newcastleton are set to get underway next week.

A number of works are associated with a successful bid Scottish Borders Council made to the Strategic Timber Transport Fund which secured £585,640 for two rural roads, supplemented by £425,560 from the council.

Considerable improvements will be done at Riccarton, Ralton and North Hermitage Street in Newcastleton.

There are additional works at Dawston bridge, Burnmouth Lodge and Canonbie bridge, all of which have been co-ordinated to minimise disruption for communities and road users.

Dawston bridge was badly damaged during Storm Dennis in February and has since undergone significant repairs.

It was closed on July 21 and reopened last Sunday.

Ralton bridge is being resurfaced this week and is closed up to and including tomorrow from 9am to 5pm.

Canonbie

The council's scheduled works have been co-ordinated with Dumfries and Galloway Council, which is allowing a full closure of Canonbie bridge so Scottish Water can lay a new water main.

The closure begins this Saturday and runs until Sunday, October 18.

Burnmouth Lodge embankment repair starts on Monday, October 19 and the road will be closed for three weeks.

This essential scheme involves excavating the existing road to stabilise the surface.

Drainage will be installed to minimise any future deterioration and the face of the banking is to be stabilised.

Riccarton resurfacing - Monday October 26.

Preparatory works, including drainage and kerbing, is being done this week and will take three weeks. There are traffic signals controlling vehicles.

The surfacing will be done from Monday, October 26 during the closure at Burnmouth Lodge to help minimise disruption to road users.

North Hermitage Street will be resurfaced from Monday, November 9 for two weeks. Preparatory works are currently underway.

There will be a convoy system from 9am to 5pm daily. Parking restrictions will be put in place.

Councillor Gordon Edgar said: "This work represents a six-figure investment in the road network which will benefit all road users for years to come."

...Flood Scheme Forum...Flood Scheme Forum...

A NEW virtual tour and still images of Langholm's flood protection scheme have been put online by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

They are at eye level and show the different heights of the defences at various locations along the Esk and Wauchope.

However, those opposing this design say the images are still not as accurate as they should be, including in Charlotte Street, Frances Street, Mary Street and Buccleuch Park.

On its website the council says the views are taken from a height of 1.5m.

The configuration of masonry cladding and glass panels has not yet been finalised. This will be further considered at a later stage.

The views in Elizabeth Street show continuous glass panels along the northern half of the street and a continuous masonry clad wall along the southern half of the street.

The walls in the rest of the scheme are shown as a combination with different

numbers of glass panels.

The existing path in Charlotte Street will be widened with additional features as will the path behind the dyehouse and include a viewing platform.

Waterside

On the waterside a path will be provided along the top of the embankment which will range from 1.68 to 2.25m high.

On the park bridge in Caroline Street demountable gates will be used at the access points.

There will be a low wall with glass panels as required in Caroline Street.

In George Street, Elizabeth Street and Frances Street there will be glass panels as required and access to the river will be retained. Mary Street will have an embankment, ranging in height from 0.59m to 1.29m.

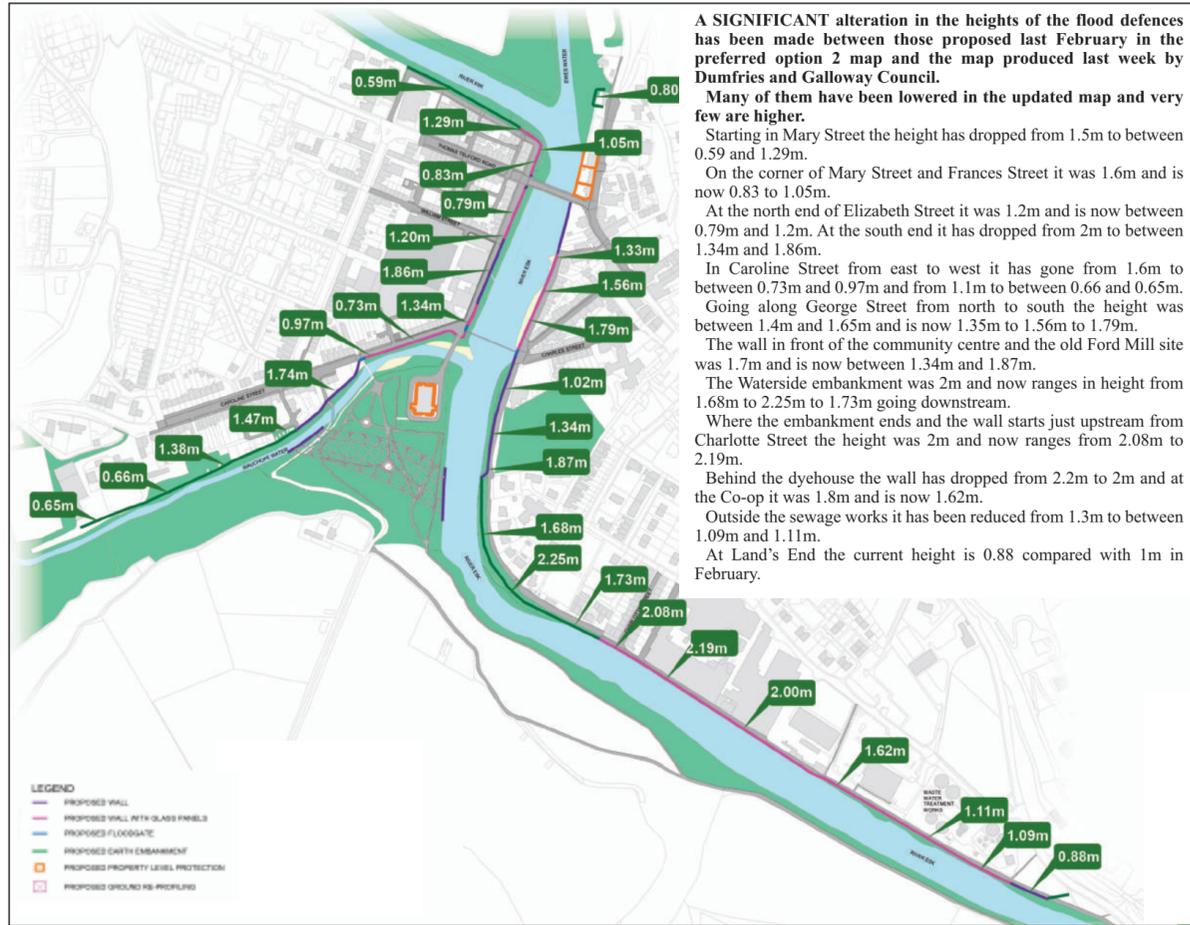
The proposed Buccleuch community park will be incorporated into the scheme and the war memorial will be unaffected.

QUESTIONS

A NUMBER of questions have been raised about the new visuals.

- Why are no cars parked in George Street, despite residents' cars being there currently?
- In Frances Street and Mary Street no pavement is shown. What will happen to the residents' gardens? Are they being purchased?
- In Elizabeth Street why are no parked cars shown when there are always parked cars?
- Will the road width be reduced by the wall and new footpath and will this mean that people won't be able to park outside the houses? Will this mean that the street will have to be one way?

- Why is there no proper visual of the embankment on the Waterside?
- The two houses at the bottom of Charlotte Street both have private parking areas. Why is neither of these shown in the visual? Their absence means the path looks wider.
- The path behind the mills also looks much wider. How will this be achieved? Will the whole riverbank (an eco-system in itself) be removed?
- Why does the disabled ramp look too steep?
- Why do the cars in Caroline Street appear to be parked on the pavement when this is illegal?



The latest map of the flood defences showing wall heights

A SIGNIFICANT alteration in the heights of the flood defences has been made between those proposed last February in the preferred option 2 map and the map produced last week by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Many of them have been lowered in the updated map and very few are higher.

Starting in Mary Street the height has dropped from 1.5m to between 0.59 and 1.29m.

On the corner of Mary Street and Frances Street it was 1.6m and is now 0.83 to 1.05m.

At the north end of Elizabeth Street it was 1.2m and is now between 0.79m and 1.2m. At the south end it has dropped from 2m to between 1.34m and 1.86m.

In Caroline Street from east to west it has gone from 1.6m to between 0.73m and 0.97m and from 1.1m to between 0.66 and 0.65m. Going along George Street from north to south the height was between 1.4m and 1.65m and is now 1.35m to 1.79m.

The wall in front of the community centre and the old Ford Mill site was 1.7m and is now between 1.34m and 1.87m.

The Waterside embankment was 2m and now ranges in height from 1.68m to 2.25m going downstream.

Where the embankment ends and the wall starts just upstream from Charlotte Street the height was 2m and now ranges from 2.08m to 2.19m.

Behind the dyehouse the wall has dropped from 2.2m to 2m and at the Co-op it was 1.8m and is now 1.62m.

Outside the sewage works it has been reduced from 1.3m to between 1.09m and 1.11m.

At Land's End the current height is 0.88 compared with 1m in February.

APPROVAL to go ahead with a public engagement event before committing money to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) was given by the communities committee last Thursday.

Members noted the need for and cost of an EIA and the amended earliest timescales for the scheme.

The scheme's current estimated cost is £9.9m and an EIA will cost £50,000 to £70,000 and run from June to December next year.

It is the view of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) that the works may lead to a deterioration of the water environment beyond the location of the defences.

The public engagement will run from this November to next April. The detailed design will be completed in 2025/6 followed by the construction.

At the meeting councillor Ronnie Tait said: "I would like to thank Brian Templeton (team leader flood risk management) and his team for the visuals which highlighted the correct height of the defence walls which has been misrepresented in Langholm by some disgraceful graphics put into some areas of Langholm."

Behind the dyehouse the wall has dropped from 2.2m to 2m and at the Co-op it was 1.8m and is now 1.62m.

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with a preferred solution, that's when we need to run the scheme past SEPA. "They make the decision later on in the process as to whether an EIA is needed."

"SEPA could not have made a decision any earlier in the process; only once we had reached the preferred design."

On Monday councillor Archie Dryburgh, Annandale East and Eskdale, said: "The purpose of the new visuals is to try to give people a better impression of the proposed defences."

"These should be looked at in conjunction with all the other information available on the website."

"The main objective was to provide a virtual tour of the defences and accurate heights of the walls and embankments so they can be seen from various viewpoints."

Improvement

"It was made clear on the webpage that "these are the latest versions of the scheme and will be subject to further refinement and improvement as the scheme progresses".

"The inclusion of cars and people were to give context and scale to the defences and are not an indicator of changes to parking arrangements or street layouts."

"The visuals will be reviewed and improved and there will be opportunity for anyone to discuss any issues with the project team at the future engagement events."

John Galloway, chairman of Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council, added: "These types of questions on details need to be directed to the flood protection team."

"We have the same information as everyone else at this stage and I'm sure that, when they get to the detail of each street/point in the scheme, that type of information will become available."

"I would suggest that much of that detail will be produced for the full planning application when that will be required."

Mike Smith, project manager, added: "When we reach the outline stage, have been through the consultation and come

FLOOD DEFENCES REVIEW GROUP

THE flood defences review group, which is opposing this particular design, has highlighted a number of concerns, including the fact the people in the visuals look too tall compared with the height of the walls.

It is also concerned about the loss of amenity because of the embankment on the Waterside, including at Cogie and the removal of the mature trees along the riverbanks.

It wants to know whether the road width in George Street will be reduced by the wall because parked cars already make it difficult for vehicles.

The existing wall is a protected structure within the Conservation Area.

Another aspect they would like more information on is accessibility, particularly for those using wheelchairs and mobility scooters, considering the aging population.

In an email sent to the council's flood risk management team last Friday, it wrote: "There are a number of significant errors in the new visuals which are not fit for purpose because they still cannot be relied upon for accuracy nor therefore for communicating the scheme to communities committee members or the public during any upcoming engagement events."

"There are some important key 360-degree viewpoints missing: from Langholm bridge towards the suspension bridge; the junction of George Street, Charles Street and John Street by the suspension bridge; the bend in the river where the embankment is 2.25m high; from the west end of the suspension bridge looking north up Elizabeth Street; from the eastern riverside edge of the Buccleuch Park at the new wall; and from the Kilgreen picnic area and car park."

"We have made it clear that these are the latest versions available and will be subject to more refinement and improvement as the scheme progresses."

"At this stage, we will not provide any additional material but will give more information in due course once we have had the opportunity to consider how to undertake further engagement, including mock-ups of the defences at location on site in line with the developing restrictions and COVID-19 guidelines."

IN HIS response to the flood defences review group, Mr Smith said: "The virtual tour, new plans and visuals were created to enable the residents to visualise what the proposed scheme may look like."

"It gives an accurate representation of the scale and height of the proposed defences in the context of the surrounding area."

"It's not, however, an exact replica of the town, its properties, cars or people as they currently exist and it's not an indicator of changes to street layout or parking arrangements."

"The still images are a snapshot from the 360-degree virtual tour and have been provided as a document for ease of viewing."

"There will always be some interpretation because of the perspective within the images and consideration should be given to the location of the different elements within the image, their distances relative to each other and relative to the viewpoint."

"Viewers are invited to review all the material on the scheme webpage to get a better general understanding of the overall scheme."

"Every effort has been made to give as much information as possible and as well as the virtual tour and accompanying still images, there are layout plans, height of defences at location, a full 3D presentation and other background information and documents available to view."

"We have made it clear that these are the latest versions available and will be subject to more refinement and improvement as the scheme progresses."

"At this stage, we will not provide any additional material but will give more information in due course once we have had the opportunity to consider how to undertake further engagement, including mock-ups of the defences at location on site in line with the developing restrictions and COVID-19 guidelines."



The private parking space attached to the house at the bottom of Charlotte Street



The council's image of the path and flood wall at the bottom of Charlotte Street



This is the existing pavement in Frances Street



The flood defences review group has criticised the council's visual for not showing the pavement in front of the houses in Frances Street

Tenders are sought



Work will soon begin on Buccleuch House in Newcastleton

WORK is to begin on Buccleuch House in Newcastleton after a delay of six months caused by the impacts of Storm Dennis in February and the coronavirus pandemic.

The building will be converted into an enterprise and learning centre and a bunkhouse.

Gordie Campbell, the Newcastleton and District Community Trust's development officer, is project managing the work.

Phase one will comprise making the building water tight and preparing the ground.

It also includes upgrading the roof, repairing the chimneys and removing those at the back as well as clearing the grounds.

This first phase is out to tender and is open until 12pm on October 30.

The trust hopes to make appointments in early November and work can begin on site. Groundworks will be completed before this,

Phase two will comprise the rest of the works and includes the new build at the rear and all works inside.

This tender will be advertised from October 19 with a closing date of November 13.

Walking and worship

THE next church service in Eskdalemuir will take place on Thursday, October 29.

The service will be at 2pm in the Hub.

People can get in touch with the Rev Robert Pickles if they have any suggestions for an alternative day or time.

He would welcome any suggestions. Email him on rpickles@churchofscotland.org.uk

If anyone would like to go out with the walking group, they can give their name to Ernie on

arthriticernie@yahoo.co.uk

In the hall this Saturday David Mundell MP and Oliver Mundell MSP will hold a surgery by appointment only from 9.30am to 10.30am.

To book an appointment, email maryann.benson@parliament.scot or ring 01576 203910.

Beattie of Muckledale; a man of many farms

Entrepreneurial Langholm farmer amassed string of properties

Local historians Ron Addison and Tom Scott have been delving into the life of landowner and farmer Thomas Beattie and have produced a series of features for the E&L Advertiser.

THOMAS Beattie (1736–1827) was a native of Langholm who, after initial reluctance, followed in his parents' footsteps as a stock farmer.

He amassed a string of farms in Eskdale and beyond throughout his long life.

Some were opportunistic purchases, capitalising upon bankruptcies in an age of fluctuating agricultural prices during the later 18th century.

Others were seen as long-term family investments, building sizeable holdings in the Ewes valley (Meikledale, Arkleton) on top of earlier purchases of Burngrains and Milnholm and a block of land in the parish of Tundergarth which latterly comprised Crieve, Capelfoot, and Crossdykes in the neighbouring parish of Hutton and Corrie.

He began what are called his diaries, in fact a memoir of his varied life and pursuits, in 1788 on the death of his beloved only daughter, Jean.

Several typescript copies of the diaries exist but none dates before the 1950s. The original manuscript must be presumed lost.

Very recently the typescript has been edited by Professor Ted Cowan of the University of Glasgow and is available online in the University of Edinburgh Regional Ethnology of Scotland series under the title *The Chronicles of Muckledale*, the then spelling.

Although the typescript has an index, Cowan's edition lacks one, which is regrettable because

its pagination differs from the typescript.

Very soon the Wester Kirk Library will put online its redaction of the list of farms in the four Eskdale parishes (without Canonbie), compiled by Jimmie Beattie of Wester Kirk Mains, who was chairman of the library until his retirement in 1960.

The list runs from about 1700 to 1960 and contains details of tenants, owners, rental values and, occasionally, acreages.

The list, however, includes two further farms beyond Eskdale which bear directly upon Thomas Beattie, namely Crossdykes and Capelfoot.

The land between them straddling the Water of Milk is described in John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland of 1828 as 'Crieve',

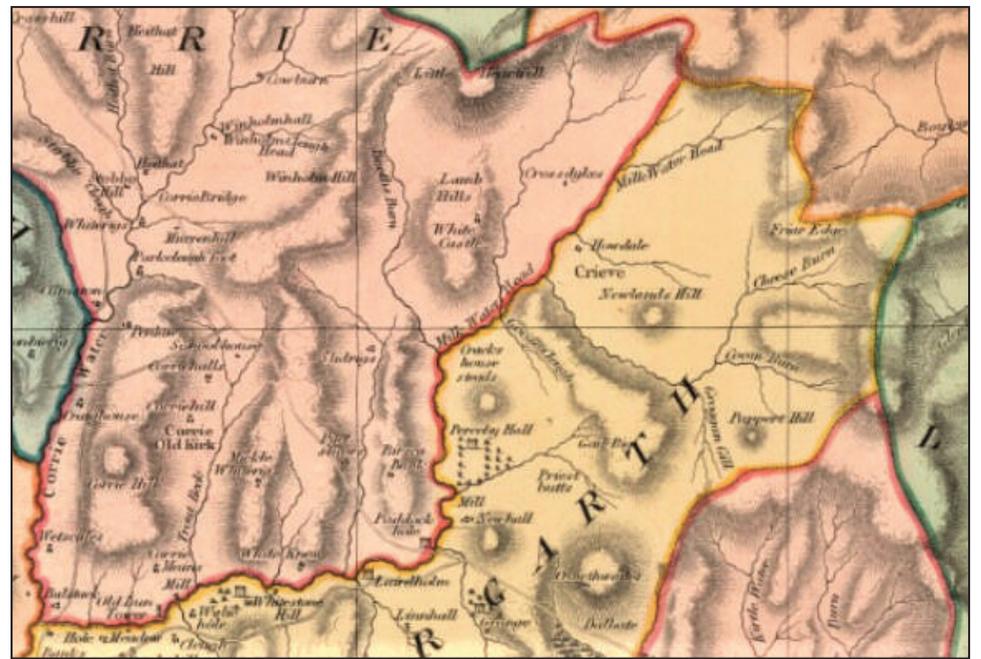
a descriptor which Thomas Beattie attached to his name.

It was used both by his son, Thomas Beattie Jr, and his granddaughter, Mary Stewart Beattie of Crieve, who survived until 1921.

Muckledale

Only much later did Thomas Beattie call himself 'Thomas Beattie of Muckledale' where he had taken up residence.

How he first came to express an interest in Crieve is not clear. At one time, the Carruthers family of Holmains Castle near Dalton, an important county dynasty, held several Tundergarth farms: Crieve, Howdale, Newlands Hill and Capelfoot, along with Glaisters



John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland of 1828 showing 'Crieve'

by Kirkgunzeon.

But in 1567 they had sold to Christopher Armstrong of Bargleish, who was later recorded as dwelling in Howdale.

From him, the Armstrongs of Crossdykes and, indirectly, Thomas Beattie's family descend.

Opportunity

A case before the Court of Session in Edinburgh over the contested sale of the 'lands of Crieve', owned by the late John Armstrong of Capelfoot, alerted Beattie to a commercial opportunity.

On his way home on foot to Milnholm from Makman, the farmstead Macmaw at Waterhead of Dryfe above Boreland, which his father had bought in 1751 he made a con-

siderable detour to inspect Crieve.

"One day" he records "I came that way and took a serious view, both of the ground and the year, and most strenuously determined to have a share in it, if it was possible to acquire it."

In 1761 Beattie was offered a lease of Crieve, on condition he agreed to enclose and dyke, dividing it into fields of no more than 40 acres.

Although the land was described as 'moss and muir', Crieve was bought the next year by William Elliot, an Edinburgh writer (solicitor).

Beattie thought the price too high but in 1763 he took on the tack of Newlands Hill and Howdale, surrendering them two

years later to William Irving of Capelfoot for a good profit.

"I got Double the Money for the stock that it cost me ... with the profits of our farms and the price of Howdale stock, we were enabled to lodge a considerable sum in Bankers' hands in Edinburgh."

The agricultural entrepreneur was on his way. Thomas Beattie and his father finally succeeded in buying Crieve in 1768 but the terms of the sale remained hotly contested and not until 1785, 17 years later, was Beattie's possession finally confirmed.

Why was Thomas Beattie so set upon Crieve? What return did he expect from it? And what improvements did he make? Read the next instalment.



The Water of Milk is straddled by the lands of Crieve

House captains, safety officers and eco leaders

Canonbie primary school pupils take on a variety of important roles

CANONBIE primary school pupils have stepped into a number of roles for the forthcoming year.

Grace Ellwood and Jayden McVittie are the Esk house captains, Nathan Bulman and Robbie Graham the Tarras house captains and Riley Smith and Meredith Lacey the Little house captains.

Libby Hall and Ally Hall are the play leaders and the digital leaders are Esme McLinden, Robbie Graham, Samantha Skillen, Megan Sheppard, Daniel Stevens, Evan Warbeck, Luke Rome, Jack Hall and Harry Cattermole.

The eco leaders are Sophia Robertson, Hannah Imrie, Maisie Hay and Danielle Ward.

The role of junior road safety officers has been taken on by Emily Rome, Sophie Carson, Amber Smith, Sophie Nichol, Campbell Graham, Sam Ellwood, Lucy Smith and Vinnie Utting.

The members of the pupil council are Edith Graham, Joshua Graham, Erin Nicholson, Beth Wilson, Thomas Little, Amelia Smith and Bridget Carlile.



Pupil Council
Edith Graham, Joshua Graham, Erin Nicholson, Beth Wilson, Thomas Little, Amelia Smith and Bridget Carlile.



Eco Leaders Sophia Robertson, Hannah Imrie, Maisie Hay and Danielle Ward.



Little house captains Riley Smith and Meredith Lacey



Nathan Bulman and Robbie Graham, Tarras house captains



Grace Ellwood and Jayden McVittie, Esk house captains



Junior Road Safety Officers
Emily Rome, Sophie Carson, Amber Smith, Sophie Nichol, Campbell Graham, Sam Ellwood, Lucy Smith and Vinnie Utting.



Libby Hall and Ally Hall are Canonbie Primary's play leaders

Beautiful period piece

NEW life has been breathed into a period farmhouse, transforming it into a comfortable home and a holiday cottage.

Billholm Farmhouse, on the road between Bentpath and Eskdalemuir, proved to be a challenging restoration for couple Richard Raine and Kieran McNally.

They bought the property in May 2017 and took on the task of renovating the farmstead.

The property, which came with seven acres of land, was sold by the Cutteridge family and Richie and Kieran set about the project while living there.

Richie said: "Every ceiling and wall had to have new plasterboard and be replastered and skimmed.

"A supporting wall was removed in the drawing room to open up the space and is now flooded with light.

"It was a real labour of love," said Richie, who gave up his job as a warehouse manager in Northumberland to project manage the build with his husband Kieran who was commuting to London every week with his job at BT.

They enlisted the services of Langholm tradesmen, Maxwell Builders, KC Plumbing and electrician Michael Haining.

The property was rewired and a completely new heating system was installed, along with new plumbing to create four bathrooms, including a groundfloor shower room.



The drawing room in in Billholm House

They revitalised the gardens by excavating and cutting back overgrown bushes to open up the view of the river and restored the original driveway.

The original garden wall was two feet high and they have raised it to eight feet to give them and their guests more privacy.

They also built an outside dining area, complete with a fire for those summer evenings.

The coalhouse and adjacent outbuilding have been transformed into a holiday let and from January 2018 they started taking bookings through Air bnb.

Richie said: "After we opened in January 2018, it really took off, with back-to-back bookings.

"But then the pandemic hit in late March and we were inundated with cancellations.

"Once the lockdown measures relaxed,

bookings came in again and we have been full ever since.

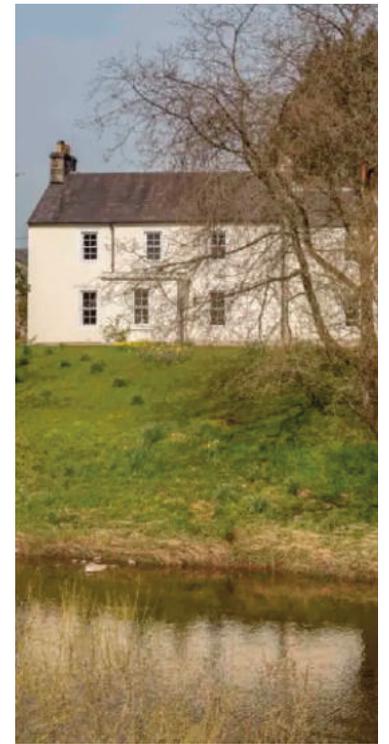
"Most visitors have been from cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh and the north east.

"We have had a lot of friends and family from Northumberland visit us, too.

"They just love the peace and tranquillity of the valley which is what appeals to a lot of people."



Masterminds Richard and Kieran



Above: Billholm House from the River Esk
Below: Holiday let lounge



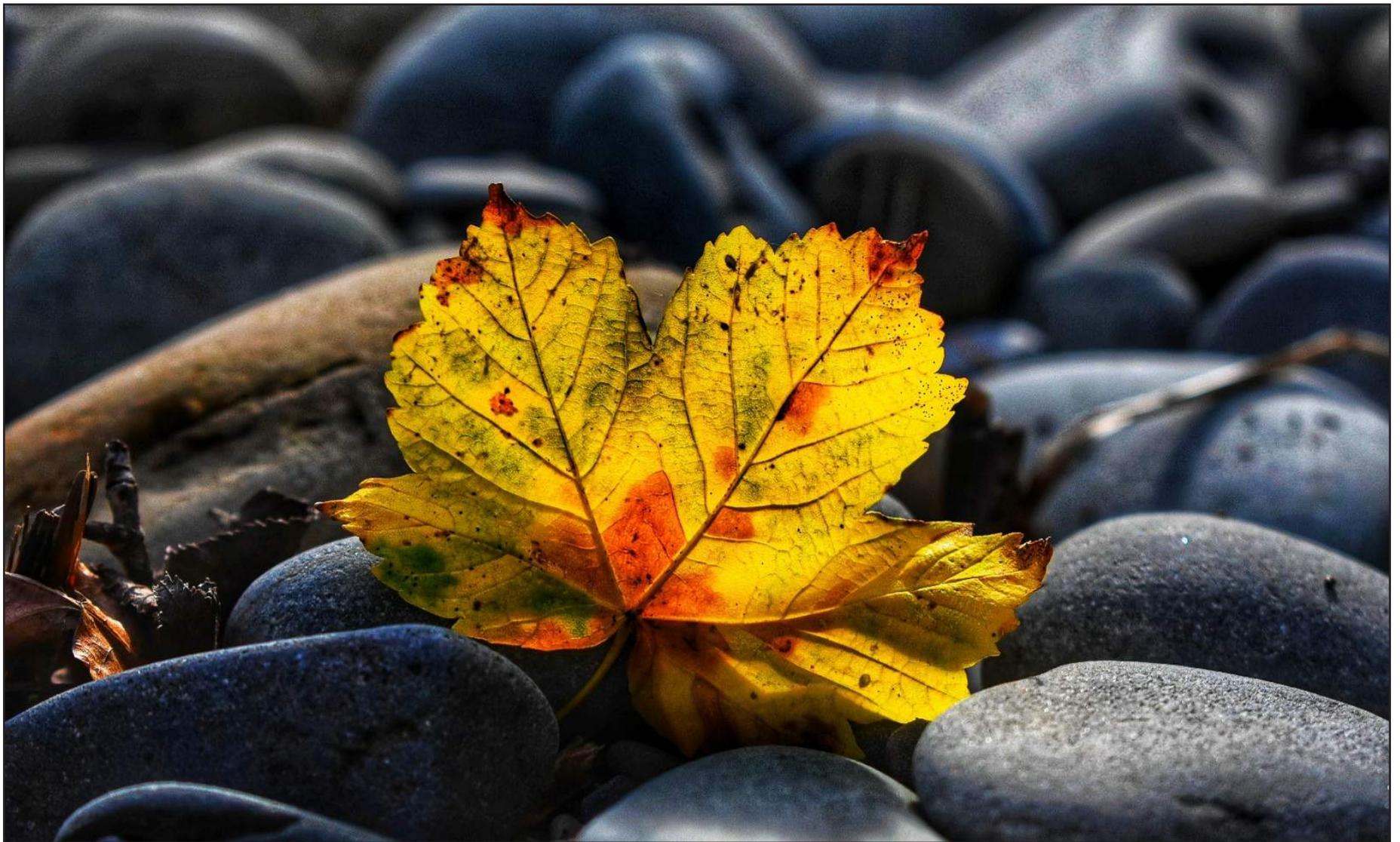
Above: Main dining room
Below: Billholm house before the renovations



Above: Second floor bathroom
Below: Holiday let kitchen



The E&L Gallery



An impressively composed autumnal photo by Zach Reid of Langholm

Camera: Nikon D3400

Beating the pandemic blues



Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument
September 2020

David and Fiona Patterson
of Langholm

A TWO-NIGHT stay in Stirling to break the COVID Blues turned out to be a good idea.

It was a chilly day when we arrived at the castle; our tickets were booked without fuss online and, with no fuss, we were soon inside.

The price had been slightly reduced because many of the displays were not available and the Argyle and Southern Highlanders museum was being refurbished.

Altogether, we spent about 90 minutes, mostly walking around the ramparts and chatting to the knowledgeable and friendly visitor staff.

Don't forget to take a stroll through the nearby cemetery when you come out but maybe more enjoyment is to be had when the castle is fully open.

But for the whole time it felt COVID-safe, with masks worn indoors and social distancing when out in the grounds.

We arrived at the Wallace Monument but could not get an online slot so we called ahead and were told to visit because there were slots available.

It's certainly an impressive monument and you can either walk from the visitor centre to the monument or, if you are lucky, get the bus up.

The walk is a steady climb, no longer than 20 minutes.

Once inside, you are treated to displays on the three floors heading



to the top. And the view was exhilarating.

We had the entire area to ourselves and visibility was excellent, with fantastic 360-degree panoramic views of the Trossachs and Ochil Hills to overlooking Stirling itself and the Bannockburn battle site of 1314, which is hard to pinpoint and

has mostly been built over.

However, the area overlooking the Battle of Stirling Bridge was incredibly evocative and it wasn't hard, with a little imagination, to picture the scene as the English army were mercilessly cut down by Wallace and his armies. It's well worth a visit.

Above:
A view from Stirling Castle

Left: Detail of the castle

Speyside wildlife tour

HAVING been deprived of an Icelandic cruise, taking in Shetland and Orkney, when the cruise company went into liquidation, Margaret Pool and I were looking for a replacement getaway nearer home writes Grace Baxter.

Margaret discovered the Grant Arms Wildlife Hotel in Granttown-on-Spey was offering a wildlife week in September.

She phoned the hotel to find out availability but we'd left it a bit late in booking and were offered only three nights from Friday to Monday.

But we jumped at the chance of an escape after six months of staying put.

There were two guest wildlife experts and one local guide. One of them I'd seen often on TV so we elected to join his wildlife and viewing walks.

He is Iolo Williams, the Welsh naturalist and TV presenter. You may have seen on the Autumnwatch programmes.

He is a most entertaining and knowledgeable guide who is passionate about his favourite bird, the hen harrier.

woodland running parallel to the Moray Firth.

There were a few familiar birds flying around such as siskin and treecreeper.

He showed us anthills and demonstrated how you could bring the ants to the surface by spreading your hands slowly across the top of the anthill.

It certainly worked, with dozens of ants suddenly scurrying across its surface.

Around the ponds were some beautiful dragonflies, like the Southern Hawker and the Common Darter.

Hydrum

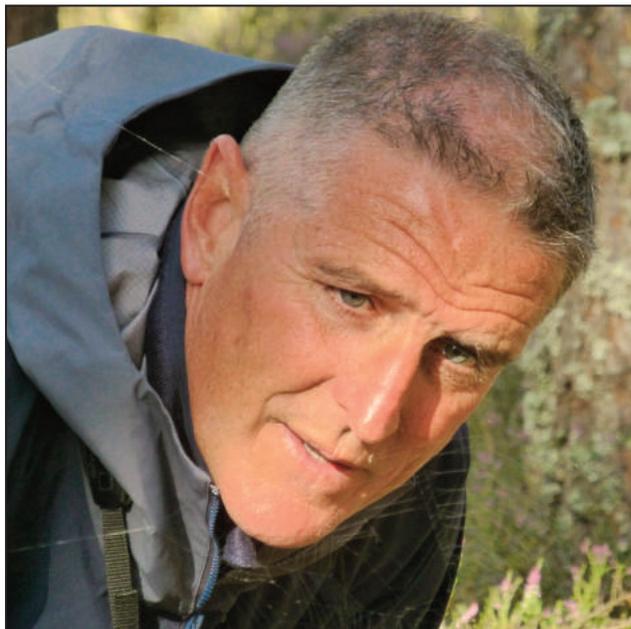
This, of course, is the season for fungi, of which we saw a great variety, including one I'd not come across previously, the hydrum, or hedgehog, mushroom, so called because, instead of gills or pores, it has spines, like a hedgehog, under its cap.

In the afternoon we drove along to Findhorn Bay to look for seabirds and, apart from the usual suspects, like redshank and sandpiper, Iolo was pleased to show us osprey fishing in the distance.

He told us they were probably birds passing through on their migration. We also



A curlew feeds amongst the seaweed



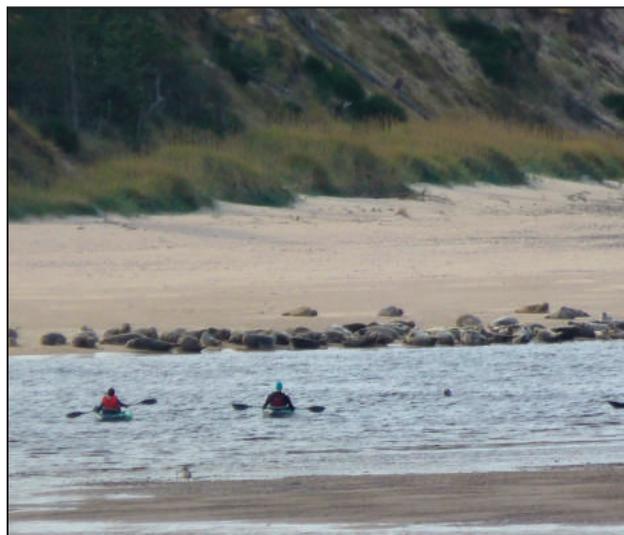
Iolo Williams

So Margaret was right in there to gain his support for our moorland buyout, of which he is already aware and anxious to help publicise.

Our first outing on Saturday morning was with Iolo to the Culbin Forest, a huge coastal

saw a large colony of grey Atlantic seals.

On Sunday Margaret and I headed for the Anagach woods, just a stone's throw from the hotel, with walks leading down to the River Spey. It's the only Scottish river which flows faster than



Canoeists observed by some grey Atlantic seals

our own Border Esk.

Sharks

In the afternoon Iolo told us to hightail it to Nairn harbour where he'd heard there were basking sharks.

The sea was choppy and the weather showery but we did see them zigzagging their way out at sea.

Our viewing was courtesy of a man and his young son with a telescope and really powerful binoculars.

They'd come across country from Ullapool as soon as they'd learned about the presence of the sharks, which was lucky for me because I'd forgotten my binoculars.

All in all, it was a lovely break, albeit a short one.

The two birds I was hoping to see for the first time, the crossbill and crested tit, proved to be as elusive as ever.

But what a great excuse for a return visit.



A hedgehog mushroom

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Hill hounds hat-trick

Hounds

THE Hill Family were celebrating at Teviothead last Saturday after winning the kennel trophy for most points.

Buster Moon set the ball rolling by winning the senior graded and Bobby Moon took sixth place in the same race.

Red Hot Bob followed up with a win in the open maidens to give them an unassailable tally of 13 points.

Saturday at Newcastleton was a miserable day weatherwise. The light rain progressed into heavy rain as the day went on.

The first trail was the seniors and it produced a surprise.

The two championship leaders, Polaris and Class Mo Salah, having had a big lead at the road crossing, were nowhere to be seen as the field appeared on the finish.

Tynemouth was in the lead but the fast-finishing Fire Gun soon passed him to win nicely.

Buster Moon ran well to take third, with Delta Scope and Delta Script taking the other places.

In the senior graded Buster Moon and Castle Clansmen were contesting the lead all the way but, by the time they came onto the finish, Pirate Jake had got to the fore and held his lead all the way to the finish.

Buster Moon ran on well for second and Castle Clansman was third.

Splendid Mikey and Fire Bolt were a bit off the pace to claim fourth and fifth.

Diggle Boy is the form dog in the pups at the moment and he



The winners at Teviothead are, left to right, Derrick Hill with Red Hot Bob, Carolyn Hill with Buster Moon and Tracey Hill with Bobby Moon

led them out, with Time will Tell and Border Brow chasing hard.

As they came on to the finish, Diggle Boy and Time Will Tell were going stride for stride all the way down the hill.

But Diggle Boy showed his determination by powering forward in the last few strides to win by a couple of lengths.

Matilda was an easy third and Border Brow, Border Brae and Delta Status took the other tickets.

The final race was the open maidens and local hound Sportsman set off at a cracking pace.

He appeared on the finish on his own and was well down the hill before the others showed.

Donna's Pride was a clear sec-

ond, with Lucky Charm in third. Fire Gem, Vinny Moon and Red Hot Bob took the other places.

The proceeds on the day went to Macmillan Cancer Support and a fantastic sum of £275 was raised.

Thanks to sponsors C&D Auction Marts, Norman Douglas and Sarah Laing for their sponsorship and support as well as all the members who generously donated.

Teviothead,

Saturday, September 26

Seniors: Class Mo Salah, Polaris, Delta Scope, Fire Gun, Tynemouth, Fire Belle. 7 ran. 25.27.

Senior graded: Buster Moon, Pirate Jake, Fire Bolt, Splendid Mikey, Fire Lass, Bobby Moon. 6 ran. 26.45.

Pups: Diggle Boy, Time Will Tell,

Delta Status, Matilda, Just William, Border Brow. 7 ran. 16.05.

Open maidens: Red Hot Bob, Sportsman, Class Mo Salah, Lucky Charm, Donna's Pride, Fire Gem. 8 ran. 16.40.

Newcastleton,

Saturday, October 3

Seniors: Fire Gun, Tynemouth, Buster Moon, Fire Lass, Delta Scope, Delta Script. 8 ran. 23.29.

Senior graded: Pirate Jake, Bobby Moon, Castle Clansman, Splendid Mikey, Fire Bolt. 5 ran. 24.29.

Pups: Diggle Boy, Time Will Tell, Matilda, Border Brow, Border Brae, Delta Status. 8 ran. 12.20.

Open maidens: Sportsman, Donna's Pride, Lucky Charm, Fire Gem, Vinny Moon, Red Hot Bob. 8 ran. 12.55.

Nuts Well bags feature race again



Kelso racecourse was a lucky course for Borders' trainers last Sunday

Horseracing

NUTS WELL repeated his 2018 success when bagging the feature race at Kelso last Sunday.

Ridden by Danny McMenamin and trained in Northumberland by Ann Hamilton, the 17-2 chance saw off Ayr Right by a length and a half in the £25,000 NSPCC School Service handicap chase.

Owner and trainer's husband Ian Hamilton said: "We were genuinely worried about the ground and he was nearly a non-runner.

"But, in the end, it was great see him win again. He is a little horse who travels and tries really hard.

"Danny gave him a great ride and we never need to give him any instructions.

"We could go to Wetherby later in the autumn. There are

a couple of possible races there and we may even step him up to three miles for a crack at the Charlie Hall Chase."

Thirteen-year-old Simply Ned, a two-time winner of the race and a dual Grade 1 winner in Ireland, was retired by his trainer Nicky Richards after coming home last of the five finishers.

Borders trainers Harriet Graham, Stuart Coltherd, Iain Jardine and Alistair Whillans were all on the mark.

Graham saddled Dancewiththewind, a most impressive winner of the second division of the Scottish Racing Academy handicap hurdle under Richard Johnson.

Linelee King was an emphatic winner on his debut over jumps to complete a double for the four-time champion jockey in the William Hill Racecourse Bookmaker novices' hurdle.

Parkour no obstacle



Dean Armstrong comes third in finals

Parkour

CONGRATULATIONS go to Langholm Academy S5 pupil Dean Armstrong who has shown excellence in the sport of parkour.

This training discipline uses movements which are developed from military obstacle course training.

Dean has been participating over the past year at Bonchester Bridge.

He recently came third in the Northern time trial finals for 13 to 17 year olds.

Dean said: "It is physically challenging but I really enjoy it."

Mixed results for jockeys

Horseracing

DALE Irving and his boss Maurice Barnes took four runners to Hexham last Friday, with mixed results.

Irving rode the 125/1 Louloumills into fourth place in the mares' handicap hurdle over two miles, four furlongs. There were 16 runners.

The 22/1 Farlam King took eighth spot in the three-mile novices' handicap chase.

He was in the lead five fences from home but at the penultimate fence was passed and weakened towards the finish.

In the two-mile novices' hurdle Irving had to pull up Roma Bangkok approaching the last and in the two-

mile, four-furlong handicap chase No Such Number fell at the second fence.

Irving rode Saint Arvans for Barnes in the two-mile novices' hurdle at Kelso on Sunday and came fourth.

James Ewart Racing had two runners at Hexham.

Fostered Phil, the 8/11 favourite, came in fifth under Brian Hughes nine and a half lengths adrift in the two-mile novices' hurdle.

Hughes rode Beat Box in the novices' handicap chase over one mile and seven and a half lengths and came third.

On the flat Jamie Gormley rode Italian Breeze for Jedd O'Keeffe in a six-furlong stakes at Newmarket last Saturday and came 11th of the 27 runners.

E&L SPORT

