

Pets in the pandemic



THANKS TO OUR FURRY FRIENDS FOR HELPING US THROUGH LOCKDOWN: PAGES 8-10

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BRIEFING

NEWS

The Roses of success

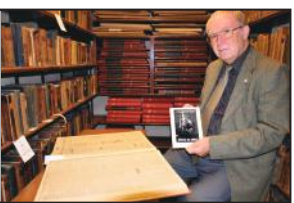


A THRIVING Langholm business has been nominated for an award and is encouraging everyone to vote to get it into the Dumfries and Galloway final.

Full story: Page 4

NEWS

Langholm groups reap the rewards



SEVERAL grants from the Ewe Hill 6 windfarm community benefit fund were distributed by Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council.

Full story: Page 7

Eskdale & Liddesdale
Advertiser

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Study identifies top 10 projects for funding

Nearly 1,000 ideas proposed on how to use windfarm grants

Rowanburn is one lucky postcode



Some happy news for a change, as Craig and Vicki Hall win £30,000 in the People's Postcode Lottery

THE kindheartedness of an Eskdale man has paid off after he and his wife had an amazing win on a major lottery.

The couple were

shocked to hear about their good fortune but everyone is delighted with their good news.

For the full story, turn to page 2.

MORE than 900 individual project ideas on how to spend funding from a windfarm in Eskdale have been submitted to a major study.

The survey produced 909 ideas, all of which were included in the analysis.

From these ideas, the priority project area identified were infrastructure, healthy living, transport, environment, tourism, eco-efficiency and community cohesion.

The top 10 projects mentioned were sports venues, community transport, community shared places, developing businesses, youth facilities, tourism support, internet provision, training and education, energy efficiency and environmental projects.

During 2019/2020 the Creetown Initiative was commissioned by Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG) to do the study to get the views of people in East Dumfriesshire on what they would like windfarm community benefit funds to be spent on.

The study was funded by the Scottish government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), with support of Local Energy Scotland and funding from ScottishPower Renewables' Ewe Hill 6 and Ewe Hill 16 windfarm.

The result of the extensive consultation is two documents.

East Dumfriesshire Regional Community Plan describes the challenges the area faces, the consultation process, summarises the findings and lays out a proposed

action plan.

It also captures thoughts on the way windfarm funds are managed.

Feedback

The second document East Dumfriesshire Community Consultation Feedback describes the detailed feedback received in more depth and is an essential reference point for anyone or any community group wanting to develop action plans in their own communities.

DECBG will use it alongside the community plan to check that ideas coming forward have community support.

Copies of the two documents have been sent to all community councils and elected members in the area.

Over the next few weeks a summary leaflet will be distributed to all the households in the DG11-2, DG11-3 and DG13-0 areas which were invited to participate in the survey.

The documents can also be downloaded from the group's website Community Consultation | Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG).

As an incentive to return the survey, £200 was offered in a prize draw.

In total, 327 surveys were returned and the winner of the prize draw, selected at random from surveys returned, was Ruth Delaney.

John Galloway, who chairs Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council, said its members and households were asked for their views on potential changes in the way these types of funds were managed in the future.

"This review was based on more windfarms coming on line and trying to identify the best way to manage these community funds.

"We said the current arrangement of splitting the funding, with a small amount administered locally for smaller projects and larger funds being administered by DECBG for larger-scale projects, was, in our opinion, the best way to meet the needs of our community.

"We have representatives on the board of these groups as do all the other communities which the fund benefits.

>Turn to Page 2



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

A big surprise

Congratulations to Rowanburn couple

IT WAS the luckiest direct debit Craig Hall had ever set up.

Thinking it would be a good way to support charitable causes, Craig decided to join the People's Postcode Lottery.

And after only 16 months, he hit the jackpot with a £30,000 win last weekend.

Craig lives in Rowanburn with his wife, Vicki, and their five children. His parents Nigel and Ann farm nearby.

Craig said: "It's sinking in slowly. I was very shocked. I never expected that. I never expected anything at all like that so I'm very pleased we won it."

He added: "One Saturday night I was sat on the couch having a cup of tea and watching the advert and thought, I'm going to do that."

"They raise money for good causes so I set up a direct debit and it came up with a big win."

Craig has been getting congratulations all round. No-one knew of anyone locally having won it and they were glad to see him hit the jackpot.

He is an HGV driver and divides his time between hauling timber and working on the family farm.

He is busy driving at the moment but will soon turn his attention to lambing to keep his hand in on the farm.

Craig and Vicki are now thinking of going on a holiday of a lifetime with the family.

He said: "Maybe we will go to Australia next year to visit my brother in Perth. We'll always remember it and so will the kids."

"They're being quite quiet about it. I think they are in shock, too. They can't believe it."

"The last year has been a very hard time for everyone, especially children who are missing school and being with their friends. They're



Craig and Vicki Hall are still in shock after winning £30,000

missing out on so much."

Normally, representatives from the lottery would hand over a cheque to the winner at their home but this wasn't possible because of the pandemic.

Instead, they did a Zoom call with Craig and will post a cheque as a

keepsake.

Craig said he would carry on taking part in the lottery because of its support for charities.

He added: "I would advise anyone to play it. Everyone has the same chance."

Thanks for Sympathy

COWAN

Betty would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers following the recent sad loss of John. Much appreciated support was given by doctors, nurses and carers. Many thanks to Hedley & Turnbull Funeral Directors and thanks also to Rev Morag Crossan for her comforting service.

HENDERSON

The family of the late Ian Henderson would like to take this opportunity to thank Hedley & Turnbull Undertakers, Jim Robertson, for his kind words and to all the amazing carers for their hard work and dedication. Lastly to the people of the Muckle Toon who gave dad such a memorable send off, we can't thank you enough!

HOTSON

Jimmy and family would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who sent cards, letters, flowers and made phone calls after the sad passing of Margaret.

Also a special thanks to all staff at Langholm Health Centre and Langholm Day Centre for all their help and kindness over the years.

The day will come when the sun will shine, the Bands will play, the Cornet will Carry the Standard and we will watch the Milntown men play again and attend our Cattle Show.

Jimmy and Family

Church Notices

CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

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Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group

and charitable trusts and individuals from the community of Langholm.



Next round is open to apply

>From Page 1

"We were not asked to comment on specific projects but did mention the types of groups which have applied to and benefited from this funding in the past."

The seventh round of the Ewe Hill 16 fund has attracted eight applications which will be checked and assessed before being decided at a board meeting next month.

The fund is now open to new applications, the deadline for which is July 31, 2021.

Application forms and guidance notes can be downloaded from the website The Ewe Hill 16 Fund | Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG) or email decbgcio@gmail.com

As well as distributing community benefit from ScottishPower Renewables' Ewe Hill 6 and Ewe Hill 16 windfarms, the group is exploring other opportunities with Crossdykes and Solwaybank windfarms.

The group is a charity and was set up in 2017. The trustees are currently representatives of the five communities closest to Ewe Hill windfarm.

Information

More information is at www.decbg.org.uk

The Ewe Hill 16 windfarm fund is administered by the Southern Uplands Partnership. Go to www.sup.org.uk



The seventh round of the Ewe Hill 16 fund has attracted eight applications

Photo Tom Hutton

Suspended councillor disputes official record

Langholm member claims draft minute of his ban is inaccurate

A COMMUNITY councillor, who was suspended for six months by his council, is disputing its version of events, published last week.

Mark Hodgson was removed from Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council at its behind-closed-doors meeting last October but the draft minutes were published only last week.

He was not sent a copy because of his suspension.

The Facebook comment, for which he was suspended, was on the Langholm flooding page and he doesn't deny it was critical of the council.

Under the any other business part of last October's agenda, John Galloway, chairman, as recorded in the minutes, said he "wanted to remind members of their duties while posting on social media."

"In particular, members should not be putting LEWCC into the firing line when posting online. Explicitly state when not speaking as a member of LEWCC".

The minutes went on: "Margaret Sanderson had notified members about a post on Facebook by Mark Hodgson in advance of the meeting, this post being critical of individual members of LEWCC which was against the Dumfries and Galloway Council code of conduct for community councils."

"Margaret Sanderson produced the wording and

requested either an apology or that disciplinary action be taken.

"Mark Hodgson declined to apologise; accepted Margaret Sanderson's word that these were his words but stated he did not recognise them.

"After a fractious discussion, a vote was held, five against one, resulting in Mark Hodgson being suspended from LEWCC for six months.

"The chairman would write a letter accordingly and the secretary would inform the council."

Mark, speaking to the E&L Advertiser, said: "Are the minutes a true representation?"

Inaccuracies

"They are a draft and it is nearly four months since the meeting so, unless a live recording of the proceedings was taken, it is understandable that there may be some inaccuracies.

"But they are not a true representation of the meeting. This is now the third official version of events I have received from the community council, all of which fundamentally contradict each other and none of which corresponds to the events which took place.

"The suspension was undertaken purely on the basis of a single post on Facebook on the Langholm Flooding Page on September 11, 2020. It's still there if anyone wants to view it."

He added: "There was no fractious discussion. There wasn't time. Mrs Sanderson's oratory



Mark Hodgson has been suspended from Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council but disputes the accuracy of the minute

in presenting the charges was quite passionate but there were no arguments.

"The formal proceedings took just over three minutes. I was not notified of the proceedings in advance, neither were, at least, two other members.

"The total contribution I was allowed to make was two sentences: precisely, "er, have I?" and "well, yeah, it's got my name on it".

"I was not asked to apologise, which I wouldn't have done anyway, and certainly did not refuse to recognise anything.

"I would hope to take this opportunity to respectfully request that the community council respond to these questions publicly:

"Which of the three versions

of events presented by yourselves is the correct one?;

"Which members were notified of the disciplinary proceedings in advance? and;

Surprise

"Does the community council feel it is appropriate to hold surprise disciplinary proceedings under any other business at a normal meeting without warning the 'defendant' and in open session with a member of the public, in this case, councillor Ronnie Tait, present?"

Mark pointed out that Dumfries and Galloway Council had provided a toolkit to help community councils allow public access to meetings digitally.

He asked that, the next time

a meeting was scheduled, people ask to attend digitally.

He said: "Community councillors all make a valuable contribution in their own time and the decisions they make affect us all."

His suspension expires on April 19 and he doesn't know whether further disciplinary proceedings may be undertaken against him.

He would like that meeting to be in public.

* In a separate issue, but related to Langholm's flood protection scheme, resident Gillian Massiah contacted the E&L to complain about the draft minutes.

Gillian put a number of questions to the community council about the scheme and at the bottom of her email wrote: "I should stress I am raising these matters on my own behalf and not as a member of any group."

She said the minutes showed that the email had been received from the Langholm Flooding Protection Group.

She said: "The minutes are inaccurate because they ascribe all the questions as coming from the group.

"I specifically said at the end of my email that I was raising these as an individual and they were not from any group. I will contact the council to tell them."

Women's business

LIDDESDALE is one of three rural areas to receive Scottish government backing for a new business creation project designed for women.

The rural business creation project started on Monday and is designed to develop enterprise skills and encourage business start-up ideas among women in rural areas.

The free course is run by Newcastleton and District Community Trust (NDCT) in partnership with Women's Enterprise Scotland (WES) and Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS).

It runs for 10 weeks, with weekly sessions held by Zoom for 1.5 hours a week, working with about 30 women.

Claire Musson, learning and enterprise manager at NDCT, said: "We want to provide learning opportunities and enterprise support in the community.

"It's the first of many courses to be delivered by the trust at the new digital learning and enterprise hub in Buccleuch House.

"The course is delivered by the WES team and will give women the confidence and information they need at the very beginning of their business start-up journey.

"It is the perfect combination of national training backed by local knowledge and support and we look forward to seeing the benefits being realised with new businesses and jobs created in the area."

Topics covered include business planning, attracting customers, pricing and managing finances.

Participants will have the chance to meet other women interested in starting a business and network with women from other areas during the Zoom sessions.

Louisa Macdonell, chief executive of DTAS, said: "COVID-19 has placed the role of Scotland's development trusts truly centre stage.

These community-led organisations have worked relentlessly to support people and we're delighted to bring this crucial business start-up training to an initial group of three rural areas.

"Development trusts are all about improving places and spaces. Their work in empowering communities can help unlock economic potential and support the creation of new businesses which leads, in turn, to new jobs."

Managing more visitors



A study has been commissioned into visitor management at the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

THE Langholm Initiative has secured funding to look at how to manage visitors to the proposed Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

The work, which will be done by Southern Uplands Partnership Services, and is funded by NatureScot's Better Places Green Recovery Fund. It has to be done by the end of March.

The work includes consulting people in Langholm and Newcastleton and other key people and will culminate in recommendations and options which the Initiative will be able to include in the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve estate management work-plan.

The study will require talks

with Dumfries and Galloway Council's roads department, businesses and community councils, along with residents in the properties on the land which the Initiative is buying from Buccleuch.

Other organisations such as the RSPB and the Raptor Study Group will be invited to give their views.

Visitor numbers

Margaret Pool, who chairs the Initiative, said: "We greatly appreciate the support we've received from Nature Scot, formerly Scottish Natural Heritage, to do this scoping study in anticipation of increasing visitor numbers to the reserve.

"We saw the impact last year after the easing of the first lockdown when thousands of people visited the countryside in Scotland but did not always follow the outdoor access code.

"This study will consider, among other things, signage and toilets for visitors. We hope that, by creating these alongside the development of the reserve, we can ensure visitors treat it with respect."

Pip Tabor, SUPS manager, added: "We're delighted to work with the Initiative on this inspiring project which will help address the climate and biodiversity crises and support businesses."

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The Roses of success

A THRIVING Langholm business has been nominated for an award and is encouraging everyone to vote to get it into the Dumfries and Galloway final.

Leanne and Emma Duncan of Rose's Wardrobe Vintage, which is based in Drove Weavers, is bidding for the best new business title at the Dumfries and Galloway retail business awards.

If they win the regional final, they go forward to the Scottish final, a date for which is yet to be set because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Emma said: "We knew nothing about it until the nomination arrived in the post. It was a big surprise.

"People can go online to vote for us and we'd love it if you could. It already means the world to us that we've been nominated but to get to the final would be a dream."

Rose's Wardrobe Vintage was set up in 2018 but only really got going in late 2019 with its first collection.

Previous to that, Emma and Leanne were making T-shirts and headbands which were very popular for a while but, more recently, they have concentrated on their major order garments.

Emma added: "That is what we always wanted to do anyway. The T-shirts were a side project to get our name out there.

"We did a lot of fairs in 2019 and the T-shirts and headbands

did well but we didn't do any in 2020 because of COVID-19."

More customers came forward wanting made-to-order, quality garments and they have taken over, advancing their business plan more quickly than they expected.

Emma said: "Last year was not the best of years but, in terms of the business changing, it has been a good year for us.

"People are investing in natural fibres and in slow fashion."

Last April they had a break from the business after getting involved in making scrubs for NHS workers.

Headbands

One spin-off was a rise in demand for their headbands to raise money for more scrubs and they raised quite a lot for charity, including for Hate UK when the Black Lives Matter campaign came to the fore.

During the first lockdown last spring Emma said it was upsetting to see people dying so, when they found out about the Scraps for Scrubs project in Scotland, they registered their interest.

"That's when the Dumfries and Galloway co-ordinator got in touch and I became the Langholm co-ordinator.

"It gave people a sense of purpose and a lot came forward to help. Their own groups had been taken away from them and it helped them to be involved in

something. We also had a group chat."

Emma and Leanne are now taking things week by week for the business.

Their goal is to employ someone from Langholm and build a small team.

Emma added: "If every small business in Langholm expanded and employed someone, it would add up to a lot of people."

You can vote for Rose's Wardrobe Vintage at www.scotlandsbusinessawards.co.uk/dumfries-and-galloway/

Leanne and Emma Duncan of Rose's Wardrobe Vintage



Some of the items in Leanne and Emma's stunning collection of vintage style clothing

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

Councillor's Update

ON JANUARY 5 I was told by the council's architectural and property services that Greenleaf House had withdrawn its offer on the old primary school and it was going back on the market.

There have been concerns about the condition of the suspension bridge.

At the communities committee meeting on February 9, on which I sit, it was included in the agenda, item 9.

Refurbishment and painting work have been delayed until May/August this year.

The structure is still subject to ongoing inspection and monitoring, with essential maintenance work previously identified already completed. A

tender contract was planned to go out Jan/Feb.

Also programmed in for 2021/22 are refurbishment works on Wauchope bridge.

The new waste and recycling service begins on Monday, May 31.

Most residents will be given two 240l recycling wheelie bins: blue lid for paper, card and cardboard; and red lid for plastics, metal and cartons.

Non-recyclable waste will be collected every fortnight and the blue and red-lidded bins every month.

Residents will still be able to recycle glass bottles and jars at the recycling point at the Co-op.

These are major changes and I'm quite sure there will be some challenges taking it forward.

I have had two meetings with BEAR Scotland to highlight issues about the A7 in Langholm and the valley.

There are several blocked gullies from the south side of town to Skippers Bridge. This will be programmed in for the next two weeks.

Maintenance and repairs to the high retaining wall on the left going south at Skippers bridge is at the design stage and is planned to start later in March. I will advise when these arrangements are firmed up.

The new 30mph indicating sign south of Langholm is being progressed.

The children crossing warning sign just before the slip road to Hallpath from the south is with the design team.

The No Waiting restrictions at the Station Buildings and across from the Buck Hotel on the north, which have been ongoing for many years, are now to be taken forward with some urgency.

There were some problems in early January with salt bins being empty and a lack of salt



Langholm's Suspension Bridge is due to be refurbished this summer

spreading but, after some discussion with council officers, the situation was resolved very quickly.

I believe more salt came into Langholm that week than anywhere in the region.

I thank the council for its prompt action and especially the Streetscene guys. It's much appreciated.

**Councillor Ronnie Tait
Annandale East and Eskdale**

Superfast broadband powered by windfarm

Renewables company branches out into providing better access

CROSSDYKES windfarm developer Muirhall Energy has pledged £150,000 towards improving broadband for residents and businesses in Bankhill, Paddockhole and Corrie Common as well as pupils at Tundergarth primary school.

The company's investment will cover installation costs and pay the first six months' subscription for all customers.

The renewables firm has also secured a three-year price freeze so those taking advantage of the broadband will pay 2021 prices until 2024.

Muirhall hopes to offer a similar scheme to communities surrounding its planned windfarms at Hopsrig and Loganhead, both near Langholm.

It is expected that 79 properties near Crossdykes will initially be able to connect by the end of June.

Plans are in place for extending superfast broadband coverage to the wider communities

around the windfarm.

Superfast broadband will allow users to undertake tasks many take for granted such as online education, streaming movies and music and keeping in touch with family and friends.

The service will be delivered by fellow independent Scottish company Briskona, which has worked closely with Muirhall to deliver the project.

Community

Jason Morin, Muirhall Energy project manager, said: "We want to play a positive role in every community, in which we work and we place that strong community involvement at the heart of everything we do."

"We constantly look for ways to make a transformational impact so we're delighted to bring superfast broadband to the area."

"Locals will be able to benefit from the significant investment we have made in laying fibre up to Crossdykes windfarm and we hope soon to extend



Crossdykes windfarm will enable households to have superfast broadband

this to the communities surrounding our Hopsrig and Loganhead projects."

The new superfast broadband has been warmly welcomed by residents who look forward to a significant improvement in their internet service.

Frank Carruthers, Crossdykes

local community liaison officer, said: "Having a reliable internet connection has never been more essential."

Life-changing

"With home schooling and working from home now vital to everyday life, access to

superfast broadband will be truly life-changing for many in our rural communities.

"This project is testament to Muirhall Energy's commitment to Dumfries and Galloway and it's brilliant to see the windfarm already having a positive impact on the community."

Crossdykes windfarm comprises 10 turbines with a total generating capacity of 46MW.

It also benefits residents through Muirhall Energy's dedicated community investment fund.

An annual pot of £322,000 has been committed for the long-term benefit of neighbouring communities, amounting to £8m over the 25-year lifetime of the windfarm.

All those eligible for superfast broadband will be individually contacted by Muirhall.

Muirhall is focused on contributing to Scotland's ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions, while delivering tangible benefits to communities.

IN BRIEF

Cases are decreasing

A TOTAL of 37,647 first-dose vaccinations against COVID-19 were delivered in Dumfries and Galloway up until last Thursday.

This represented a vaccination for about one in four people.

The region was on course to have delivered a first vaccination to most people aged 65 and over by last Sunday, along with those who were shielding, care home residents and most front-line health and social care staff.

The vaccination programme moved onto cohorts six and seven from Monday, namely, people aged 60 to 64.

The virus has been suppressed in all but one area in Annandale and Eskdale.

The number of positive cases in the seven days up to last Saturday stood at zero to two in Langholm and Eskdale, Annandale East, Gretna, Eastriggs, Annandale West, Moffat, Lockerbie and Lochmaben.

In Annan East the total was nine.

An NHS Dumfries & Galloway spokesperson said many vulnerable people would now develop some level of protection but they should not

Traps endanger bikers



Langholm mountain bikers are being put at risk by nasty traps

DANGEROUS traps are being laid on mountain biking trails around Langholm, putting riders at risk.

One biker, who didn't want to be named, contacted the E&L Advertiser to say the traps were being laid regularly.

He said he would like to see mountain biking take off in this area but it was obvious that not everyone liked it.

He added: "Last week yet more traps were put out to harm bikers."

"These logs are on a trail up the Curly Snake. It's very dangerous and it's happening more often."

"It's silly, just dangerous. It's fair enough for the experienced rider; they can just about avoid most of them but if a kid came down, they wouldn't stand a chance."

"A tree branch was laid across a barbed-wire fence on the Curly Snake and one of my friends hit it."

"I'm not sure who's doing it but it's nonsense. In the past couple of years we've built trails off the footpaths so we stay away from walkers but logs and rocks are appearing on those trails."

"What we do now is take photos to warn people and move any traps out of the way."

"It's got to the point where I now walk the trails before I use them."

Online virtual exhibitions for Hopsrig & Loganhead Windfarm Section 36 Applications

Exhibitions to run for 2 weeks, from 22nd February until 7th March 2021



We are inviting the local community to visit our online virtual Hopsrig & Loganhead Windfarm exhibitions available to view on our website

Both windfarms received planning consent in 2019, for projects under 50MW. As Muirhall are now looking to exceed 50MW at each wind farm, Section 36 Applications must be submitted to the Scottish Government in order to increase the scale and generating capacity of the turbines.

Structure of Exhibitions:

Welcome

Highlights the site relevant to the consultation, the aim of consultation, and invite to feedback.

Loganhead/Hopsrig wind farm

(Dependent on site): overview of project and site information.

Updates to our proposals

Highlights proposed updates to consents and differences from consented project.

Landscape Visualisation

Includes visualisations of views of site and overview of visual effects.

The Environment

Highlights areas dealt with by upcoming EIA, and previous mitigation resulting from consultation.

Community benefits

Taking a look at the opportunities available for local communities under the scheme.

What happens next?

Highlights questionnaire and next steps (analyse + report feedback, and application submission).

Visit the online exhibitions

Exhibitions will be accessible via the project webpages:

www.muirhallenergy.co.uk/project/hopsrig

www.muirhallenergy.co.uk/project/loganhead

Meet the team



Jason Morin
PROJECT MANAGER



Mike Mollison
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER



Mhairi Frai
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS



Carol Douglas
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

Community investment is central to what we do

www.muirhallenergy.co.uk

Farming on the Border

In association with

C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



A true picture of modern farming



The survey team are asking smaller sheep and beef farms to take part

SMALLER beef and sheep farms with a turnover of £30,000 to £100,000 are being encouraged to join the annual farm business survey

This in-depth economic study of Scotland's farms has been at the forefront of helping to inform agricultural policy for 85 years.

The team at SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), do the survey.

It gathers data which go to the Scottish and UK governments to assess the impact of changes in agricultural policy on farming businesses.

With today's farmers facing challenges associated with COVID-19, climate change and Brexit, the survey is now, arguably, more important.

Sascha Grierson, project manager, said: "We capture a true picture of what's happening in farming businesses in response to policy change and environmental and economic shocks, like climate change, Brexit and

the pandemic.

"In these times there has never been a more important time to gather this information."

The information not only feeds back to the governments but has also fed data to the EU farm accounts data network.

That information, alongside similar data collected from all EU member states, has directly informed the CAP and its various changes over the years.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and confidential.

Businesses taking part are allocated a farm business analyst from SAC Consulting.

Farmers are given a farm business report, a benchmarking report, which gives them detailed information on the productivity and financial performance of their business compared with similar businesses, and a detailed carbon audit done by SAC Consulting's award-winning Agrealc tool.

Email ScottishFarmBusinessSurvey@sac.co.uk

Give our farmers a 2020s' roadmap

THE 2020s will be a transformational decade for Scotland's farmers and must be used as a gateway to opportunity.

That was the message from outgoing NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick at the virtual AGM.

Farming stood on the edge of the most significant change in generations.

Leaving Europe, the impact of COVID-19, the challenge of climate change and significant changes in agricultural policy from 2025 would be the drivers and the industry would respond positively.

Ambition was great but the Scottish government had to deliver the policy roadmap necessary to drive change.

He added: "We could bemoan the fact we have left Europe or we could look for the opportunities for the global country we have now become.

"Stepping away from half a century under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) allows us to move to a smarter way of delivering for our industry, supporting the environment, biodiversity, climate change, and delivering our high standards of food production.



Andrew McCornick, outgoing NFUS president, at last year's conference

"Stepping away from rewarding people for occupying land and having to meet the bureaucratic requirements of a CAP formulated as a compromise from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean to a future policy which delivers on actively-farmed and managed land in Scotland for Scotland.

"Our industry can change and will change to meet public aspirations with an upbeat forward-looking mindset.

"This outlook will empower farmers and drive us forward

to the holy grail of sustainable profit, in parallel with tackling climate change and delivering affordable healthy food which the public expect as a return for their support.

"A vibrant industry will underpin upstream and downstream suppliers and processors and be the cornerstone of productive businesses in our rural and national economy.

"The cards are stacked in our favour. We can deliver on so many fronts, provided policy, support and opportunities are

formulated coherently and speedily, especially when you consider the stretching 2030 targets for our food and drink industry and emission reductions are already set in stone.

"I ask the government to give agriculture a policy roadmap so we know how to build the path to deliver profitable and sustainable farming while meeting all the ambitious targets."

Continuing to trade with the EU on a tariff and quota free basis through the Trade and Cooperation Agreement is undoubtedly very important but the UK internal market is the most critical and important market for Scottish producers.

At the event Mr McCornick joined the presidents of the three other UK farming unions on a virtual panel to debate future trade and agricultural policies in the devolved nations.

He said: "Any divergence in standards in the UK could cause upheaval.

"It is crucial that future standards, which operate in each devolved region, are predicated on an agreed baseline to give Scottish farmers the chance to compete on a level playing field in the UK and with the EU."

Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts Ltd had forward 2,381 store hogs, cast ewes and rams at the sale at Longtown on Tuesday, February 9.

Another good entry of hogs attracted many buyers and trade was outstanding, with all classes meeting an exceptional trade.

Top of £140 for Texels from Sewell House, others to £131 Burnside, £130 Hawthornside; Beltex to £130 Burnside, £126 Kings Street, £122 Hawthornside; Suffolk to £113 South Side, £112 Clerk Hill; North Country Cheviots to £119 Linbriggs, £109 Clerk Hill & Annandale Estate; Greyfaces to £114 South Side, £110 Marwhim; Cheviot Mules £112 Marwhim, £111 South Side; Hill Cheviots to £95 & £93 Milnholm; Easycare to £87 Croys Lodge; Blackfaces to £95 Merkland, £89 Bog House; Swaledales to £68 Kirkandrews Moat; Herdwicks to £67.50 High Hall.

Feeding ewes and rams (409) still in big demand. Top £95 for Greyfaces from Thirstane Cottage, £88 Cleughhead; Suffolks to £80 Thirstane Cottage; Romneys to £79 Coilingel; Texels to £81 Tun-

dergarth House; Easycare to Coilingel. Hill ewes to £77 for Cheviots from Byers Farm; Swaledales to £59 Overcairn; Blackfaces to £46 Lowes. Cast rams to £83 for a Texel from Moorside Parks; Easycare to £74 Croys Lodge.

The mart had a great show of 1,000 breeding sheep, which were forward to a large ringside of buyers keen for quality stock. The highlight was the consignment of Texel x ewes from Stephen Graham & family, Miller Hill who topped the sale at £230 for 3 black Texel x ewes, followed by a pen full of 2-4 crop ¾ Texel ewes at £220. The consignment from Miller Hill averaged £191.95 which included broken-mouth ewes.

W Linton showed 300 Continental, Mule, Romney and Cheviot ewes, scanned full of lambs, to average £139.35 up £30 on last year's bonanza.

The mart had forward 6,829 sheep comprising 4,316 prime hogs and 2,513 cast ewes and rams at the weekly sale at Longtown on Thursday, February 11.

A good entry of cast cows continued to sell at recent high rates, with more numbers needed weekly to fulfil demand.

Top price per kilo of 179p for British Blues from A Armour & Son, Killarow, Argyll, who sold others at 141p. Black and whites sold to 156p and 152p shown by J & AJ Smith, Drumalea, Argyll with Limousin cows selling at 138p from GOM Farnelton, Horseholme, Gilsland.

Top price per head of £1,378 and £1,057 for Blues from Killarow, Limousins to £1,048 from Horseholme and Black and Whites to £951 from Drumalea.

A larger show of 4,316 hogs forward. All classes sold to blistering rates.

Topping the sale at 405p was a tremendous Beltex hogg shown by A Taylor, Heathery Hall, Lanark.

Best export hogs traded between 360p and 380p and were in short supply. Many more could be sold to vendors' advantage. Commercial export hogs traded between 270p and 290p.

Heavy hogs were in big demand, topping at £174 for Texel hogs from IHG Warden, Skelfhill, Hawick.

Light hogs were a better show, with more well-finished hogs to the fore.

Continentials topped at 405p for a fantastic Beltex hogg consigned by A Taylor,

Heathery Hall, Lanark. Cheviots topped at an eye-watering 303p for a pen consigned by DF Duncan, Kilapoll, Argyll. Blackies topped at 290p for a pen of 29 well-finished hogs from G & T Archibald, Craighens farm, Argyll.

Another bumper show of hogs was forward and the dearest trade of the season. Customers travelled from far and wide to take advantage of the competitive ring of buyers provided by Longtown auction.

An overall sale average of 278.7p (SQQ 284.4p) was achieved, with customers leaving short of numbers. More are needed weekly.

Principal prices (per kilo): Beltex 405p Heathery Hall, 394p Balmaglester, 385p Thornthwaite Close, 369p Comlongun Mains Cottage, 367p Balmaglester, 364p High Greenhill, 361p Heathery Hall, 351p Auchengray, 347p Comlongun Mains Cottage, 346p Auchengray, 345p High Greenhill. Texel 340p Nether Albie & Hermitage, 334p Falla, 330p New Hummerbecks, 329p Whitehill, 325p Patties Hill, 321p Auchengray, 319p Cambeckhill, 318p Yett, 316p Powheads

& Black House, 314p Newhope, 311p Whitehill, 310p East Skeroblin. Cheviot 303p Killipoll, 297p Balmaglester, 296p Glendearg, 295p, 294p Raeburnhead, 292p North House, Chapel & Craighens, 291p North Shortcleugh, 288p Skelfhill & Jerriestown, 285p Kilnford Croft & Whitehill. Charollais 291p Auchengray, 280p, 278p Heathery Hall, 260p Culquhasen, 258p Auchengray. Suffolk 290p Outertown, 283p Marygate, 282p Snab & Heathery Hall, 280p Ryehills & Snab, 279p Newhope, 278p Hallees, 277p Low Dunashery, 275p Marygate. Blackface 290p, 289p Heathery Hall, 290p Craighens, 288p Cleughbrae, 286p East Skeroblin, 285p Hetland, 285p, 284p Craighens, 284p Fingland, 282p Heathery Hall, Hetland & Longburgh Fauld. Herdwick 290p Auchengray, 288p Powheads, 285p, 280p Auchengray. Mule 284p Ryehills, 282p Killipoll, 279p West-emhopeburn & Burnfoot, 278p Craighens, Lawston & Low Dunashery, 277p Kilnford Croft, 276p Westerhall, 274p Kirkhaugh, 273p Arnicle & Heathery Hall. Cheviot Mule 281p Brisco Meadows, 271p Wynholm.

A similar show of 2,513 ewes. As numbers start to show signs of tightening, trade is beginning to move forward. All classes were firmer on the week. Again, many more are needed to satisfy a growing customer demand at Longtown.

Pure-bred Texel ewes topped the sale at £180 from J Scott & Partners, Fearn, Inverness.

Heavy ewes were the biggest lift on the week, dearer on the week, with Suffolks to £134, consigned by J Muir, Cleughbrae, while Mules topped at £104, consigned by Ross Farm Co Ltd, Wester Middleton.

Hill ewes still in massive demand selling to a top of £89 for Scotch-bred Blackface, shown by S McClymont & Son, Tinnis, Yarrow.

Rams sold to recent high rates, topping at £150 for Texels from GW Dinnin, Nether Albie, Waterbeck.

Averages. Hogs: light to 303p (269.6p); standard to 405p (288.9p); medium to 385p (283.7p); heavy to 343p (261.9p). Ewes: light to £89 (£62.40); heavy to £180 (£98.53). Rams: £150 (£97.69).

Langholm groups reap rewards from the wind

Thousands are paid by the Ewe Hill 6 windfarm to organisations

SEVERAL grants from the Ewe Hill 6 windfarm community benefit fund were distributed by Langholm, Ewes and Wester Kirk community council at their meeting last October.

Muckle Toon Media received £1,000 for a new printer/scanner/photocopier and the Buccleuch Centre £880 for two thermal printers for its new online ticketing system.

Langholm Old Town Bowling Club got £2,500 to carry out work on the new kitchen.

SURF and the Langholm Alliance received £2,000 to expand the activity outlined in the tourism strategy: clear definition and streamlining of the Langholm brand, with signage and promotional material related to heritage, sports and recreation.

The Langholm Alliance also received £2,500 for its own funds.

Langholm Library Trust was awarded £399 to buy an 8mm

film copier.

Ron Addison, a trustee, said old cine films could be put through this machine and it would digitise them.

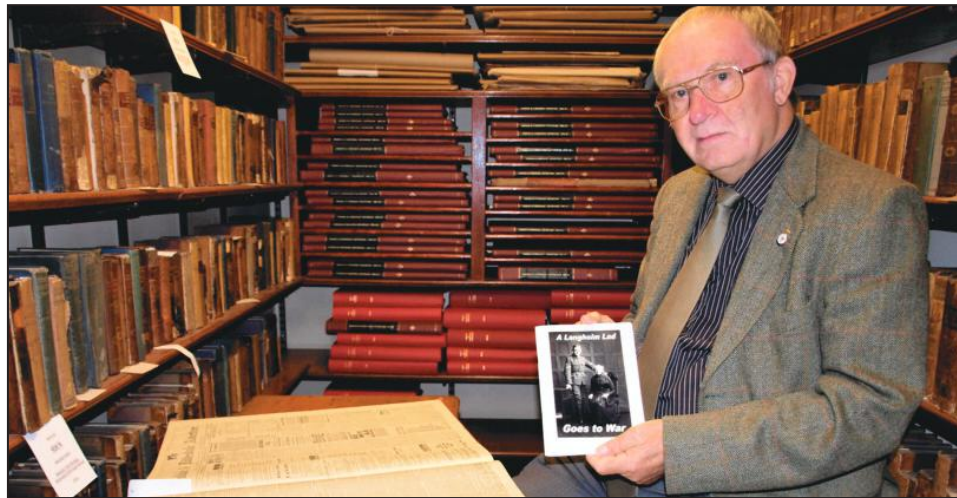
Originally, the film was developed and played through a projector but it deteriorated over time and you could not freeze-frame them.

He added: "We inherited from the archive group a big box of these 8mm films. No-one has looked at them for 60 years.

"I've been running them through the film copier and there are some quite interesting ones.

"They're mostly about Langholm families and we'd like to try to identify the people in them so, when the day centre reopens, I'll go and put them on their TV to see whether anyone recognises the people.

"There is a smashing one from 60 years ago of a trip to Edinburgh Zoo and I'm sure there'll be other films out there which people still have.



Ron Addison of the Langholm Library Trust is digitising old 8mm cine film with help from from the Ewe Hill 6 windfarm community benefit fund

"If anyone wanted a copy of any of these movies, all they need is a memory stick and they can get a copy."

Ewes Hall committee received £984.

In total, the community benefit fund had £15,083 to distribute.

Dougie Beattie, in his treasurer's report, said the council's spending had been much reduced because of COVID-19.

They included cenotaph lighting costs £220, Remembrance Sunday wreaths £105; Jubilee bridge signage £20 and other

expenses £280.

The Buccleuch Park fundraising had been particularly successful, with the receipt of £10,000 from Muirhall Energy's Crossdykes windfarm.

Spending on plants for the raised beds was £972 and carved throne seats £400.

The Buccleuch Park bank account totalled £55,296.

IN BRIEF

Foodbank appeal

KATE'S Kitchen, a charity based in Annandale and Eskdale, has put out an SOS for help after a shortage of food in its foodbank.

The organisation supports people in the area and its vision is to alleviate social isolation, poverty, their causes and consequences.

There has been a rise in demand and the following items are desperately needed.

Tinned items such as macaroni, meatballs, spaghetti, hot-dogs, stew, Fray Bentos pies, mince, vegetables, including tinned potatoes, chopped pork, tuna, corned beef, rice pudding, tinned fruit and custard.

Jars such as bolognese sauce and pasta bake sauces, packets such as savoury rice, pasta and sauce, instant mash, instant noodles, pot noodles and long-life milk.

If anyone can buy a few more tins in their weekly shop or has unwanted, in-date items, The Paper Shop and the Co-op have very kindly offered to collect any donations by March 28.

Or they can contact Kate's Kitchen on 01461 206444.

Enjoying an ice day



THIS spectacular wall of ice was photographed by Larry Martin of Langholm. It was taken where the old railway line between Langholm and Riddings crossed over a demolished bridge near Broomholm on the Tarras road. Larry took the photo with an iPhone XS.

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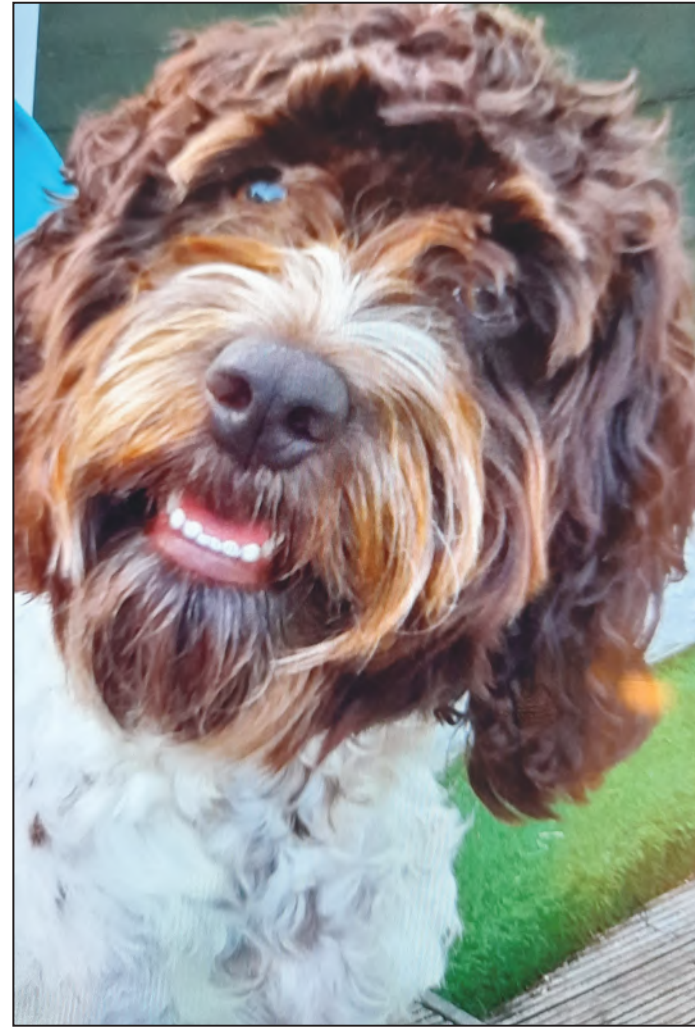
Where would we be without our pets?



OUR pets are said to be our best friends and over the past 12 months they have been there for their owners through all the ups and downs of an unprecedented period when we've been cut off from family and friends.

This Saturday is National Love Your Pet Day and, judging by the number of pet photos sent to the E&L for this feature, there are lots of owners in Eskdale and Liddesdale who are very proud of their companions.

If you are looking for a pet, there is a lot of good advice from vets, rescue societies and pet shops to help you choose the right animal for your home and your family.



This beautiful Cockapoo, **Bella**, is two years old and has a fantastic nature. She is owned by Susan, Chris, Kacey and Cody Parker of Langholm



Meet **Baba**, or more formally known as **Kia**, the sassiest, most playful and needy dog you shall ever meet. She creates so much happiness and warmth and I don't know what the family would do without her, especially during this pandemic. She's the saving grace for our mental and physical well-being
Kim Jones of Langholm



This is **Chutney** who lives with her three Cats Protection rescue friends in Collin. They are all thoroughly spoiled and completely rule the house. Pets are wonderful at any time but during these strange times are a godsend to my sanity
Elsbeth Little



Mika is a rescue dog and we got her when she was two. She is now 11 and loves her walks round Langholm .. so blessed we have her
Tait family, Langholm



This is **Hugo**, the Dachshund with human tendencies. He owns Gemma Warbeck and Callum Bell of Langholm



This is **Ollie**. He's a two-year-old lurcher and we rescued him 18 months ago. He's nervous of men but, once he gets to know them, he's the most loving and loyal friend you could have. He loves to play with balls and would happily spend all day rolling them down the bankings to chase himself
Emma Caldicott of Langholm



This pair of cute whippets are **Lexi** and **Ella** and they belong to Emma McMillan of Langholm

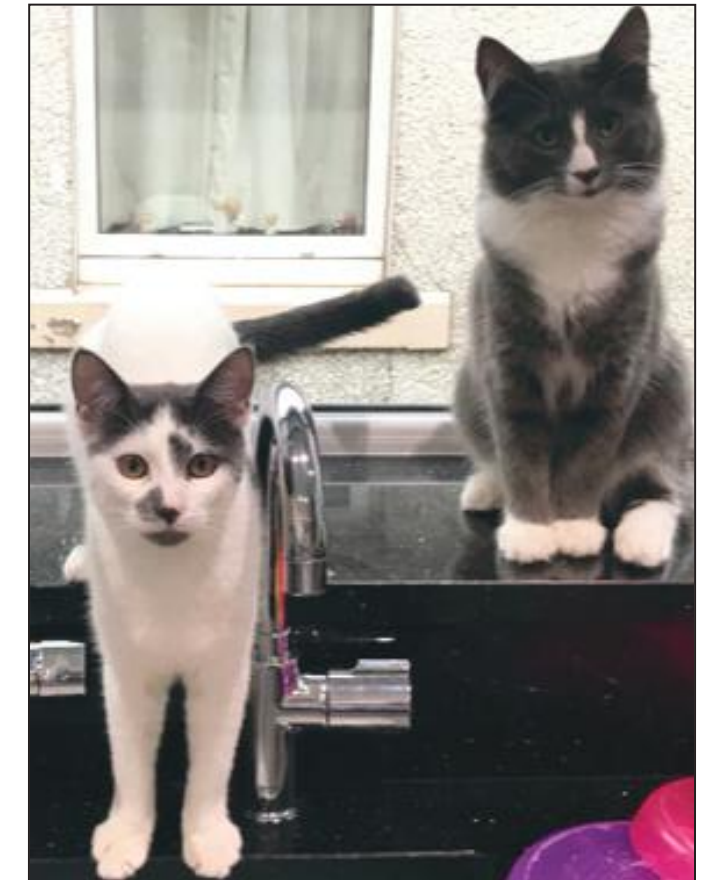


(Left) **LOKI** is one and he is a rescue, staffy-mastiff cross, owned by Sian Blackburn of Langholm.

He loves snacks, adventures, playing with his big sister, Lola, cuddling his toys and anyone who dares to sit on the sofa. He's super-friendly and wants to play and know everything and everyone. **Lola** doesn't live with us but with my partner's parents. At 67kg, she's too big to live in our flat but she comes for walks and to visit Langholm at the weekends.

She's four and a Boerboel, a South African mastiff, which was bred to defend livestock from lions.

She's a grump and far less friendly than Loki to other dogs but doesn't mind pats from strangers if we are around town.



Shadow and **Skye** are our six-month-old kittens. They're a fantastic tonic and cheered us up during these unprecedented times.

The Calvert family, Langholm

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Website: www.capontreevets.co.uk

Walls and bridges

CONCERNS about the A7 at Skippers Bridge, Langholm were raised at an informal meeting between the A7 action group and BEAR Scotland which maintains the trunk road.

Denis Male, group vice-chairman, said the issues were mainly to do with the walls.

He said: "At the Kilngreen the walls at the bottom of the wood are in a bad state and there is flooding opposite the middle entrance into the Kilngreen."

"Flooding still happens at the bottom of the town across from the road leading into Townfoot."

"Further down there are several holes and it all looks really unstable."

He added: "At the traffic lights on the north side of Skippers Bridge, high up on the parapet, there are several loose bricks."

"These have been reported over the last year several times. Should they dislodge, there is a real chance of very serious injury to road users."

"Finally, there is ongoing concern about the stability of the banking south of the bridge towards Auchenrivock."

A BEAR Scotland spokesperson said: "We caught up with some members of the action group as part of our commitment to build a strong working partnership with them on the back of taking on responsibility for trunk roads, including the A7, last August."

"It was a positive discussion. We outlined current activity, including gully clearing, on the back of the past few weeks' necessary focus on winter maintenance."

"Plans were also shared about improvements to be delivered over the next year."

"This includes maintenance work on Skippers Bridge which is expected to be at the end of March into April, with some vegetation clearance in advance of that."

"We committed to provide updates on other issues raised."

Caravan appeal

POLICE are investigating the attempted theft of a caravan in Langholm.

Between 3pm last Friday and 9am last Saturday thieves tried to steal a caravan which was parked at Milntown Caravan Park at the rugby club

Officers are seeking to ascertain whether anyone saw any suspicious vehicle or people in the area at about this time.

Anyone with any information is asked to call 101, quoting incident 1160 of February 13.

Pets on Parade



Leo Page, seven, with one of his pets, **Heidi**, who is a Harris hawk. Mum Caroline Blackie says they have lots of different types of types of peacocks, quail, ferrets, goats, chickens, ducks and dogs at the family home.

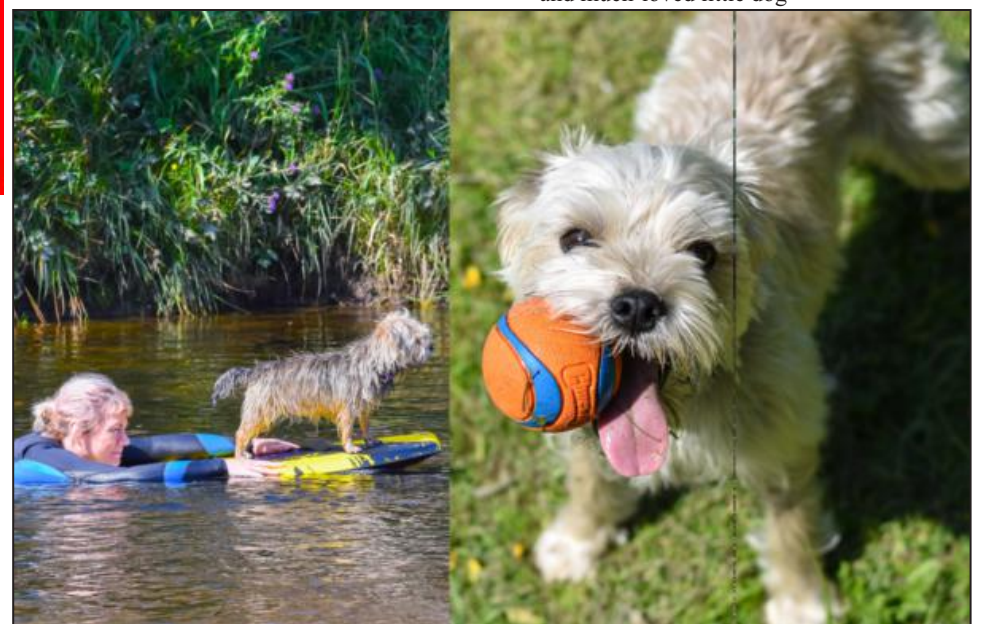
Caroline Blackie



Hera is a 12-year-old working cocker spaniel. Owner Alison Johnstone of Langholm says that, although she was born deaf, she compensates in other ways and is a very happy and much-loved little dog



This is **Oilly**. He is two years old, full of life and has certainly got us all out and about during the lockdowns
Hotson Family, Langholm



WE HAVE two little dogs, **Beanie** and **Lentil**. We fetched them from their home in Whitburn, Sunderland, in November 2017 when they were just two months old. Mum was a Pugshire and dad a Jackshire; that makes them a bit of a mixture.

We went to look for one dog only but little Lentil, resembling a small, black guinea pig, stole my heart.

When we took them to puppy obedience classes, we were reprimanded for taking on two bitches from the same litter; apparently, not a good idea. However, after months, no years, of training, it's turned out for the best and they are inseparable.

They've been brilliant during lockdown. They love it; mums are home all day 'working' and the number of walks around beautiful Langholm have quadrupled.

Beanie is known for her speed and obsession with her, or any, ball, while Lentil does her best to wake the whole of Caroline Street every morning and evening, lest they sleep too much.

They have boundless energy; well, perhaps, Beanie a little more than Lentil who lets you know when she's had enough with a timely nip on your ankle. This translates to "pick me up, I refuse to walk another step".

They make us laugh all the time and it's hard to let the lockdown blues creep in when they come and sit on your lap and look at you with their big, brown eyes. I think we can truly say, they are our best friends. Lou and Aga

MSPs vote to extend lifeline to newspapers

Government defeated in plans to cancel rates relief and adverts

THE E&L Advertiser has been singled out during a speech in the Scottish parliament for the invaluable work it does in its communities.

Colin Smyth, South Scotland MSP, was speaking during a debate on COVID-19 and the role of local newspapers after the government decided not to extend business rate relief to newspaper publishers for the coming year, while extending it for other sectors such as retail and hospitality.

Kate Forbes, finance secretary, also confirmed there would be no renewal of the advertising support package.

Mr Smyth said: "Newspapers are struggling partly because retail and hospitality are also struggling.

"Lockdown means shops, hotels, restaurants and pubs currently have little to advertise in our newspapers.

"If the extension of rates relief is needed for retail and hospitality,

it's also needed for papers.

"The same can be said for continuing the advertising support which has been so critical to supporting newspapers over the past year and so important in helping to get across our key public health messages."

He added: "The small teams left at many local papers performing miracles to keep stories flowing week in, week out.

"Sadly, many titles have not kept going in recent years.

"Others have been on the brink of printing their final edition altogether such as the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser in Langholm which only a few years ago was saved from closure by the community which stepped in to keep the printing presses running.

"This was not only because of the paper's 168-year history but also because of its important role in serving its communities, which it continues to do right now.



The E&L Advertiser has been praised in the Scottish parliament

"At a time when verified and factual public health advice has never been more essential and in the face of the plague of misinformation we see every day on social media, the trusted journalism from our local newspapers is crucial."

At the end of the debate the government was defeated in a

vote and MSPs backed a motion which stated: "That the parliament recognises the vital role local newspapers have played in keeping people informed during the COVID-19 pandemic; believes a vibrant newspaper sector is essential for democracy and calls on the government to extend business rates relief to

newspapers during 2021-22."

MSPs also supported an amendment from Labour to add: "to ensure its advertising budget spend is invested in a way which supports innovative journalism and regional and local news".

Mr Smyth is now urging the government to listen to the will of parliament and adhere to the motion and amendment.

John McLellan, Scottish Newspaper Society director, said: "We're obviously very pleased that, for the second time, parliament has agreed that news publishing is an essential sector which must be supported through the crisis.

He added: "Titles, like the E&L, are not only vital for their communities but are also essential for making strong arguments about the value of the news publishing sector.

"I'm delighted the debate recognised the paper's importance to Langholm."

IN BRIEF

Apply to jobs fund

DUMFRIES and Galloway Council is calling for applications to its latest round of anti-poverty participatory budgeting funding, Working Your Way Out of Poverty.

A total of £200,000 is available to groups to increase employment opportunities in organisations.

This targeted approach to funding will support organisations to increase their capacity to deliver critical services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The projects, which, will be delivered by this funding will ultimately increase income from employment, help reduce the costs of living and increase income from national and regional benefits and benefits in kind.

The fund is now open for applications and closes on Monday, March 15.

Councillor Andy Ferguson, who chairs the communities committee, said: "This funding has been developed to help to increase the number of employees in organisations which deliver the essential services to those most in need and would be an ideal opportunity for volunteers to progress to becoming paid employees."

For more details, go to www.dumgal.gov.uk/pbfunding

Come on you reds; time to eat



Jake Foster of Newcastleton has been making squirrel feeders for the Liddesdale red squirrel group

LIDDESDALE'S red squirrels are thriving, thanks to the help they are being given by locals.

Their success is down to the Liddesdale red squirrel group which was set up in 2018 to help the red population in the area.

Caroline Blackie, who co-ordinates the group, said: "We now have several hotspots for seeing the red squirrels which come to the feeders which the volunteers have made and monitor.

"One area is looked after by Jim Higgins and another by Jim Rowan.

"I'd like to say thank you to our younger members Jake Foster, 15, who recently made squirrel feeders during lockdown, and Leo Page, seven, who has also been monitoring the feeders.

"Thank you to all members of the group, volunteers and public for reporting squirrel sightings in our area."

More updates can be found on the Facebook page Liddesdale Red Squirrel Group.

No council tax rise

SOUTH Scotland MSP Joan McAlpine has backed Scottish government draft budget proposals which commit £314.6m for Dumfries and Galloway Council in 2021/22.

The SNP government will give the council an extra £7.9m on last year's spending, a rise of 2.6 per cent.

The plan will give the council an increase in day-to-day revenue spending.

Another £90m has been set aside in Scotland to scrap rises in council tax and compensate local authorities which had planned to raise it by up to three per cent, allowing hard-pressed householders to keep more of their money to spend on other essentials.

She said: "In these uncertain and challenging times, the government has offered stability with a budget which protects vital services and supports our economy."



Memories and Milestones

We continue our serialisation of Tommy Beattie's book

My Early Days

(continued)

This new home was a three-storey building with a considerable garden on the northern aspect, with a large apple tree in the middle.

The front or southern outlook was enhanced by a small garden with well-manicured lawn, a low cast iron fence of wrought design separated the garden from the road. All we had between our fence and the road was a strip of cobblestones, which was three feet wide and no kerbstones. This was the recognised footpath of the day.

The road, or street, was not even tarmacadamed just a dusty road not giving a great impression on visiting Langholm for the first time, coming from the west at any rate. Should you have come from the High Street you would have seen something of the real town.

Quarry

The houses in Buccleuch Terrace are of sturdy construction and built of white sandstone from, where else, but the Muckle Whita Hill quarry. The houses are still impressive today. The gardens are beautifully kept and very colourful

showing the pride the owners have in their piece of Langholm. In the early days Caroline Street with its dusty surface and cobbled side walks was not the attractive entrance to the town as it is today.

In retrospect the Caroline Street of old was more suited, width wise, for traffic of today that it is now. The Council in their wisdom widened the pavements to a width equalled only by Henry Street with the obvious result, the road was that much narrower.

Char-a-banc

As I have told you Caroline Street was a dusty surface and traffic was very light. Only an odd car and one Char-a-banc which belonged to Billy Jameson who had a taxi business. Some people may never have heard of a Char-a-banc. In French it means "an open carriage with benches". The seats or benches were set transversely, giving a better view as you moved along.

Old Jock Young used Caroline Street with his horse and cart carrying stone from the hills, or hay and straw. He carried anything that had to be moved. (I still use Jen Young's kitchen curtain if cutting hair today.

Think on that!) Donald Waldie also had a horse and cart. This was used exclusively to take coal from the station goods yard to the mills, usually Scotts or Bells. What a horse he had.

Eighteen hands of pure Clydesdale muscle. Jock was his name and he was my friend. I used to lead him to a fence or gate so I could climb onto his back.

Becks

One day I was missing all morning and my mother could not find me at all. Further to her worries was the fact Jock was not in the field at the top of Caroline Street. Donald Waldie had given Jock a change of scenery by putting him in a little field on the road to the Beck's Burn. Alex Carruthers' bungalow is opposite the little field today. I went along with Donald and said I would stop an hour. However I stayed longer with my friend and when mother heard where I was she came for me. I was sitting on Jock's broad back under a large tree fast asleep as was Jock. My mother often said it would have been the most restful photo had she brought the camera. We had a big camera with glass plates and Dad used to make a hobby of that. **(to be continued)**

Times Past

100 years: Sabbath School Soirée

The children of the North U.F Church held their annual soiree on Tuesday night when the Rev. George Orr presided over a good attendance of children, parents and friends. After tea the children, in a remarkably excellent manner, sustained a varied programme of songs, hymns and recitations, doing great credit both to themselves and Miss Mary Bell, their organist and teacher. They were also assisted by Mr David Edgar, Mr Walter J Armstrong, Mr James Laidlaw, and Mr R.F. Clark. The soiree was acknowledged to be one of the most vivacious and interesting that had been held. Prizes and certificates for attendance at church were presented to Isa Park, Lily Grant, Lena Little, Bella Beattie, Janie Orr, Daisy Crosbie, Donald Grant, John Grant, David Latimer and Willie Tait of the Young Worshippers League. Isa Park and Donald Grant had made perfect attendances.

75 years: Local Cattle Breeders Success

At the Perth Shorthorn sales last week Mr James J Paterson of Terrona, Langholm received 310 guineas for his Shorthorn bull calf "Terrona Viceroy" which calved in April 1945 and was purchased by an Argentine Buyer. At the Galloway cattle sale at Carlisle on Wednesday, Mr R Graham, Chapel of Logan, Canonbie was awarded first prize in the class for bulls calved before 31st December 1944. This animal was later sold in the ring for £60, the top price in this class.

50 years: Canonbie WRI

The president, Mrs. Maxwell, presided at the February meeting held on Thursday 18th. After the usual business had been discussed, Mrs Maxwell introduced Mr Long from the Forestry Commission, Moffat, who gave a most interesting talk on wildlife in the country and showed coloured slides of local interest, which included the life and habits of goats, foxes, hares and all kinds of wildlife that most country people take as a matter of course, but can be very entertaining when explained by an experienced person. Mr Long certainly made the talk well worth listening to. Mrs Bell proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Long, which was heartily applauded by members. Supper was served by Mrs Bell who was the hostess for the evening. Mr Long judged the monthly competition "four points that make a good husband", awarding first to Mrs Smith and second to Mrs Anderson. A pleasant and well attended meeting closed by singing "The National Anthem".

25 years: Helping their sick Equine Pals

A successful bring and buy organised by several Langholm school girls has raised £130 for a cause close to their hearts. Sick and injured equines are their cause for concern and after reading an article in the national magazine "Horse and Pony", the girls decided that perhaps they could get together and raise funds towards providing first aid equipment for the horses. Lyndsey and Debbie Mitchell, Sarah and Julia Hollywood, Gemma Mattinson, Cara Nicholson, Kerry Anderson and Caroline Shaw are all horse enthusiasts and they organised the sale by booking the room at the Community Centre and advertising their event by way of displaying colourful posters etc. A lot of hard work and preparation by the girls made the sale a success raising £130. "We would like to thank everyone who donated money and items for the stalls at the bring and buy sale, also thank you to everyone who came along to the Mission Hall on Saturday and to the community centre for the use of the room," said the girls. The money that was raised will help to provide a mobile veterinary van for both Brooke Hospital and Spana (Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad). These vans will contain vital first aid equipment and drugs and free treatment for many of the sick and injured horses who would otherwise suffer. A treasure hunt was also held as part of the event and winners were: C Packer, I MacGregor and Stephanie Hollywood.



Officials and judges at Teviotdale Young Farmers Club Ploughing Match at East Middle in 1946



Caroline Shaw, Debbie Mitchell and Catriona Bell at the toy stall for the sale of work

The E&L Gallery



Eskdalemuir's prehistoric Loupin Stanes photographed by Jane Utting

Camera: Samsung A20

A heady mix for this year's Spring Fling

SPRING Fling 2021 will offer new and different ways to showcase some of the best contemporary visual arts and craft from Dumfries and Galloway.

Upland CIC is delighted to announce plans for this year's event which will be a vibrant mix of digital and some physical activities instead of the usual open studios weekend.

It is hoped this will include a pop-up shop and walks with artists, plus online exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations, live talks and studio tours.

Upland also hopes Spring Fling can be extended beyond the traditional three-day late spring bank holiday weekend. It will begin on May 29 but may run until June 6.

About 80 artists and makers, selected for the disrupted 2020 weekend, will be offered the chance to take part this year.

Applications have opened for others who would like to take part.

Joanna Macaulay, Upland assistant director, said: "The spirit of Spring Fling is alive and well and, even though we

can't hold our traditional weekend, we hope to provide all sorts of fun and creative ways to let people engage with the region and its arts.

Eager

"We know people are as eager as ever to see painting, printmaking, jewellery, ceramics, textiles and other arts and crafts, engage with the makers and artists and learn new skills for themselves.

"Our idea is to offer a whole variety of digital and safe physical events so, although the format is different, Spring Fling will continue to be a joyous celebration of our rich variety of artistic talent."

Artists and makers selected for Spring Fling will be offered two ways to participate to make it as inclusive as possible.

This will mean they can choose to participate online only or be part of the physical activities and events as well.

The full programme will be published in the coming weeks.

Joanna McAuley and Kash



Millions invested

DUMFRIES and Galloway is set to benefit from new green infrastructure projects including £3.6m to South of Scotland Enterprise to deliver the Green Jobs Fund and investment in the Borderlands' Growth Deal.

Details were revealed in a reply to Joan McAlpine, South Scotland MSP, who asked Michael Matheson, transport and infrastructure secretary, how the region would benefit from a £33bn infrastructure investment plan which will support 45,000 jobs in Scotland.

Mr Matheson also told Ms McAlpine that serious consideration was being given to investment in a business park at Chapelcross near Annan.

The ambitious plan includes railway electrification and sustainable investment in roads and active travel.

The investment will support infrastructure projects in health-care, education and transport in Scotland.

Ms McAlpine said: "I welcome the government's commitment of £525m, aligned with local authority and UK government funds, to deliver the next five years of £5bn city region and regional growth deals, including in the Borderlands.

"I'm delighted to hear it's considering developments such as a business park at Chapelcross.

"It is also encouraging that, despite the uncertainty caused by Westminster cuts and the pandemic, the Scottish government has increased the funding for projects by £2bn.

"This investment will support vital projects in the area and secure thousands of jobs which will be crucial in our recovery from the pandemic.

"I look forward to seeing the impact this funding will have on Dumfries and Galloway over the five-year period."

Boy racers stopped

THE Newcastleton community has been thanked for helping the police with boy racers causing a nuisance.

Community Sergeant Paul Begley, in his report to the community council, said: "I would like to thank the community for its help and support during our investigation into a series of anti-social driving reports.

"Enquiries are ongoing into this. We have increased our rural patrols, particularly beauty spots, to ensure guidelines are being adhered to.

The police also got a report of a phone call fraud. This was being investigated and the bank had been informed."

Langholm Banksy's ubiquitous stones

Painted stones with a message of hope appear from nowhere



A beautiful floral scene at this house in Westerkirk



A message to the world for a speedy recovery



By working together, everyone can beat the virus



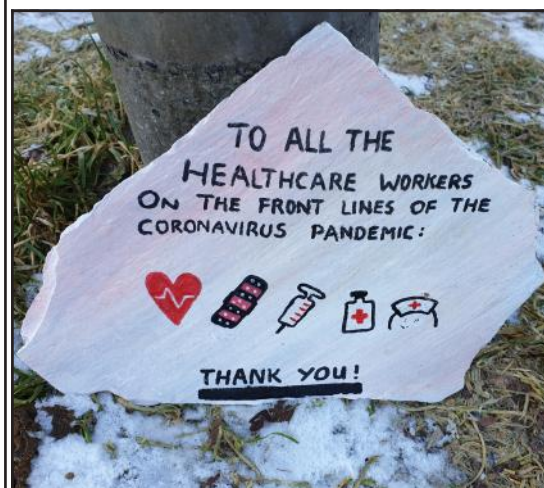
The painted stones are turning up all over Eskdale



It's important for everyone to look after themselves



The importance of staying at home to protect everyone



A message of support to the healthcare workers in Eskdale



Some kind thoughts left at the Benty postbox



Feeling in the pink in Wauchope Place, Langholm

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The applications, associated plans and documents can be viewed on-line by following the ePlanning link on the Council's website at www.dumgal.gov.uk/planning. Written comments may be made by email to Planning@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 11/03/2021 (Type B).

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (B)

Ref No/Type Address/Proposal
 21/0201/LBC (B) Langholm Parish Church, Caroline Street,
 Langholm - Installation of replacement bell hammer to church bell and lightning protection

www.dumgal.gov.uk Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

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LANGHOLM TOWN HALL (inside)

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 Access through rear door



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser



Cricket's return eagerly anticipated



All members at the Castleholm club are keen to get back out there

Cricket

LANGHOLM Cricket Club held its AGM last Friday, the first and, hopefully, the last on Zoom.

Graham Park, chairman, in his opening remarks, said it had been one of the most difficult years in the club's history.

Without the grant the club received, it would have been touch and go whether the club would have survived.

He also gave a special mention to Neil Grant, president, who, after five years in the role, was stepping down.

Neil had been involved with the club since the 1950s, firstly as a player, then umpire and a valuable committee man before taking on the role of president in 2016.

The members hope to see Neil at the Castleholm in his role as their most dedicated supporter.

The treasurer gave his report and indicated, as previously mentioned, that, without the grant, the club would have struggled.

Revenue from the bar was down by 90 per cent.

Expenditure

Any future expenditure, for example, a new tractor mower would depend on grants and when the bar could get back up and running.

In his captain's report Graham said they managed to play seven games, winning four and losing three.

He said: "I think, under the circumstance, that was as good as can be expected.

"We were a bit unlucky that the two

games, which were cancelled, were against Irthing Vale, the weakest team in the mini-league.

"On the plus side, we did win a trophy, the Gordon Johnstone memorial game against Hawick. In total, 17 players turned out for the club."

In the election of office bearers it was pretty much as they were.

Graham Park remained chairman as well as captain, while John Bell was secretary and treasurer.

Ross Rae took over the bar convener and membership duties and Chris Stewart stayed on in the role of social media convener.

It was hoped that the season would get underway on time but in these difficult circumstances nothing is certain so it's basically wait and see for the 2021 season.

Nail-biting finish

Horseracing

ONLY half a length separated James Ewart Racing's runner from the winning horse at Carlisle on Tuesday.

Bingo D'Olivate, ridden by Nathan Moscrop, produced a nail-biting finish for the yard in the two-mile, one-furlong handicap hurdle on heavy going.

The 10-year-old was sent off at 18/1 over the 10 hurdles but was held narrowly at the finish by Evita Du Mesnil, trained by Daragh Bourke and ridden by Kevin Brogan.

Bingo didn't make a fluent jump at the fifth but made steady progress after the third-last jump.

He was pushed on after clearing the penultimate hurdle and moved up into third but then made a mistake at the last.

However, he rallied and chased the winner but was held on the finish to come home second of the 14 runners, to the delight of his owners, The Craig Farm Syndicate.

Beat Box, ridden by Rachael McDonald, lined up in the handicap chase over two miles.

The 15/2 shot came in eighth of the 10 runners and, afterwards, the vet reported he had lost his near hind shoe.

He jumped left on occasions and was always towards the back of the field.

With one circuit to go, he was in last place and was never on terms.

Briony Ewart, assistant trainer, said: "Bingo was a bit unlucky to lose by half a length, giving weight to the winner, but it was a good comeback from a previous heavy fall.

"Beat Box, only a four year old in his passport, found the conditions too tough.

"They were worse on the chase course and he will likely be a better second-season novice chaser with age and experience and more strength."

2002: Academy boys chosen for regional squad

Sports Nostalgia Hockey

From the E&L dated May 23, 2002.

MORE than 30 Langholm Academy pupils from S1 and S2 travelled to Dumfries to take part in the hockey selection trials for the BAA Youth Games on June 21 at Scotstoun leisure centre.

After some hard-fought games and practices, the selectors chose 10 boys from Langholm to make up the Dumfries and Galloway team.



The students who attended the hockey selection trials line up for a photo-call

Unfortunately, none of the girls were successful in gaining a place in the squad but returned with the knowledge that

they had played to the best of their ability and represented the school in a positive and mature way.



A good effort from Langholm resulted in 10 boys being selected for the hockey team

The boys selected will now undergo some serious and intensive team training before they represent the region at Scotstoun. Well done to everyone who participated. Hopefully the school can look forward to more of such opportunities for its pupils.

E&L SPORT

