

Election fever in pandemic



Scottish Labour

Scottish Liberal Democrats



MSP CANDIDATES SET OUT THEIR STALL FOR YOUR VOTES: PAGES 8 & 9

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Points of view on Whita Hill



The proposed viewing platform surrounding Langholm Monument

THE E&L has heard that plans have been provided for a proposed development atop Whita Hill.

The plans are to provide a raised viewing platform surrounding the Monument to allow for enhanced views of the valley, town and moor.

We are informed that this will not affect the horses on Common Riding Day.

The intention is to reuse the existing railings
See Page 17 for more information.

Historic deal to buy moor signed

For the first time Langholm owns Tarras Valley

SOUTHERN Scotland's largest community buyout has been legally completed after one of the most ambitious fundraising campaigns ever undertaken.

It paves the way for the creation of the 5,200-acre Tarras Valley Nature Reserve in Langholm.

The landmark agreement of £3.8m for the land and six residential properties was reached between the Langholm Initiative and Buccleuch last October after the community's six-month fundraising drive reached its target in the final two days.

With the transfer of ownership finalised, the community now owns the land for the first time in its history.

Work is to begin immediately on creating the reserve to tackle climate breakdown, restore nature and support community regeneration.

Margaret Pool, who chairs the Initiative, said: "Together, we've achieved something which once seemed impossible.

"We can now celebrate as a new era begins for this special land, with which our community has such a deep and long-standing connection.

"Our sincere, heartfelt thanks go to so



Ed Morris, who manages Buccleuch's Borders Estate, and Margaret Pool lead the walk to the moor

many people for making this historic moment for Langholm happen, including the generous donors, tireless volunteers and Buccleuch for being so supportive and positive in their approach."

Benny Higgins, Buccleuch's executive chairman, said: "To have concluded the sale to the community is a fantastic achievement, and a great example of what can be achieved when communities and businesses,

like Buccleuch, engage openly with one another and work to a common goal.

"This was achieved by goodwill and working together following voluntarily all the relevant guidance and protocols.

"We look forward to seeing the plans for the area coming to life over the coming months and wish the Initiative all the very best with this."

>Turn to Page 2



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Latimers of Langholm

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Baggy Trousers help bag 3rd place

Deaths

WONFOR

Trevor, aged 59 years, Langholm, formerly of Newcastle.
After a short battle with cancer, on 20th March 2021.
Dearly loved Dad of Laura & Kerry, best friend to Tess, much loved Grandad to Charlie & Father-in-law to Dave & Paul. Beloved Nephew, Cousin & Uncle to many & friend to all.
Forever in our thoughts & hearts, may he Rest in Peace.
Private funeral was held on 31st March, due to current circumstances.
Any kind donations to The Friends of Thomas Hope Hospital.

Thanks for Sympathy

BARNFATHER

Ann, Craig, David and family would like to thank everyone for their support at this sad time and for the lovely cards and flowers received they were very much appreciated.
Also to the Doctors and Staff at the Thomas Hope Hospital, David Erskine and Jean Martindale for everything they did for us and all who lined the route to the cemetery.

STEELE

Bev's family would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, messages and kind words following their sad loss.
The family took great comfort from all the friends who lined the street in Rowanburn and Canonbie on Bev's final journey.
Thanks to David Erskine for his support and help and to Jean Martindale for a lovely service.

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Charity no. SCO11946



Langholm Town Band impressed judges with their 'warmth of sound and excellent soloist contributions'

LANGHOLM Town Band picked up two awards at the **Kapitol Cory brass band online championships 2021, held over the past three weekends.**

The band came third overall in its section and the basses in the band were recognised with an award for the best basses in the third section.

More than 100 bands from around the world competed in seven contests from youth sections to the championship section.

Langholm's result helped Scotland to second place in the overall regions' table finishing behind Yorkshire in first place and above The Rest of the World in third.

Langholm played against 10 other third section bands

from the UK, South Korea, Switzerland, Belgium and Australia in an entertainment contest.

It played three pieces, including Baggy Trousers by Madness, Lady Stewart's Air, featuring cornet soloist Nicole Weatherstone and They Shall Come From The East, featuring flugelhorn soloist Christine Calvert.

The contest was streamed live on YouTube and is available by searching for Kapitel Cory and choosing 3rd Section live stream. Langholm's performance starts at about 19.26 minutes.

The videos were produced and edited by Josh Calvert. Musical director Chris Shanks did the sound engineering.

The many hours putting together the individual perfor-

mances were recognised by the adjudicators, with positive feedback being received on the overall outstanding quality of the performance.

Comments were made on the warmth of sound and excellent soloist contributions.

The band returns to online competition on April 24 at the Fife Festival of Brass and at the annual Whit Friday march contest, hosted by the Fodens Band.



The treasures of nature abound

> From Page 1

"Buccleuch has been reducing the footprint of its landholdings in the past decade and, having sold about 30,000 acres in this period to farmers and community organisations, we will continue to reinvest revenue from land sales into a variety of business projects in the farming, forestry, renewable energy and leisure and hospitality sectors."

The Initiative has set up Tarras Valley Nature Reserve for the day-to-day running of the venture and is currently recruiting two members of staff who will oversee the landscape-scale, nature-restoration project.

Globally-important peatlands and ancient woods will be restored, native woodlands established and

a haven ensured for wildlife, including rare hen harriers, the UK's most persecuted bird of prey.

Plans for community regeneration include nature-based tourism.

Talks continue between the Initiative and Buccleuch over another 5,300 acres which the community wants to buy and could double the size of the nature reserve.

Custodianship

At an informal, socially-distanced gathering on the moor on Tuesday to mark the sale's completion, Margaret said: "From the centuries' old custodianship of the Buccleuch family the moor and reserve has been passed to that of the Initiative.

"We hope the trading company, Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, will



prove a worthy custodian.

"As the founder of the conservation movement, John Muir, said: "In the wilderness lies the hope of the world".

"Never could these words be truer as we battle climate change and loss of habitat."

Langholm Moor is now officially owned by the town

He also said: "In every walk with nature one receives more than he/she seeks".

"Through our work here, let us open the eyes of others to the treasures of nature and the beauty of our border hills and valleys."

The moving finger writes and having writ, moves on

Rachel heads off after 21 years as editor of the Langholm Paper

AN EXCITING new chapter for your local paper is revealed in today's edition as the E&L Advertiser looks to secure its future in a post-COVID world.

The restructuring is designed to ensure the paper has a long-term future serving its communities both in print and online and with the continued support of its readers and voluntary contributors.

Since the community buyout of the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser from the Cumbria News Group in 2017, it has been a continual challenge to make the publication sustainable and, despite the support and efforts of our editor, Rachel and her colleagues, our volunteers and our board, we are still running at a loss, a position aggravated by COVID-19 and its subsequent effect on our advertising revenue.

We have always been dependent on external funding and advertising revenue to make up the shortfall between the costs of publishing the paper and the revenue from selling the paper.

This loss has increased significantly with the impact of COVID-19 on our advertising revenue and, once again, we are faced with reducing our costs and finding better ways of running the E&L in the digital age.

Going forward, the Board has decided that it wishes to create the new position of Community

Editor who will be responsible for all aspects of the business but particularly editorial content, social media, community engagement and volunteer recruitment as well as advertising revenue.



David Stevenson spearheaded the creation of Muckle Toon Media

said "Rachel has been with us as editor since 2000 and has seen many changes both locally and within the newspaper industry as a whole.

"After 21 years as editor, she has decided that this is an appropriate time to move on and seek new challenges.

"Taking over the E&L from



Rachel Norris, editor, will leave in August after 21 years at the paper

time and I would like to thank Rachel, Alan, Sharon and our band of voluntary contributors for ensuring the paper is well designed and remains relevant to Langholm and the surrounding area."

Rachel, who will be leaving in early August, said: "It really has been a privilege to work in



John Hammond will take over as chairman of Muckle Toon Media

difficult 12 months for everyone but the way people here have gone about dealing with the challenges has been exceptional.

"I would like to thank everyone who has supported us in so many different ways not only over the past year but also for so many years before that.

Pleasure

"It has been a pleasure to work for Muckle Toon Media, David and the board and to have worked with such wonderfully talented colleagues who bring so much to the paper.

"I hope you will continue to support the E&L in the future and that all of you in every community are successful.

"If your efforts and achievements so far are anything to go by, you are going to make a big impact over the next few years and bring the prosperity you deserve."

David will also be retiring in August and will be succeeded as chairman by John Hammond who said: "I would like to thank David and Rachel for their commitment to preserving our newspaper for the community.

"As I take over from David as Chairman, I know there will be many challenges to overcome but feel confident our new management team, engaging with the community, will ensure a healthy future for one of the oldest newspapers in Scotland."

Innovative

"I have worked with so many wonderful, innovative and dedicated people in so many different communities in these valleys.

"It has been a particularly

tising sales and other commercial activities.

All staff will then report to the Community Editor who will report to the Board via the chair.

As a result, the current role of editor, as we know it, will become redundant when this new appointment has been made.

Chairman David Stevenson

the Cumbria News Group four years ago and becoming a self-contained business in Langholm could not have been done without Rachel's commitment and experience. Her role was pivotal in ensuring the future of the E&L.

"While the financial pressures remain, the paper itself has improved immensely in this

Eskdale and Liddesdale and be a part of this great little paper's history.

College's green prize



Dumfries and Galloway College's Green Hub is industry-leading

DUMFRIES and Galloway College has won the Sustainability Institution of the Year prize at the prestigious Green Gown Awards.

The award recognises a sustained, whole-institution commitment to and success in becoming a sustainable institution.

It also rewards the college's dedication to social responsibility and strategic thinking in promoting green and environmental goals.

Judges praised the college as an "exemplar" and its role as a "leader in the community".

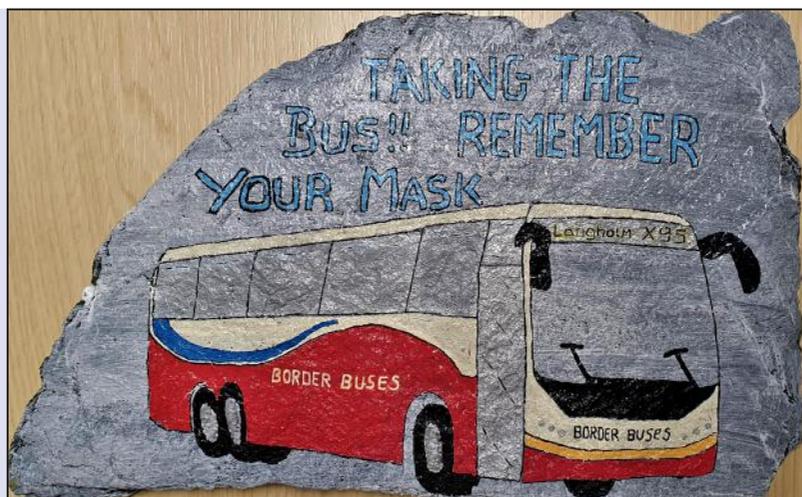
The judging panel highlighted the "contagious positivity" shown by the college community and congratulated it for successfully promoting a green vision and showing the benefits of sustainability in the area.

The college's executive leadership team, led by Joanna Campbell, principal, received praise for their dedication to leading from the top on sustainability and encouraging staff and students to get involved.

Promoting a green and sustainable future is a key priority for the college.

It has developed several programmes at both its Dumfries and Stranraer campuses, including its inspiring and industry-leading Green Energy Hub.

'Banksy' and the Border Bus



THE COMPANY, which runs the X95 through Langholm, is looking to give recognition and reward to our very own Banksy.

One of Borders Buses' drivers was cheered up on his weekly run after seeing a painted slate outside the old post office.

He was so delighted with it that he took a photo and posted it to

his social media account where it was picked up by the operations team in Glasgow.

Impressed

Lee Young, manager, was very impressed with the design and, more importantly, to see the artist promote the essential safety message to passengers about the

importance of wearing a face-covering on board the buses.

If the artist would like to contact one of the team at the E&L anonymously, please call 013873 80012 and speak to Rachel or Sharon.

The office is staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.



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Fault reporting (potholes/street-
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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
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.....www.scottishpower.co.uk
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03457 484 950
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Floodline SEPA
.....03000 996 699
.....www.sepa.org.uk
BEAR Scotland (A7)
.....0800 0281414
.....www.bearscoot.com

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Rowanburn 013873 71542

HOSPITALS

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Cumberland Infirmary
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Borders General Hospital
01896 826000
Thomas Hope Hospital
.....013873 80417

DOCTORS

Langholm ..013873 83100
Newcastleton 013873 75100
Canonbie ..013873 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

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.....013873 80220
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Boots Pharmacy, Longtown
.....01228 792859
Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm.
Saturday 9am-5pm.

DENTISTS

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hours

01461 202508

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

Without warning

READING the article "Shooting ranges will destroy valley's peace" (E&L Advertiser, March 4) about the shooting ranges in Eskdale, reminded me of what I experienced last autumn when walking Ettrick Pen.

In the past, I have enjoyed walking up Ettrick Pen, approaching the hill from two different points off the tarmac road running up the valley of the White Esk.

On occasions, I would bike out of Langholm and take the track past Over Cassock Farm and onto Summer Cleuch where the bike was left and the hill 'summitted' by walking up the burn and out onto the hill.

Having driven to Glendearg Farm to park, my alternative route took me up the Glendearg Burn and up the Muckle Cauldron Burn and on to the march fence with Ettrick which I followed round to the top of the hill.

If you are a follower of burns, the second route is [was] a gem of a walk in that the Glendearg and Muckle Cauldron burns are hill burns 'to die for'.

For whatever reason, my legs are not what they used to be but one day last autumn I thought I might do Ettrick Pen, perhaps for the last time. I chose to walk up the burns.

Walking up the Glendearg Burn, I looked at a new structure sitting on the side of the valley and wondered what it was.

I walked past a number of goalposts (my description), spread at intervals up the valley.

It was not until I reached the foot of the Muckle Cauldron

Burn where I came upon a (permanent) target, shot through with holes, that I realised I was in the middle of a rifle range.

I was wearing my orange 'anorak' and had two thoughts.

Firstly, that since the goalposts were, I now assumed, for hanging targets on and there were no targets that day, nobody would be shooting.

Secondly, if anyone was shooting, they would clearly see me in my orange coat and, hopefully, wouldn't shoot me.

I went up the side of the Muckle Cauldron Burn, out of sight of what I now concluded were the shooting butts, moving as fast as I could, wondering how far I had to get to be safe from bullets ricocheting off the rocky valley floor.

I got to the top of Ettrick Pen and headed back for Glendearg by my usual more direct route.

Flag

At one point, I went through a gate where a sign read to the effect that shooting would be in progress if a flag was flying.

I couldn't see a flag or a flag-post and it crossed my mind that I could have crossed that fence 100m either side of the gate, in which case I would not have seen this sign.

Farther down the hill I had to follow the side of a new (to me) plantation, bounded by the usual 2m high deer fence.

As I rounded a corner in the deer fence, I could now clearly see the shooting butts about 250m in front of me and not far to my left.

As I got nearer to the butts, two shots were fired. I could see the butts and whoever was firing could see me.

I felt slightly uncomfortable and could only assume I had been afforded a couple of warning



The majestic, and hitherto peaceful, Ettrick Pen in Eskdalemuir

Photo: Mairi Telford Jammeh

shots, possibly to advise me that I should not be where I was.

I soon passed by the side of the butts. A car was parked there and I did consider discussing my 'warning' with the shooter. But what would have been the point?

Some folk like to walk in our quiet hills, as I was more accustomed to do in the past.

Thinking of my day on Ettrick Pen, it is apparent to me that anyone walking out of Ettrick and down the Muckle Cauldron Burn is walking, unaware, into a shooting range/danger zone without crossing any barrier other than a normal stock fence and without seeing any warning signs.

I passed no barriers or signs entering from Glendearg.

The noise a range creates has already been mentioned but it is the denial of public access to what is a beautiful bit of remote border countryside which, for me, has already been spoiled by the erection and intrusion of butts and targets.

In the event our planners are swayed by the prospects of job creation or whatever, I believe the dangers posed by a shooting range must be adequately addressed before someone is killed or injured.

Warning signs

Any firing range must be surrounded by appropriate fencing with warning signs spaced such that it is not possible to access the range from any direction without seeing a warning sign. Military ranges are fenced in this way.

When I got home, I thought I should ask Police Scotland whether innocent hillwalkers should be subjected to warning shots.

I was amazed to discover how hopeless I have become in that I failed/could not contact the police.

I naively thought if I went online I would easily find an email address for Police Scotland where I could file my report/complaint.

I was offered Twitter or

Facebook or whatever but I don't do them.

I tried to phone Dumfries police station but no-one answers the phone.

I eventually found a form to fill in online and did this but, after I pressed 'send', nothing seemed to happen and I gave up.

Reading the E&L on shooting, I have been encouraged to file this report which I will also send to Police Scotland by snail mail and the council's planning authority.

For all I know, the planning authority may be aware of a procedure for 'the loosing-off' of a few casual warning shots at passing walkers.

This report is intended as my objection to the proposed shooting range which appears to be in operation already.

I will let your readers know whether I get a reply from Police Scotland.

Bill Friell
Roberton

Dog owners must learn

I HOPE dog owners will learn from last week's harrowing pictures of Freddie Mercury, the London seal being mauled by an off-the-lead Patterdale terrier.

At least a photographer was nearby to record the case against the dog's owner Rebecca Sabben-Clare QC as she stood watching three passers-by prising the brute's jaws off the poor animal.

They took it to a vet but its flipper had been broken and was judged to be unreturnable to the sea so was euthanased.

How many similar attacks there are on wild animals, apart from the thousands of sheep who are annually killed, we shall never know.

For instance, one occurred on the Esk in Langholm in February when an off-the-lead dog was assumed to have grabbed and killed a slow flying heron, known about only because its mangled body was found caught in an overhanging branch nearby, having been cast into the Esk.

The criminal pity is that both the police and the RSPCA confirmed no laws had been broken in the London attack after a brief investigation.

Whether keeping your dog on a leash is legally compulsory, who knows in these days of very grey areas between "compulsory advisory" and "would you mind awfully?" in the manner of Dad's Army's Sgt Wilson?

Richard Lennox
Henry Street
Langholm

Hospital team donation

CHARITIES DG Blood Bikes and LIFT D&G have each received £500 from Serco as part of its annual community benefits commitment.

The contract facilities management provider for Dumfries Infirmary became aware of Blood Bikes volunteers' dedication and commitment to a much-needed and valued service.

The team were delighted to support the charity, its volunteers and the patients who benefit from their work.

After hearing about LIFT D&G, the team, impressed by its effort and creativity in supporting families during the pandemic, wanted to help at a time when the service it provided was needed more than ever.

Both charities were delighted



The Serco team at Dumfries Infirmary present donations to DG Blood Bikes and Lift D&G

to receive the cash boost, especially because it had not been possible to do the kind of fundraising activities they usually would.

Garry McKean, site lead for Serco, said: "We're pleased to

donate to DG Blood Bikes and LIFT D&G.

"They do important work providing services which have been crucial in supporting people and will continue to do so."

Langholm will be an option for railway

But if town isn't chosen, there will be no station in this region

THE chairman of the Langholm rail group is satisfied that the town will be considered as an option for a route on the Borders Railway.

Denis Male says he is happy with the statement issued by the Campaign for Borders Rail (CBR) after the signing of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal by the five local authorities and UK and Scottish government representatives.

After the signing, Simon Walton, who chairs CBR, said: "Ever since the opening of the Borders Railway between Edinburgh and Tweedbank in 2015, we have resolutely lobbied for a full and fit-for-purpose feasibility study to extend the line to Hawick and Carlisle.

"We welcome the positive step represented by the ratification of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.

"We see this signing as a significant step towards delivering the benefits of greater rail connectivity in the Borderlands.

"We hope for and expect an early start to the feasibility work so this transformational, cross-border project can be delivered as soon as possible."

In a letter to CBR members, Mr Walton writes: "The deal is a multi-million-pound investment package designed to boost the economic fortunes of the region.

Commitment

"A key component is a commitment to carry out feasibility work to extend the railway to Hawick and Carlisle.

"A sum of up to £10m has been allocated within the deal for this purpose.

"The campaign views the ratification of the deal as a significant step towards extending the railway by securing the funding needed to develop the proposals.

"There's a way to go yet but we're making progress on many fronts and continue our lobbying work to ensure the feasibility



Another step is taken in the feasibility study on extending the railway

work starts soon.

"I hope it will not be long before we can move onwards to Hawick and Carlisle and give communities, the region and the wider network a valuable new strategic arm, fit for the 21st century.

Both Newcastleton, through which the old Waverley railway ran before it was axed in the

1960s, and Langholm want the route to go through their communities.

But Denis said that, at the moment, the important thing was to get agreement to do a feasibility study on both potential routes.

Best returns

He said: "I'm quite happy with

Simon Walton's statement. He doesn't mention Newcastleton.

"This comes down to the route which works best and brings the best returns environmentally and economically.

"I wanted assurance that Langholm will be part of the feasibility study.

"We have to welcome this step forward. The deal is now signed and moving forward.

"I sent a note to Simon to say it was wonderful but also said that, if the railway didn't come this way, there would be no station in Dumfries and Galloway."

A possible route for a railway in Langholm would be behind the Murtholm where an extra-care sheltered housing development is being built by Loreburn Housing Association.

Denis said: "Lorraine Usher, chief executive, fully supports Langholm's position and would be delighted to see a railway run between the cemetery and the housing."

IN BRIEF

Latimers reopens



HANG out the bunting and pop open the champagne: Latimers of Langholm is reopening this Easter.

The homeware store in the High Street closed on Christmas Eve and will have been shut for 14 and a half weeks when it opens its doors again next Monday.

The shop will continue with its sale on all items of furniture: beds, sofas, dining and bedroom furniture; they're all in the sale.

The annual sale had a really good two weeks before the shop had to close.

There are lots of different styles and varieties; something to suit everyone and items can be ordered as well.

The staff have all been furloughed during the closure and will all be back in next Monday to serve customers.

The shelves are full, including with this spring's gardening products, so pop in for a browse. You will get a warm welcome.

Award for postie Jen



Canonbie postie Jen Grieve receives her 20-year service award

A WELL-KNOWN and long-serving Canonbie postie has been recognised for her dedicated service in delivering the mail.

Neil Henderson has recently presented Jen Grieve with her 20-year service award.

Jen has been full time at Canonbie for those two decades, replacing the late Tom Hall.

It wasn't the usual presentation, which would normally take place.

Jen says she is retiring at the end of the year when she turns 66.

She told the E&L: "I will miss the folk I've got to know on my run but I'm looking forward to a lie in after Christmas Eve."

Jen will be donning her usual Easter attire tomorrow so if anyone sees her, please take a photo because it will be the last time the Easter Bunny postie will do her round.

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Livestock-free farm survey is launched

WITH uncertainty remaining over the future of economic farm support in Scotland beyond 2024, an innovative grassroots organisation has unveiled a multi-faceted plan to help farmers thrive beyond change and is seeking their opinions.

Farmers For Stock-Free Farming was founded a year ago to support farmers through the many threats the industry faces.

Rebecca Knowles, founding director, said: "Subsidy uncertainty, changing consumer preferences, climate change and the rise of meat alternatives all pose threats to livestock agriculture.

Although the public is urged to reduce meat and dairy consumption, no plan has been revealed to absorb the impact of these changes on livestock farmers.

Our work does just that and we're keen to find out how farmers feel about it via our survey.

"It is a huge assumption on the government's that farmers don't want to change. Our experience has shown this to be wrong.

There are some incredibly innovative farmers, some working without any financial help."

According to the Scottish Agricultural Census, 77 per cent of Scotland's agricultural land is classed as rough-grazing or permanent pasture and is unsuitable for growing food.

Farmers For Stock-Free Farming tackles this issue by outlining three roads to stock-free farming which ensure no farmer need be left behind.

The website features 100 Ways to Farm Stock-Free, a catalogue of opportunities to thrive beyond the current subsidy system.

The survey is at farmersforstockfreefarming.org/farmers-survey

The first 200 entrants will be entered into a draw for cash prizes of up to £500.

Farming is key to managing climate

SCOTLAND'S farming union has welcomed the final Just Transition Commission report which recognises a managed transition to a net zero emissions target is essential for agriculture.

The commission was established by ministers to advise on how just transition principles can be applied to climate change action.

Farmers are committed to playing their part in the response to climate change and biodiversity loss.

It includes a recommendation to establish a Just Transition plan specifically for Scotland's land and agriculture

Martin Kennedy, NFU Scotland president, said: "The



Martin Kennedy, NFUS president, welcomes the measures

commission recognises in its final report the essential role of farming in underpinning the rural economy and safeguarding the viability of rural communities.

"We know agriculture, if appropriately equipped and empowered with the right tools and support, will play a key role in tackling the climate and biodiversity crises.

"I welcome measures outlined in this report, including those to increase support offered through the agriculture transformation programme and the development of a new model of farm advice, with advisory services upscaled and upskilled to help farmers and land managers identify suitable climate action for their land holdings and the funding streams to deliver them.

"I welcome the recommendation that the Scottish government

launches a call to action for engagement with Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs) for all rural land users.

"We know the partnerships have potential if those working in agriculture are consulted and represented.

"With the election looming, I call on the future government to guarantee a just transition by setting out plans for agricultural policy as an immediate priority.

"We also need clarity from the next government on future support for active farmers if they are to play their part and the Just Transition Plan for Scotland's land and agriculture is to, ultimately, be successful."

Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts Ltd had forward 2,576 store hogs, cast ewes and rams at the weekly sale at Longtown on Tuesday, March 23.

With buyers present from as afield as Devon and Somerset, another large entry of hogs was forward. All classes of hogs met a cracking trade. Top £133 for North Country Cheviot from Kelsocleugh, others to £122, £120 Morebattle Tofts; Suffolks to £129 Nilston Rigg, £127 Knells Cottage; Texels to £131 Nilston Rigg, £123 Hawthorn Bank & Crammond Hill; Beltex to £129, £127 Ridsdale; Easycars to £92, £88 Chatton Park; Greyfaces to £97 Drinkstone, £90 Hepple Hill; Hampshire to £89 Chatton Park; Blackfaces to £123 Nilston Rigg, £111 Redesmouth, £99 Meikleholm; Hill Cheviots to £101, £99 Blakehopeburnhaugh; Swaledales to £79 Holbeck, £75 Skelgill House; Herdwicks to £85 Row Head; Shetlands to £81 Chapel.

Feeding ewes (426) were another

buoyant trade. Top £114 for Texels from Flatt (Atkinson), others to £111 Whitechesters, £110 East Farm; Suffolks to £109 Pow Head; Greyfaces to £99 Whitechesters, £97 Coolingel; Easycars to £81 Coolingel. Hill ewes to £89 for Cheviots from Girnwood; Blackfaces to £79 Coolingel; Swaledales to £75 Coolingel; Shetlands to £57 Coolingel. Rams to £105 for a Cheviot from Kelsocleugh, Leicester to £99 Blakehope, Blackfaces to £84 Blakehope.

The mart had a nice show of ewes with lambs at foot forward to a keen ringside of bidders, with many buyers going home empty handed, selling to a top of £108 a life for Texel x ewe and single lamb from Messrs Kirk, Glasson. Many more ewes with lambs are required every week from now to suit buyer demand.

The final sale of in-lamb ewes of the season sold to a competitive ringside, with all classes easily sold.

The had forward 6,766 sheep comprising 3,808 prime hogs and 3,131 cast ewes and rams at the weekly sale on Thursday, March 25.

A small show of cast cows forward, again all classes in demand and more numbers required. The sale topped at £1,123 for a Beef Short-horn from Meikle Whitriggs, Lockerbie, who also sold others at £1,068. A very mixed show and a smaller show of 3,635 prime hogs forward. Beltex hogs led the way as well finished hogs prove good to cash. Top price per kilo at 428p was achieved for a pen of eight unbelievable Beltex hogs consigned by J Guthrie, Cuilturn, Crieff, who also topped per head at £186 for another outstanding penful of sixteen Beltex hogs this run of Beltex Hogs went on to average 44kg, 412p and an eye watering £183.04p. Heavy hogs were a poorer show and easier on the week topping at £180 for a hefty Beltex hogg consigned by M/s Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill, Perthshire.

Small, well-finished hogs sold to recent fast rates of return, topping at 405p for a pen of 4 super Beltex hogs, consigned by M/s Taylor, Easterochtermuthill. Other continentals topped at 310p consigned by Raecleugh Head farms. Cheviot hogs topped at 320p consigned by M/s Hindmarsh, Rowhope, Harbottle, while Blackface hogs consigned by M/s DF Duncan, Killapol, Argyll realising 299p.

All classes of well finished hogs are still in serious demand while leaner sorts are still better marketed in the store at Longtown on a Tuesday.

Overall sale average of 282.3p and SQQ 289.2p.

Principal prices (per head): Beltex £186, £180 Cuilturn, £180, £178 Easter Ochtermuthill, £177, £176, £175 Comlongun Mains Cottage, £176 Easter Ochtermuthill, £170 Drumcairn, £168 Dykehead, £166 Oakwood, £165 Drumcairn. Texel

£172 Skelfhill, £160 Copperthorns & Ridsdale, £156 Blackhopeburnhaugh & Marygate, £150 Copperthorns & Bidlake, £146 Pad-dockhole, £144 Killipol & Copperthorns. Suffolk £158 Ingleston, £145 Copperthorns, £140.50 Black-rigg, £139 Culquhasen, £135 Marygate & Newton Cottage, £130 Barnsallie, Culquhasen & Marygate. Cheviot £150 Rowhead, £139 Skelfhill, £134, £133 Kirkton, £133 Becks, £132 Skelfhill & Unthank, £131 Lawesknowe. Herdwick £140 Rowhead. Blackface £137, £129 Arnicle, £128.50 Garvilland, £128 Skelfhill. Cheviot Mule £137 West Scales. Mule £132 Culquhasen, £128 Killipol, £125 Garvilland, £122 Mashockmill, £121 Culquhasen & Garvilland, £120 Killipol. Charollais £128 Whinneyknowe. Swaledale £121 Marygate.

A similar show of 3,131 ewes was forward. Common heavy ewes were slightly less on the week, while better selling ewes and best Texel

ewes would be dearer on the week. Export type ewes were firmer again on the week and short of buyers' needs.

Heavy ewes topped at £207 for Texel ewes consigned by RL & AR Phillips, Fir Trees, Harrogate. Mule ewes topped at £120 from Nether Stenries. Hill ewes sold to a top of £113 for Blackface ewes shown by Kirkland Farming, Kirkland, Kirkconnel, with Cheviot ewes to £112 from M Ryder, Newton Cottage, Moffat. Rams sold to £170 for Texels from Beckfoot.

All classes of ewes are in huge demand and keenly sought after. Many more ewes can be sold to vendors' advantage.

Averages. Hogs: light to 328p (278.2p); standard to 405p (285p); medium to 428p (293.5p); heavy to 380p (265.4p). Ewes: light to 113p (£73.95); heavy to £207 (£111.84). Rams: £170 (£117.54).

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Agency creates 30 jobs and apprenticeships

Posts will boost SOSE's ability to drive forward its action plan

AN AMBITIOUS recruitment drive to employ more than 30 members of staff has been launched by South of Scotland Enterprise.

The new appointments will strengthen its current team of 80 to more than 100 employees, boosting its capacity to support businesses and communities and drive forward its strategy and action plan.

The variety of roles, to be advertised over the coming weeks, include those in strategy development, business development, economic infrastructure, energy and community development.

Young people will also be able to apply for several apprenticeship roles and six intern roles.

These posts will work in several directorates and help deliver a range of diverse projects.

Anyone with an interest in any of the roles can keep an eye out on its social media feeds and on www.osecareers.com where all the vacancies will be

posted over the coming weeks.

Professor Russel Griggs, SOSE chairman, said: "We have been steadily building an ambitious team at SOSE since our launch.

"We are making great progress but we want to do more and achieve more for the region so we are ready to welcome more talent from and into the South of Scotland.

Candidates

"While we are looking for a range of skills and experiences which suit each of the roles available, the most important factor is that candidates embody and can live SOSE's values which are inclusive, responsible, striving and bold."

Jane Morrison-Ross, chief executive, said: "We're here to do great things with the people of the south and deliver lasting change and we are looking to build a strong team to help us deliver this.

"If you share SOSE's vision and purpose, I would encourage



Jane Morrison-Ross: "We're here to deliver lasting change"

you to apply and I look forward to personally welcoming the successful candidates when they join our growing team."

Garry Legg, strategy and planning manager, added: "It's great to be part of a relatively-new organisation and is still growing, to feel valued and be given a

chance to help shape how we are evolving and doing things.

"Much of our work is outward looking and means working in partnership, meeting new people and achieving things together.

"There has never been a better chance to make a real and lasting difference and it will be great

to look back and know you have been a part of that."

Richard Smith, business development specialist, said: "In my role I work with a variety of organisations of different sizes, trading in all sectors in the South of Scotland.

"The diversity of my client portfolio is what makes my job interesting day to day but it also offers me the fantastic opportunity to positively influence businesses and the communities they are based in."

Since SOSE was launched on April 1 last year, the agency has approved more than £22m in support for almost 400 businesses and organisations.

It continues to encourage South of Scotland businesses and organisations to get in touch if they are seeking advice, support or have an idea they would like to develop.

SOSE is the economic and community development agency for Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders.

IN BRIEF

Proposed extension

A PROPOSAL has been submitted by Lisa Breckell of Greenleuch, Langholm to build extensions to the north-east and west elevations of the property, which lies one mile from the Langholm to Lockerbie road.

Copshaw testing

LIDDESDALE residents are urged to make use of the asymptomatic COVID-19 testing regime being rolled out by NHS Borders.

John Lamont, Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk MP, got a test last weekend after locals were asked to come forward.

Testing is only for those who are well and not displaying any symptoms.

The health board is being helped the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and the Army and is at Newcastleton fire station on April 2 and 3.

Baby charity donation



David Mundell hands a cheque to Alison Hall of the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society

LOSING a child before, during or after birth can devastate parents.

Thankfully, a charity has, in recent years, been active in Dumfries and Galloway offering insightful support and understanding to those who have been bereaved.

A regional branch of Sands (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) has been giving friendship and guidance and provided a gateway to professional services to those going through this sad and difficult period in their lives.

It also raises funds for research to help reduce the number of babies losing their lives. David Mundell, Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale MP, met Alison Hall of Dumfries, a founder member of the regional group to catch up on the latest branch news.

He took the opportunity to present the group with a £125 donation from the charity funds he raises regularly through taking part in political and general issue research surveys.

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

Eskdale & Liddesdale
Advertiser
born in 1848 and still going strong!

Election candidates set out their stalls for your votes

THE first Scottish election since Brexit and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, with another bid for an independence referendum thrown in for good measure, will test the parties and the candidates to the limit. Campaigning in person and knocking on doors will be restricted and for the first time the Holyrood hopefuls will have to use online electioneering to a much greater extent. Today and for the next five weeks the E&L Advertiser will question the candidates in both Dumfriesshire and in Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire to find out what their priorities are for their constituencies as we face the challenges of leaving the EU and enter a future dominated by our recovery from this devastating pandemic.



Richard Brodie, Scottish Liberal Democrats

RICHARD taught at Annan Academy for more than 30 years as an English teacher and head of special needs. He is passionate that education should ensure that every child is given every opportunity to achieve their potential. He has a distinguished 25-year career as a councillor, initially as the first Liberal on Annandale and Eskdale District Council and currently representing Annandale South on Dumfries and Galloway Council. He founded the Devil's Porridge Museum in 1997 and it has gone from strength to strength, winning prestigious awards. He has achieved many improvements, not only for his community but also districtwide. He said, "When I was vice-convenor of the Liberal-run district council, we delivered important projects such as the development of the Buccleuch Centre and Langholm Community Centre. "Among the most satisfying things I did was campaigning successfully for Dumfries and Annan's first Citizen Advice Bureaux. I was also instrumental in getting mains gas to Gretna and Eastriggs.

Currently, as chairman of local groups, I am leading an exciting £4.5m project to regenerate Annan Harbour and establish the burgh as Annan the History Town. If elected MSP, I will prioritise recovery from the ravages of COVID-19 and a botched Boris Brexit. A second independence referendum should be the last thing on our minds now. I will use my experience to work with Dumfriesshire communities, like Langholm and Canonbie, to progress their regeneration projects. Central to our rural recovery will be access to superfast broadband and reliable mobile reception which blights our rural communities. We also need investment in roads, public transport and cycleways. As a council climate change champion, I want more funding for transformative green energy projects, creating jobs. Additional to my call for an energy park at Chapelcross, a tidal energy bridge between Annan and Cumbria must become reality. Dumfries' unique geology must be used to heat the town with its reservoir of hot underground water. We also need more resources to support disadvantaged pupils and investment in NHS mental health services, more important than ever when people's wellbeing is so fragile."



Joan McAlpine, SNP

ONLY the SNP can beat Boris Johnson's Tories in Dumfriesshire. We came within four points of doing so in 2016. That's why I am asking you to vote SNP, even for the first time. I live in Dumfries and Galloway and was elected a South Scotland regional MSP in 2011 after a career as a journalist and editor, including with The Sunday Times. I have an honours degree in economic history from the University of Glasgow. It is widely acknowledged that Nicola Sturgeon has dealt with COVID-19 in a more competent way than Boris Johnson. A vote for the SNP means placing Scotland's recovery in Nicola's hands. The SNP will invest in housing, green technology and a youth guarantee to secure employment, education or training for all. The SNP is delivering in Dumfriesshire. We established South of Scotland Enterprise which has already helped hundreds of businesses and communities. The agency made the Langholm Moor buyout possible with a £1m grant. If re-elected, the SNP will double the child payment to low income families from £10 to £20 a week. We will reward our NHS staff with a four per cent pay rise, not the insulting one per cent offered south of Gretna. We will continue to make good the UK government's failure to deliver digital connectivity, despite this being a responsibility reserved to Westminster. Boris Johnson's Tories imposed a chaotic Brexit on Scotland. As recent convenor of the parliament's Europe committee, I know the harm Brexit is doing to jobs in every sector, from

agriculture to retail and from manufacturing to finance. If re-elected, I will continue to be a strong voice for this area. I have asked hundreds of parliamentary questions on behalf of constituents. I lobbied hard in favour of the Langholm Moor buyout and supported tenant farmers threatened with eviction. I campaign in parliament for the most vulnerable in society, including people with learning disabilities, successfully calling for them to be vaccinated as a priority. Please remember: only the SNP can beat Boris Johnson's Tories here. Don't risk it: put Scotland's recovery in Scotland's hands.



Oliver Mundell (r), Conservative

OLIVER is proud to have represented Langholm and Eskdale in the Scottish parliament over the past five years after following in the footsteps of his father, David Mundell MP. During that time he has earned a reputation as one of the strongest unionist voices at Holyrood and has been willing to vote against his party whip, when needed, to protect local interests. If re-elected to represent the Dumfriesshire constituency, my number one priority is to keep our United Kingdom together and stand up for the unique cross-border interests of our communities. By kick-starting yet another bid for independence in the midst of a global health pandemic, the SNP have once again shown they cannot be trusted and will never listen to voters in this corner of Scotland. Over the past five years, I have done my best to call out the SNP on their broken promises and have been willing to challenge Nicola Sturgeon on misleading parliament, even being thrown out of the debating chamber for doing so.

I am absolutely clear that they will not give it a rest so we will have to tell them again at the ballot box. Dumfriesshire said No and we meant it. Let's get on with rebuilding Scotland. Let's focus on the COVID-19 recovery. Imagine just what could be achieved if our Scottish government focused on jobs, education and the NHS rather than seeking to divide our families and break up the UK. I am also standing on my strong local record and will continue to work just as hard if re-elected. From standing up for our farmers to opposing unwanted fracking, I have never been afraid to do what is in the best interests of local people. I am also keen to continue supporting businesses, projects and, most importantly, job creation. There is definitely a renewed energy in Langholm and there are some exciting plans taking shape. Let's make sure that is our priority for the next few years, not putting up barriers between us and our largest potential marketplace just over the border.



Colin Smyth, Labour

WHEN I was first elected to the Scottish parliament in 2016 as a South Scotland regional MSP, I could never have imagined that five years on we would be facing the twin challenges of Brexit and a devastating pandemic. As we reflect on a year of lockdown, our thoughts are with those who have lost a loved one to COVID-19. Too many lives and livelihoods have been needlessly lost. The past year has been so tough for everyone. The pandemic has separated us from our friends and family but we can be proud of the way our community has come together to support each other. We can't go back to the old arguments. Arguing with each other, while our NHS and social care staff are desperate for the resources they need to care for our loved ones, our children miss out on a world-class education and too many of our young people leave our area because we don't have the jobs they need here. We need to focus on what unites us, not divides us and ensure the next parliament delivers a recovery plan to help Eskdale rebuild after the pandemic, develops an education catch-up plan for every child, pays our carers a decent wage of at least £15 an hour, invests in our infrastructure such as the A7 and better broadband and in a Green New Deal which tackles climate change but also brings highly-skilled, highly-paid jobs to the area. Dumfriesshire matters to me. It's where I was born, have always lived and where I brought up my family. My priority as MSP has always been to be a

strong voice for our area from successfully campaigning for a new South of Scotland Enterprise agency and backing the Langholm Moor buyout to supporting the campaign for the extension to the Borders railway with a station in Langholm and I've tried to work hard to support people through these tough times together. While the SNP and Tory candidates will want to bicker about the constitution, I'm determined to ensure this election is about you and your family and putting Dumfriesshire first.



Rachel Hamilton, Conservative

RACHAEL Hamilton has served as the MSP for the constituency from 2017 after a by-election, gaining 53.55 per cent of the vote and a 9,000 majority. At every turn, she has stood up and fought for her constituents. Most notably, throughout the pandemic, Rachael has been supporting constituents and businesses with COVID-19 related matters such as sourcing financial help and dealing with concerns over vaccinations. Rachael has delivered real results for the Borders. Understanding the most important issues to her rural constituency, she provided crucial support to constituents during the devastating Newcastle floods and has consistently called for enhanced flood defences. She is working hard to bring all stakeholders round the table to deliver a solution. After the SNP's botched broadband roll-out, she will ensure every home and business premise in the Borders and Scotland has a full fibre connection by the end of 2027. She has put pressure on the SNP government for more resources to tackle rural crime and fly-tipping and increase investment in agriculture. Rachael has been a strong

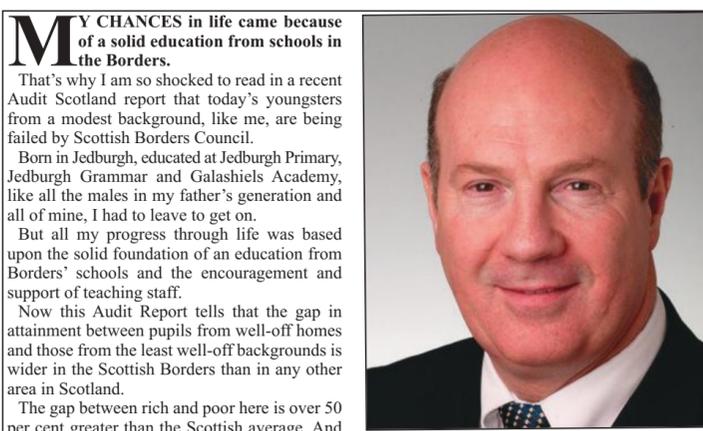
advocate for connectivity and improving transport links in the region. She successfully campaigned for the £10m feasibility study into the extension of the Borders' Railway. Looking ahead to the election Rachael will campaign hard for local issues. When it comes to our fantastic NHS, Rachael wants a focus on reducing waiting times, improving mental health services and protecting GP surgeries. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Rachael wants to attract high-quality, well-paid jobs to the Borders and improve infrastructure and digital connectivity to bolster the rural economy. On education, she supports a national tutoring programme to help pupils catch up, more rural teachers and free school breakfasts and lunches to all primary schoolchildren. Her campaign, alongside Doddie Weir OBE, continues on automatic access for people living with MND to receive a Blue Badge. Moreover, Rachael has urged the government to provide free dyslexia tests for adults to improve social mobility and opportunities. She continues to strongly oppose a second independence referendum and believes we can build back better with the strength of the United Kingdom.



Jenny Marr, Scottish Liberal Democrats

I WAS brought up in Selkirk, attending Knowpark Primary and Selkirk High School before graduating from the University of Aberdeen with a degree in politics and international relations. Before politics, I worked in the third sector as a fundraising assistant for Marie Curie and later for international oil company National Oilwell Varco Mission Products, handling customs and logistics. I now work part time as office manager for a member of the Scottish parliament and as a communications manager for an MP. I decided to stand in the General Election in 2019 in Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk because I was tired of the constitutional wrangling and wanted to bring the focus back to making a difference locally and further afield. Now, we need to put recovery from the pandemic first. From supporting tourism and business to tackling the climate emergency, delivering a better education system, supporting the NHS, bettering mental health provision and making the case for a truly federal UK, I will always stand up for the disadvantaged and make fairness and tackling inequality

central to everything I want to achieve. I want to remove the barriers to opportunity which face rural areas more than others. Everyone should have the chance of living the life they want and to be as successful as possible. During the past year the curtains have been pulled back on where the help is most needed and we need to have a needle-sharp focus on getting help to all those in that position. Ultimately, I want to tackle the root of inequality, which is poverty, and keep the climate crisis at the top of everyone's agenda. We know our country is racked by constitutional division and inequality so now our representatives need to focus on healing and serving communities to the best of their ability at a time when it has never mattered more. That's what I will do.



Ian Davidson, Scottish Labour

MY CHANCES in life came because of a solid education from schools in the Borders. That's why I am so shocked to read in a recent Audit Scotland report that today's youngsters from a modest background, like me, are being failed by Scottish Borders Council. Born in Jedburgh, educated at Jedburgh Primary, Jedburgh Grammar and Galashiels Academy, like all the males in my father's generation and all of mine, I had to leave to get on. But all my progress through life was based upon the solid foundation of an education from Borders' schools and the encouragement and support of teaching staff. Now this Audit Report tells that the gap in attainment between pupils from well-off homes and those from the least well-off backgrounds is wider in the Scottish Borders than in any other area in Scotland. The gap between rich and poor here is over 50 per cent greater than the Scottish average. And in only one council do children from modest backgrounds pass fewer exams. Not only that, but things are getting worse. The latest available figures show that, whereas the average gap has reduced by three per cent over five years, the Borders gap has actually widened. So, while things in Scotland as a whole are getting better, marginally - at a rate of three per cent in five years, the gap between rich and poor will not be closed for more than 160 years - here in the Borders the gap will never be closed. This appalling situation is not acceptable. It is not the fault of the English. It is not the fault of Westminster. It is not the fault of a bad boy who ran away.

Education has been a devolved responsibility for more than 20 years. We have an SNP government, a Tory council and children who are being failed. The chance that I had, to get on via education, is being denied them and it is the fault of those in charge. If you wonder why I'm standing for election or wonder why I'm Labour, this is your answer.



Paul Wheelhouse, SNP

ON MAY 6 your vote will shape Scotland's future. The election is about Scotland's choice: whether Scotland's destiny should be in Scotland's hands or Boris Johnson's. Some 62 per cent of Scots voted to remain in the EU but UK ministers ignored this and would seek to block the only viable route back to EU membership for Scotland - Independence. Instead, we now face UK ministers making a 'power grab' against our parliament, a parliament which 62 per cent of Borderers voted to re-establish in 1997. The UK is far from a 'union of equals'. I care about public services and all those working so heroically in our NHS, schools, emergency services, utilities, council, transport and retail services, and many more, through the COVID-19 pandemic. Scotland's recovery must not see a return to 'business as usual', with the deep-rooted inequalities the pandemic exposed. It must be a recovery built on fairness and opportunity. I've lived in the constituency for 21 years. I've served as an MSP for South Scotland for the last 10 of those. My team in Hawick and I have helped or supported more than 10,000 constituents since 2016. I have 19 years' prior experience as a professional economist and gained experience from my four ministerial posts since 2012. I've helped secure £133m of investment in gigabit speed broadband in South Scotland; a new South of Scotland Enterprise agency; new 4G phone mast at Whitropefoot and campaigned for restoration of the Borders Railway since 2007 and to extend it to Hawick, Newcastleton and Carlisle.

I know how transformative this would be locally and I was delighted to arrange for Newcastleton and District Community Trust (NDCT) to meet our transport secretary to make the case. I've supported NDCT's acquisition of the 750 acres at Holm Hill. As a former environment minister, I recognise the urgency of having a funded flood protection scheme in place after flooding in Newcastleton in 2020 and 2021. If you elect me as Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire's MSP, I'll work hard to ensure the area gets the investment it needs in people, infrastructure, public and voluntary sector services and to further enhance the quality of life in Liddesdale.



How to knit a bunnet

KNIT a Bunnet from Scratch is the theme of an online workshop for absolute beginners this weekend.

The Langholm Initiative's Eskdale Textile Project is teaming up with Emma McLellan, a mature student at Heriot Watt University in Galashiels to run the session.

Emma said: "I'm passionate about sustaining our textile knowledge and industry.

"Like many, I have rediscovered my love of making and creating, leading me to retrain in textile design.

With this, I have often had to learn new skills from scratch. This has given me an insight into the challenges of learning something new.

"With the Knit a Bunnet workshop, I hope to guide participants in basic knitting skills in a friendly and safe way, to encourage them to try, learn and practise. They can then go on to create their own designs."

Students will be given a pattern, a basic knitting kit, two online Zoom lessons and access to short, simple video snippets on how to knit and knit a hat with supplied knitting needles, wool yarn and sewing needle.

This develops creativity through basic knitting techniques, fabric understanding, garment assembly and colour work.

The first session is an online Zoom call to launch the pattern, the video snippets and assist students to practise knitting.

The second is a follow-up session to check progress. Knitters will have the opportunity to present progress and have a question and answer session, with further ideas for progress.

On completion, students will be encouraged to photograph the hats for an online forum hosted by the Initiative and/or by a local exhibition.

To register a place, email Judith@langholminitiative.co.uk or call 0780 141 3482

Alterations to house

Andy Kennedy of Waterlooville, Portsmouth has applied for planning permission and listed building consent to alter 28 Drove Road, Langholm.

The alterations comprise installing nine replacement windows and two external doors, removing cement render and installing lime-based render and paint to the outside walls, removing roof tiles, putting in two rooflights, installing slates to the rear extension roof and installing internal wall tanking.

Partnership's plans for a Well-being Woodland

Generous grants and donations help bring school project alive

A WOODLAND and gardens are being created at Newcastleton primary school to aid not only the children's education but also boost their well-being.

The project is being co-ordinated by Sarah Laing for the Newcastleton School Partnership (NSP) and very firmly in collaboration with the school's staff and pupils. All these areas will be up and running after Easter.

During last year's lockdown parents worked very hard to tidy the woodland in the playground which is now a wonderful space for the kids.

On the well-being woodland, Sarah said: "Learning outdoors is a key strategy for education in the future.

"We have collaborated with parents, staff and children to develop our outside space to provide more opportunities for exploring nature and enhancing well-being.

"Parents have cleared the woodland at the back of the school playground and will add a woodchip path and bushcraft area, furnished with benches for the children to sit on, read, learn, listen and play.

"Huge thanks to the Buccleuch Estates, Borders and Ed Morris and Barry Patterson who very generously donating some materials.

"Also to Cameron Patterson for making the benches, the Rock UK team of Josh Smith, Lee Musson and Simon Robinson for creating the



The Well-being Woodland will provide a space, furnished with benches, for the children to sit on, read, learn, listen and play.

bushcraft space and Newcastleton and District Community Trust, along with Dr Geoffrey Kolbe and Professor Jane Bower who have pledged money towards some guided bushcraft sessions in this space when restrictions are lifted.

"We are also grateful to the community for its ongoing

donations towards the NSP which is also funding this project. We can't wait to see it up and running."

AS PART of the ongoing development of the outside space, the different gardening zones are being consolidated into one area.

They feature a polytunnel,

planting tables and a raised bed for each class, woodchip paths, fruit bushes, water station and a substantial fence to keep the rabbits at bay.

Sarah said: This area will be dedicated to Margaret Grieve, a former schoolteacher, then volunteer and a lifelong resident of Newcastleton, who sadly passed away recently.

"Margaret bequeathed a generous sum of money to the NSP and we feel investing it in this area is a fitting tribute to someone who loved to see children grow and flourish."

Kickstart

Huge thanks go to other very generous donors, the ward councillors, Watson McAteer, in particular, for kickstarting the project with a grant; Northern Polytunnels for substantially discounting the polytunnel;

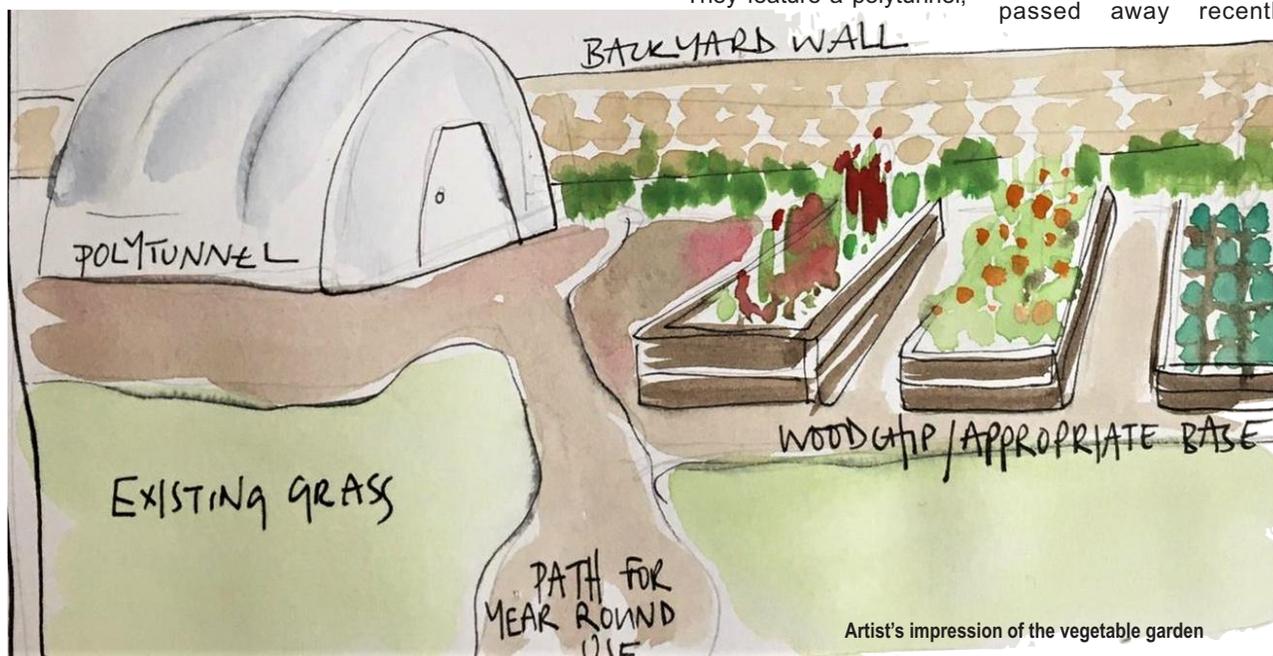
Buccleuch Estates, Borders who gave materials and their time; Carrs Billington for buckets;

Shane Mitchinson of Doctor Grow at Leahaugh for the compost;

HozeLOCK, which gifted hosepipes; and Morrisons, Hawick, for seeds and compost.

Sarah added: "When permitted, we will have a "grand opening.

"We also hope to recruit members of the community to share their gardening expertise with our children. Watch this space."



Artist's impression of the vegetable garden

Langholm had much to celebrate in 2020

Initiative AGM outlines the outstanding success of its projects

THE Langholm Initiative held its AGM last week via Zoom and welcomed an audience of 76 people.

The organisation, which has run award-winning community projects since 1994, welcomed supporters from its membership and beyond.

The meeting opened with guest speaker, Mike Daniels, head of policy and land management at the John Muir Trust.

He explained the trust's involvement with the community buy-out in Langholm, including the support offered and the partnership the trust has with the Initiative, including seconding staff time, a grant towards the buy-out and continuing to deliver John Muir awards.



Kevin Cumming led the buy-out of the Langholm Moor from Buccleuch

Margaret Pool, chairperson, gave her report and said they had much to celebrate.

During the pandemic they had worked as a community anchor organisation, securing funding to support key groups such as Langholm Day Centre, the COVID Support Group and Out-Post Arts.

She reiterated her thanks for the hard work of everyone involved in the buy-out of

Langholm Moor, the newly-minted Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

Securing the funding of £3.8m had been a team effort but particularly thanked Kevin Cumming and John Hanrahan for their leadership as well as the working group who contributed to its success.

As the pandemic worsened, staff were furloughed while project delivery was suspended.

Although this impeded some work, Margaret said the collective action of everyone involved meant they could come back stronger.

She said: "I've spoken at previous AGMs about my team, akin almost to my family. I'm so proud of all we've achieved."

Judith Johnson, project manager, talked about her project Textiles Eskdale.

She said: "It celebrates the rich textile heritage of Langholm, while looking at new opportunities for the future."

The activities pre-pandemic included workshops with schools, health and well-being sessions, a social group called In Stitches and Upland's Making Connections project.

She also worked with textile companies including Elliott's Shed, Rose's Wardrobe Vintage and Drove Weavers.

Judith said: "There is a perception that, since the demise of the large-scale textile industry and subsequent job losses, the industry is finished."

"But we have to think differently now and make the most of the creativity and skills we have to support and develop small-scale, high-quality textile activity."

Jason Railton, project manager,



Margaret Pool, right, and Alison Hutton promote the community buy-out

spoke about the Digital Skills Project which has supported people to build their essential digital skills, work with young people to explore and pursue digital careers and support businesses to build their digital confidence.

Skills gap

Jason said: "The project is our response to the skills gap facing our rural communities."

"We have seen a massive impact from delivering this work, especially during COVID-19. It's all about helping to build confidence and removing fear about technology."

"We supported 15 businesses to participate in Langholm Digital, a digital marketing course in partnership with Business Gateway."

"There are so many exciting things coming up for our project, including expanding our team, participating in regional STEM events and some very exciting developments with the Scottish

government's digital team."

Kevin Cumming, trustee, spoke about the Langholm Moor community buy-out from the moor itself.

He said: "This is the first



Judith Johnson runs the Textiles Eskdale project, while Jason Railton is in charge of the Digital Skills project

community-owned estate in southern Scotland and is a momentous moment for Langholm."

They had set up a trading subsidiary to employ the estate manager and development manager to manage the estate and there was an ambition to expand the team, scope an engagement post and a digital project to share the learning from the Langholm site.

He thanked the community and the wider public for all their support during the buyout and expressed his excitement for the future.



IN BRIEF

Scotland's heritage in stitches

A GOOD attendance of 37 members joined Canobie SWI's open night Zoom meeting last week.

They were treated to a first-class talk by Susie Finlayson on the Great Tapestry of Scotland.

The tapestry tells the story of Scotland's history, heritage and culture from 8500BC to the present day.

The tapestry is made up of 165 panels which were hand-stitched by more than 1,000 women in communities around Scotland.

It was transported by land, sea and air to come together and, at 140 metres long, it is even longer than the famous Bayeux Tapestry.

The tapestry portrays ordinary workers, using various stitches, textures and colours.

One of Susie's favourite panels is The Reivers.

This panel features Hermitage Castle and Kinmont Willie being rescued from Carlisle Castle.

In the top corner a moon is stitched in to honour Neil Armstrong.

After such an entertaining presentation, it is no wonder Susie has inspired everyone to visit the new visitor centre in Galashiels, when it is completed, where the tapestry will be on display permanently.

The show and tell was anything Scottish.

Members had a wide range of objects such as a Scottish storybook, oystershell, plaid with a Forsyth crest, patchwork tartan coaster, Highland cow and a music box playing Bluebells of Scotland.

There was also a beautiful Scottish child's outfit 130 years old.

Liz promised to bring the beautiful traditional Highland dress into the hall when they were all back together. Let's hope that will be soon.

Finally, it is with great sadness that the rural reported the death of Eileen Hetherington.

Eileen was an active member of the SWI. She was a kind friend and was a wonderful conversationalist who was always up to date with current affairs.

She certainly had a positive outlook on life. Their thoughts are with her beloved family and many friends.

At the next meeting Jennie Williams will give a talk on how to protect red squirrels and the show and tell is a flower arrangement in an egg shell.



Campbell Scott leads the project to redevelop the Townfoot Sports Centre

Sports centre rethink

CAMPBELL Scott, trustee, spoke about the Townfoot Sports Centre and confirmed the design feasibility study was complete but there were issues to overcome, including flood risk and capital costs.

He said: "The study was successful in producing three bold and ambitious designs; it could be said they were too bold and ambitious. The price came out at £4m.

"We knew the site was on

a flood plain but didn't appreciate before we started the survey work the extent of that negativity.

"The council has tied the progress of the project to the flood protection scheme.

"That will take some time to resolve but we don't want to hang about so the working group is keen to move on and develop a smaller project in the first half of this year.

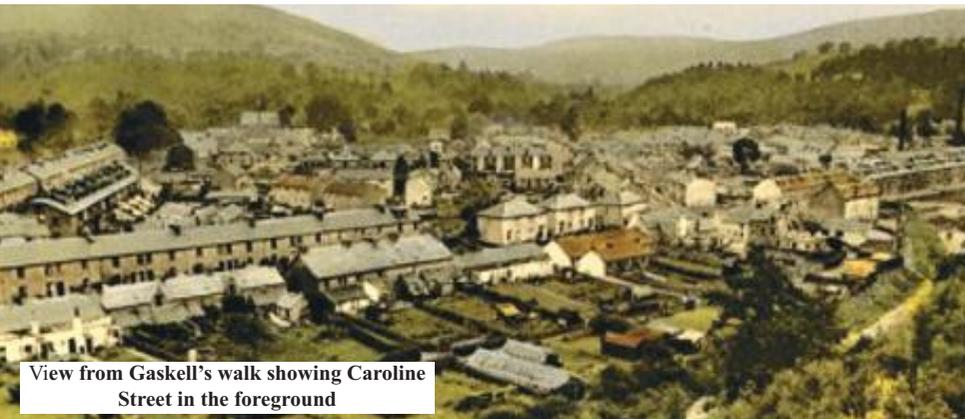
"It will include the tennis courts but not the swimming

pool yet. That will have to be done in phase two."

Voting for the adoption of the previous minutes was held online, with a majority vote in favour.

En-bloc voting for member trustees was held online and a majority vote in favour was confirmed.

Videos of the project updates are available at www.langholminitiative.org.uk and click on About



View from Gaskell's walk showing Caroline Street in the foreground

Memories and Milestones

We continue our serialisation of Tommy Beattie's book

TRAMPS ARRIVE

TRAMPS were better dressed than some of the expensive and fashion-conscious folk of today.

Talking of tramps they used to be housed in the cottage between Meikleholm and Jimmy's Brae, going the back road.

The Cottage, known now as Beech Cottage, accommodated 10/15 persons, including two couples. Every evening between the hours of 4 and 5 they would come slowly up the street. They would arrive in ones or twos. Sometimes a man and his "wife". They were all allowed one night only and off the next day. The rules were tidy your bed space and for all of that they were given one shilling before leaving.

These people never molested or frightened anyone. We were nervous of them I think, but not afraid. Most of the tramps were in rags and dirty. The odd one had no belongings at all. Others had old prams in which they had all sorts of things. Pots, pans etc were tied to the pram, old sacks of hessian which would be their bed clothes.

As these poor souls left the poor house they would come down Jimmy's Brae onto Eskdail Street. Coming that way would pass Jimmy's cow

byre. Jimmy lived in the house at the bottom of the brae on your right as you get onto Eskdail Street the hayshed and byre have been converted into a garage.

Caroline Street, Eskdail Street, Stubholm Brae and Becks Burn were places to avoid in Spring if you wore sandals or low shoes. One had to be careful where you placed your feet believe me. Why? Cow platts!

Eskdail Street

(Whilst writing from memory it is strange how the past comes rushing back. As I sit down I do not know what I am about to write. It is very fascinating to sit here and watch my hand form the words as fast as I can recall them.)

On turning right into Eskdail Street they would pass the grocer's shop. The very shop to which the storeroom belonged. On passing the grocer's shop you come to the house which looks as though a slice has been cut off it. (John and Anne Dunn live there now and what a difference to the old days.)

When I was a boy we used to go into that house. Two brothers lived there. Wullie and Sydney Mackie. They were both a bit strange to us. Sydney seemed more of a recluse. Both were slightly crippled but Sydney required two sticks and was small. Wullie was a "muckle

big lump of a man". Well over 6 feet and 17 stones I guess. They never molested or threatened us at all except Syd. He would lift his stick in a threatening manner, but we were little devils at times.

How they both were slightly crippled I do't know. They both smelled of Sloan's liniment or Horse liniment.

The smell in the house was so strong it almost knocked you over. Liniment in a small house can be very overpowering.

Another poor family lived at the top of Caroline Street in a little cottage by the side of the dam. It had a corrugated iron roof and either an earthen or cobbled floor.

Lintons

Wattie Linton and his sister Jane, or Jenny, lived there. I will call her Jenny, that name rings a bell in my memory, but one thing seems certain she had one leg and used a crutch. She could always be seen on a decent day sitting on a seat looking down Caroline Street and always wore a white apron. I can never remember either of them going out at any time.

They had hens and a cow. The front door was always open so the hens and the cow walked in and out at will. It was even rumoured the hens sometimes laid their eggs on the bed.

(to be continued)

Times Past

100 years: Langholm Ex-Service Men

Langholm Ex-Service Men had a busy weekend. On Saturday they held most successful seven-a-side sports on Miltown, while on Sunday they held a church parade to the South U.F Church. Upwards of 100 men turned out, and marched to the church with Langholm Town Band at their head playing sacred music. Besides the men, there was a very large congregation, quite filling the church. The Rev J B MacDonald conducted the service and preached a most acceptable sermon on Christ's definition of a Christian gentleman. Major Bell read the lessons. The praise was of the brightest character, and the whole service was full-hearted. Afterwards, the men returned to their club premises in Henry Street, where they held the last of the present series of pleasant Sunday evenings. The building was again filled to overflowing, indeed the numbers present seemed to be greater than ever proving, as we said at first, that these Sunday evening gatherings had entirely captured the public fancy. The Rev J B MacDonald again presided, and an interesting and varied programme was most skilfully rendered by Eskdale Orchestra, Mrs Oliver, Mrs McLean, Mrs Park, Misses P Phillips, J Beattie, A and E Fletcher, M Taylor and B Davidson; and Messers A Mellis, J Hyslop, D Calvert and R F Clark; Miss B Fletcher again giving the accompaniment in first class fashion.

75 years: All food can be good food

Odds and ends of food often discarded in a household can form an important part of many interesting dishes. FISH TRIMMINGS can be used to make stock for a sauce to be served with a fish dish. To do this cover the uncooked skins, bones and other trimmings with cold water, add a bouquet of herbs consisting of a stalk or two of parsley, a small bay leaf, and a tiny bunch or a good pinch of mixed herbs and a little salt. Boil gently for twenty minutes and strain. A thin slice or two of onion can be added if liked, and this can be chopped up and served as part of the sauce itself. Fish stock can form the basis for an excellent fish chowder, even where no actual fish is used at all.

50 years: Return visit of Rev. James Beverley

The Rev James Beverley, B.D; Minister of Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas is to spend a holiday in Langholm during April and will conduct the Services in the Old Parish Church on Sunday 18th April. He will also give the Communion addresses on Sunday 25th April at the 11am and 3pm celebrations of the Lords Supper. A friend of Rev James Beverley from Texas accompanying him on his first visit to Scotland Rev. Douglas B Finch, B.D will be the preacher at the Communion Thanksgiving service at 6pm on the same day. Jim Beverley, whose mother Mrs Agnes Beverley lives at 58 Caroline Street, paid his last visit to his native town of Langholm in the summer of 1969 and was tremendously appreciated as the preacher at the Common Riding Service in the Old Parish Church. His many old friends in Langholm will look forward to meeting him on this short visit and to seeing him in the Old Parish Church pulpit.

25 years: A great deal of tension

Team captain Craig Hislop summed up his feelings; "It's a great achievement to be the first Colts team to win the Championship for Langholm, although I understand that they have once been runners up." "It didn't hit me" he explained "until a couple of hours later and then there was a lot of relief. There's been a great deal of tension, especially over the last few weeks when the expectations of winning the Championship came nearer" he added. "We've played more as a team in the later stages, done things as a team and played as a unit. Concentration was at its highest during the last few matches and that stopped our opponents from coming back at us." But what of the play off and the prospect of a team appearance at Murrayfield for the final.



Roddick's butcher's shop with George at the door and his son Bert at the horse in 1910



Colts team captain Craig Hislop with the winning cup pictured with Karen Muir, Caroline Tait, Alison Hislop, Debbie Muir and Kerrie Barnfather in 1996

The E&L Gallery



A pair of toads, skilfully photographed by Mairi Telford Jammeh of Langholm

Camera: Canon Powershot

Orchestral manoeuvres on the net

THE Royal Scottish National Orchestra's digital season of concerts this spring and summer are designed to astound and delight audiences.

Conductor Thomas Søndergård and violinist Nicola Benedetti begin this musical feast on Friday, April 16 at 7.30pm.

The programme comprises the Weinberg Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes, Szymanowski Violin Concerto No1 and Panufnik Sinfonia Sacra (Symphony No3).

Søndergård, Benedetti and the RSNO are the perfect partnership to begin the spring digital season.

Polish master Karol Szymanowski's dazzling first violin concerto is a piece close to Nicola's heart and the spectacular centrepiece in this celebration of the music of Poland.

It runs from the flamboyant dance tunes of Mieczyslaw Weinberg to the heartfelt Sinfonia Sacra by Andrzej Panufnik, the great Polish composer, whose music is as passionate as it is powerful.

Nicola Benedetti appears by courtesy of Decca Classics.

This concert is part of the RSNO's Polska Scotland series.

Polska Scotland is supported by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute as part of the international cultural programme marking the centenary of Poland's regained independence.

Lewis Plays Mozart is the next concert on Friday, April 23 at 7.30pm.

Paul Lewis on piano, Timothy Orpen on clarinet and Adrian Wilson on oboe are joined by the RSNO Chamber Ensemble.

They play the Mozart Clarinet Trio K498 Kegelstatt-Trio, Michael J Murray Psycho-Scherzo, Weber Clarinet Quintet and Mozart Piano Concerto No12 K414 for piano and string quintet

If any composer could scribble down a masterpiece while playing a game of skittles, it's Mozart. That's the legend, anyway.

His 'skittle alley' trio is a delight and one of three spirited showcases for principal clarinet Timothy Orpen and his RSNO colleagues.



Thomas Søndergård,

If we can't hear Mozart himself play his Piano Concerto No12, the superb British pianist Paul Lewis has got to be the next best thing.

This concert is part of the RSNO's Scotch Snaps series, celebrating established and emerging composers born or living in Scotland. Scotch Snaps is supported by the John Ellerman Foundation.

Subscriptions and pay per concert tickets are available from here: <https://royalscottishnationalorchestra.vhx.tv/>.



Nicola Benedetti

The best destinations in South of Scotland unite

Eskdale and Liddesdale are at the heart of tourism marketing campaign

ESKDALE and Liddesdale have, for the first time, landed at the very heart of a major tourism marketing campaign.

As the country prepares to open to visitors in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Scotland Starts Here is a digital drive to put the whole of southern Scotland and its many attractions on the map.

The campaign is the brainchild of the South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA), established in May last year to unite the Scottish Borders Tourism Partnership and Visit South West Scotland in the hope that the wider region will pack a greater punch when working in partnership.

The group is led by the visitor sector and promises both marketing power and destination development through training, shared learning and collaboration.

Scotland Starts Here was launched to the tourism industry during a webinar on Monday and showcased how the new app and website would introduce potential tourists to parts of the country they had traditionally bypassed.

Among the star attractions presented to the 300 attendees was Gilnockie Tower.

Ian Martin showed how the Clan Armstrong Centre provided a treasure trove of heritage for visitors the moment they crossed the border.

Currently, a healthy number of free attractions in this area already feature on the site and app.

Gavin Graham has given com-

prehensive details of many accessible, waymarked Langholm walks and Newcastleton is well represented, not least as part of the 7Stanes mountain-biking network.

Landmarks such as the Malcolm Monument and MacDiarmid Memorial, Westerkirk Parish Library and sites along the Eskdale Prehistoric Trail are promoted.

Potential

But the SSDA is keen for Eskdale to maximise its tourism potential with, for example, a Langholm town trail.

App users would hear their smartphones ping when they neared a site of historical significance and immediately learn more about its story.

This should be completed by the time the campaign is launched to the public in June.

The SSDA also wants to encourage the area's hospitality industry to sign up for individual membership, which is free until June.

By registering with the organisation, hotels, B&Bs, eateries, specialist shops and paid-for attractions won't benefit only from marketing via the Scotland Starts Here campaign.

They will also qualify for tailored guidance on digital improvement and product development as well as networking opportunities with others in the sector.

Eskdale Hotel co-owner John Galloway, whose business is already benefitting from membership, says: "The more people buy into this new initiative, the louder a voice our area will have

and the more visitors we'll receive.

"We've rarely had the chance to be front and centre of a campaign like this so we should seize the opportunity with both hands and be ready to welcome a new season of staycationers."

Anyone, who wants more information about SSDA membership, can contact area representative Gowan Miller at gowan@ssdalliance.com

The campaign website is www.scotlandstartshere.com and the app is available by searching for Scotland Starts Here on your smartphone or tablet.

If there are any free attractions in this area, which you think should be highlighted but are currently missing, please email nicol@langholm-alliance.co.uk



Ross McAuley has been appointed chief executive of the SSDA



Newcastleton and Liddesdale are set to benefit from the new tourism alliance in southern Scotland

THE South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) has announced its first major steps to making the south a world-class destination and supporting the region's economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19.

It has appointed its first chief executive and unveiled a new look Scotland Starts Here campaign.

Ross McAuley, a Scot with more than 20 years of international commercial, entrepreneurial and marketing experience, will take on the leadership role in May.

He will drive the SSDA's ambitious destination development plans, which include increasing tourism spend in the region to £1bn by 2030 and creating 6,500 new jobs.

He will also oversee the SSDA's commitment to enabling the tourism and hospitality industry to recover and flourish after COVID-19.

Ross has a strong track record in destination management and tourism having previously led groundbreaking, global tourism initiatives in the Middle East, including nine years at luxury hospitality brand Jumeirah Group.

This was followed by building a successful global travel and tourism consultancy business.

His experience in challenging the status quo, developing insights into regional and cultural behaviour, promoting destinations and increasing visitor market share will help SSDA develop the South of Scotland as a new destination for visitors

far and wide.

He joins the SSDA team, led by Jemma Reid, project manager.

She brought together Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders as one destination through Scotland Starts Here, a marketing campaign and information hub for all those looking to discover the very best the South of Scotland has to offer.

Now featuring more than 1,000-member businesses, travel inspiration and experience finders, this campaign signals a pivotal phase of SSDA's marketing and product development activity.

Hidden gem

Ross said: "The south is the hidden gem of Scotland, overlooked in the past as a destination but with a proud history, stunning landscape, great people and enormous potential to engage and inspire.

By bringing Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders together, we're creating a new destination with the scale to bring tourism spend to communities and that really excites me.

"Clearly, the impact of COVID-19 has been felt far and wide by businesses and communities, while completely disrupting the travel market.

"I believe tourism will bounce back strongly. I can't wait to join the team and help develop a sustainable tourism strategy in a way which leads to opportunities for both businesses and communities as well as attracting investment.

Scotland Starts Here is our first step on that journey taking the South of Scotland to new audiences."

Scotland Starts Here comprises a website and app supported by digital marketing activity including podcasts, eBooks, videos, blogs, social media channels and advertising campaigns.

It will showcase to communities and visitors that Scotland's identity and soul were born in the south not only in location but also as an area which has shaped the nation's history and culture for centuries.

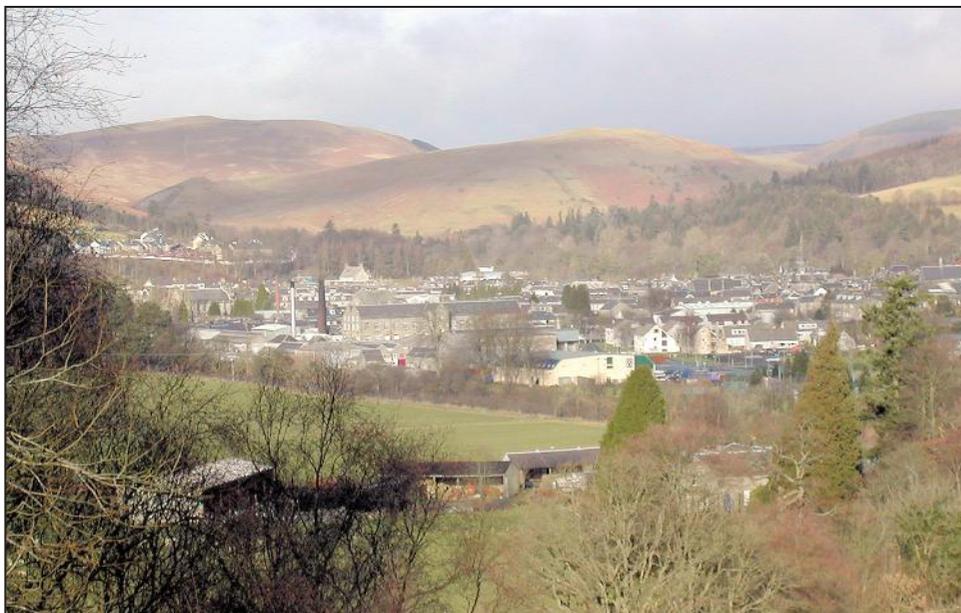
By promoting the area as a new destination for visitors to discover and explore, it puts a spotlight on authentic experiences and award-winning products and businesses.

It will increase visitor awareness of what the area has to offer, while inspiring more day visits, short breaks and holidays.

The website includes a Travel Partners section, designed to help travel trade agents build trip itineraries and access marketing information.

SSDA will also run a year-long business engagement and product development programme to help members through the recovery period, upskilling them and inspiring their own future business development.

This will include digitalisation, business collaborations, developing bookable products and experiences, agritourism, supply chain partnerships, education and skills and travel trade training and sale.



Langholm and Eskdale businesses and attractions are urged to put themselves on the tourism map

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Newcastleton is an eighteenth century planned village 30 minutes drive from Carlisle or Hawick. There are excellent local facilities and recreational opportunities within a beautiful rural setting.

Salary based on NHS 'Agenda for change' and depending on qualifications/previous work experience. Hours: LTFT/FT options available and negotiable/flexible. NHS Pension Scheme.

Job Description available on request. Applications including CV, covering letter and two referees to: Cameron Scott - Practice Manager, Newcastleton Medical Practice, Moss Road, Newcastleton, TD9 0RU, Scottish Borders. Informal enquiries to: Cameron Scott (013873 75100) or e-mail Cameron.scott2@borders.scot.nhs.uk

Closing date for applications 23rd April 2021

TO LET

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- Ashley Bank House
- The Old Post Office
- The Old Bakery, Well Close
- Garage & Studios, Lairds Entry
- BFA - expressions of interest at this stage

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Canonbie & District Community Council

The next community council meeting is on
Thursday 8th April 2021 at
7.00 pm via Skype.
Members of the public wishing to join the meeting should email
canonbieanddcc@gmail.com
before 12noon on the 7th April when arrangements can be made to enable them to join the meeting.

COMPLAINTS

ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE ADVERTISER COMPLAINTS

If you wish to make a complaint about anything in The Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser, please come into the office on Langholm High Street and speak to the editor, Rachel Norris.

Alternatively, please contact the Company Secretary by email – secretary@eladvertiser.co.uk or by writing to:-

The Company Secretary
Muckle Toon Media
Ashley Bank House
Langholm DG13 0AN

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WEDNESDAYS
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FRIDAYS
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Access through rear door

WORKSHOPS



ON-LINE EASTER WORKSHOP

In Association with
The Langholm Initiative
'Eskdale Textile Project.'

and Emma McLellan
(@cranewifetextiles)

Knit a Bunnet from Scratch for absolute beginners

The group sessions are on
Zoom
Tuesday 6th April 2pm
& Tuesday 13th April 4pm
and will be supported by
online video clips.

To register a place, please email
Judith@langholminitiative.co.uk
or call 0780 1413482

PUBLIC NOTICES

(C63A LANGSHAW-BARNGLIESHEAD) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) ORDER 2021

The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close the C63a near Solwaybank between the C64a at Kennedy's Corner and the C70a at Kerr from 22:00 to 06:00 nightly between 12/04/21 and 16/04/21. The closure is necessary to facilitate Scottish Water mains cleaning works. Alternative route available via C70a, B7065, B722, C64a and vice versa. Emergency access will be available if required. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

PLANNING

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 PlanningRepresentations@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 22.04.2021 (Type B).

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Reg 20(1) (A)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (B)

Ref No/Type Address/Proposal

21/0474/LBC(B) End Cottage, 26 Drove Road, Langholm -
Alterations to dwellinghouse including installation of 9 replacement windows and 2 external doors, removal of cement render and installation of lime based render and paint to external walls, removal of roof tiles, formation of 2 roof lights and installation of slate to rear extension roof and internal wall tanking

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Martin is Sky high after festival win



Jonjo O'Neill, Sky Pirate's trainer, and Nick Scholfield, jockey, pick up the trophy after their win for Martin Tedham at the Cheltenham Festival

Horseracing

A LANGHOLM-BORN man has described his first winner at the Cheltenham Festival as "unbelievable".

Martin Tedham, who runs his business from Swindon, watched his horse Sky Pirate land the Grade Three Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Handicap Chase.

Trainer Jonjo O'Neill's decision to miss the Sporting Life Arkle Novices' Chase on the previous day was vindicated after the eight year old held on from the fast-finishing Entoucas to score by a short-head.

Martin, chairman of Wasdell Group, told the E&L: "We're still living in the glory. To have a win at Cheltenham is unbelievable.

"I've had thirds and a fourth but to have a winner is great."

When they were presented with the trophy and Martin was told he would have to insure it for £70,000, he said: "Just take a few photos and we'll hand it back. I just need a few photos.

"Previously, the horse had been running over three and a half to four miles and his owners didn't want him because he wasn't winning so Jonjo asked me whether I would like to buy him because he was a really good horse.

Nothing but win

"We put him back to two miles and he's done nothing but win.

"We'll keep him now for next season and bring him out then to see whether he can win a few more at two miles.

"He's now rated at 160, which is very high, the highest-rated horse I've owned.

The next best one was 150 so he's up there with the top horses."

Martin added: "Jonjo is from Penrith and Carol, my late wife, always wanted to keep a horse with him so the dream has come true."

It was O'Neill's 27th festival winner and he praised jockey Nick Scholfield.

He said: "It was great and Nick gave him a fantastic ride. He likes it here. He stays further but he is much better in a fast gallop over two miles.

"A good gallop in a good handicap plays into his hands really. He travels away and does everything nicely.

"I thought that if he couldn't win this, he definitely couldn't win an Arkle.

"I thought it was a good run at Warwick when he was second behind Allmankind and the ground was a bit on the softer side.

"He likes the track here and the plan came right. He might have to take that step up to the next level. That's the bad news but who knows?

"He is in grand form and a grand, honest horse. He jumped really well.

"As Nick said, he was there probably a little bit too early but, when the gaps come here, there is no point waiting.

"A winner at Cheltenham is what we all come here for and, when it comes right, it is fantastic."

"Martin had never had a Cheltenham winner until this fellow won for him here earlier in the season so to have a festival winner is even better."

Scholfield, who had been out injured, added: "This is what it's all about and I'm very grateful to Mr Tedham and Jonjo for giving me the opportunity.

Kitty's Light shines for Tudor

Horseracing

TEENAGE jockey Jack Tudor landed the feature race on Kitty's Light at Kelso last Saturday.

It was the 18-year-old's first ride at the Borders' venue.

The Welsh raider came from last to first to secure the £35,000 Paxtons For Kverneland In The Borders handicap chase for Glamorgan trainer Christian Williams, who had never had a runner at the track before.

Tudor said: "It's a 700-mile round-trip but it's well worth it when you win a nice race.

"We gave him a spin in a hurdle race last time and he's enjoyed going back over fences.

"I've also ridden him to be third and fourth and in a couple of jumpers bumper and it's all come good today."

Tudor, who won the 2019 Welsh National aboard Potters Corner for Williams, added: "This horse is just a five-year-old and we think a lot of him. He's having his first season as a chaser and he's won four of his six races over fences."

Sandy Thomson and Ryan Mania struck with 5-1 chance Flower Of Scotland, the outsider of three in the mares' novices' chase.

The Berwickshire trainer said: "She's taken time to settle in after coming over from France. Ryan said she's not the biggest but she's got some spring in her.

"She stayed well and she loves this better ground which is key. I'd say the next target for her will be the listed mares' race at the Perth Festival in a few weeks."

Mania had earlier scored on Fourth Of July, who followed up his recent course and distance success for Ayrshire trainer Mike Smith.

The Scottish Champion Hurdle is on the agenda for Tommy's Oscar after he impressed in the valuable two-mile handicap hurdle.

Trained in Northumberland by Ann Hamilton, he's owned by her husband, Ian, who said: "That's the fourth race he's won for us and he was unlucky not to go close in the Morebattle Hurdle when he was badly hampered and lost 20 lengths.

"He's electric over his hurdles and will go chasing one day but, after this, we are looking at Ayr next month."

Hawick's Alistair Whillans took the opening handicap hurdle with Leostar, an all-the-way, eight-length scorer in the hands of Sean Quinlan.

Manager Barry hangs up his boots

Football

AFTER eight years at the helm and after much deliberation, Langholm Legion FC team manager Barry Henderson has decided to step away from his current role at the club.

This will truly be the end of an era after a successful seven-season spell in charge, along with John Reid.

The team gained two promotions, won a cup final and finished runner-up in another.

John is open to staying involved in the club and keen to help in any way and this is warmly welcomed.

Martin Thomlinson, chairman, said: "Since the club's formation, Barry has been an integral figure within the club, with only a brief spell away.

"His passion and commitment to all things "Legion" can be only admired and applauded.

"Hopefully, when the chance comes, everyone at the club can get together and give him the thanks and send-off he thoroughly deserves; a Langholm Legion legend, if ever there was one."

The club is currently taking stock of the situation and will assess all the options in looking to get a replacement ready for an anticipated league starting in the summer.

Any candidate(s) would need to be available and committed for training and match days each week once the current restrictions are lifted, have a knowledge of amateur football, good communication skills and an ability to work well with others.

A job share is something which would be considered if an individual felt it was too much to take on on their own.

The new manager(s) would inherit a youthful and keen playing squad allied with a number of older experienced heads, enjoy the backing of a small but strong committee, fantastic training and match facilities while the club's finances are in



a healthy position.

Anyone with an interest in the vacancy or a willingness to get involved with the club should

Langholm Legion Football Club

contact Martin on 07921 921789 for more information.

E&L SPORT

