Primary Sports Day

A PERFECT DAY FOR THE CHILDREN, THE STAFF AND ALL THE SUPPORTERS : PAGES 8 & 9

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Murtholm site masterplan recommended for adoption

Council agreement will pave way for 200 houses if applications approved

A foot and cycle bridge across the Esk will connect the Murtholm houses with Langholm

THE adoption of a masterplan to develop the Murtholm outside Langholm will pave the way for the construction of 200 houses.

Members of Dumfries and Galloway Council's economy and resources committee are being recommended to adopt the masterplan next Tuesday.

The move has been welcomed by Loreburn Housing Association which is developing the site and will include extra-care sheltered housing.

While the site is remote from the town, the plan includes the construction of a foot and cycle bridge to connect the new homes to the town.

A masterplan was required to be prepared for the site because of its scale.

Loreburn also had to do a transport assessment which, together with other technical and environmental studies, have informed the masterplan.

The report to members said: "The masterplan provides the principles for the site's development and will be a material consideration when determining subsequent planning applications for future phases."

Loreburn held talks with the council from April 2019 onwards. In attendance were Transport Scotland, which is responsible for the A7, and representatives from the council's development management and planning service, roads and strategic housing services.

>Turn to Page 2

Judith thrilled to win painted stones print

JUDITH Johnson of Langholm is thrilled to have won a fine art print, made to celebrate the painted stones which appeared around the town with uplifting messages during lockdown.

The print was designed by Lou Adie and Aga Pinczac of Caroline Street and framed by Philip Gunn of Art Corner Gallery.

The money raised from the raffle is being given to the Day Centre in recognition of its work during the pandemic.

Aga said: "The stones cheered us all up in the hard times of lockdown. We agreed they were too good to be forgotten about when we got back to normal."

The result was an astonishing album of hundreds of photos.

Aga and Lou were so taken by the massive scale of the informal street art and the sentiments of solidarity and community that they decided to make a collage record of their photos.

Once completed, they wondered whether other people might be interested in their stunning creation.

"We were amazed at how much interest there was," Aga told the E&L Advertiser.

Lou Adie (r) presents Judith Johnson with her framed print

As well as the original print, they ordered posters and Denis Male sponsored the initial print run.

Lou said lockdowns had increased isolation for seniors and, with government support for inclusion being scarce, it seemed a good place to put any money the collage made into looking after their elderly neighbours.

Gracie Robertson, nine, a P5 pupil made the first stones of support with images of the town's monument and a Stay Safe message and inspired the hundreds which followed.

Lou and Aga invited Gracie and sister, Lexie, to draw the raffle and congratulated Judith on her win.

Posters have sold out but a reprint is underway and plans are being drawn up for T-shirts, calendars and tea towels.

Details from Louaga Pinczadie on Facebook

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Deaths

SMITH

On the 2nd June 2021 at 3pm, a light went out in 3 Whitaside, Jean Knox Smith née Graham, died in the arms of her loving family.
Funeral private due to current circumstances.
If you wish to show your respect the cortege will be moving down the High Street on Thursday 10th June at 12.20pm

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and charitable trusts and individuals from the community of Langholm.
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LEADER DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

100,000 doses

Major vaccination milestone reached

A MAJOR milestone has been reached in Dumfries and Galloway's COVID-19 immunisation programme.

More than 100,000 first-dose vaccinations have been given.

The programme is now powering on with the younger cohorts aged under 40 who, in line with national directions, are being given the Pfizer vaccine.

But, against the backdrop of increasing cases as lockdown eases, a call continues to be made for anyone aged over 40, who has not yet received their first COVID-19 vaccination, to call a new phone line and arrange an appointment.

Graeme Bryson, NHS Dumfries & Galloway director of pharmacy, said: "We've now reached a very significant milestone in our immunisation programme.

"Careful management of vaccine stocks and incredible work by our vaccination teams have resulted in first doses for 102,322 people, or 81.8 per cent of the adult population aged 18 plus.

"The average in Scotland is 76.5 per cent.

"Meanwhile, we've powered on with second-dose vaccinations to stand at 80,521.

"This means 64.8 per cent of people aged 18 plus have received both jags. The national average is 51.4 per cent.

"As we move into the final adult cohorts and give those under 40 a Pfizer vaccine in line with national directions, it's really important that everyone takes up the opportunity to be vaccinated.

"Everyone aged 18 to 29 still has until tomorrow to register online at nhsinform.scot/under30register

"By doing so, they will be among the first in their age group to be vaccinated and will be notified of their appointment by text or email.

The number of vaccinations given in Dumfries and Galloway is ahead of the national average and 18 to 29 year olds are being urged to make their appointments

"It's really important that everyone in the remaining younger age groups takes up the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Freedoms

"COVID-19 can seriously affect younger people, too, but we really need everyone to help stop the spread of the virus in our communities, protecting those most vulnerable, businesses and employers and securing the freedoms we've all worked so hard to regain.

"We're also calling for people aged 40 plus who have not yet received their first vaccination to call the helpline and arrange to be vaccinated.

"We have spaces allocated at clinics around the region for anyone over 40 still to receive their first vaccination.

"So, if you're in that position, please phone 01387 403090 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, or email dg.covidenquiries@nhs.scot

"We're still on course to complete scheduled, first-dose vaccinations for those aged 30 to 39 by the end of the third week of June and to have completed all scheduled adult first dose vaccinations by the end of July."

Commenting on the news that Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders dropped to Level 1 restrictions, Colin Smyth, South Scotland MSP, said: "We have now been living in the shadow of COVID-19 for more than a year, so the news that restrictions were being eased further was welcomed by many.

"We must not forget that, until we are all vaccinated, the virus is still out there and we must take precautions to keep ourselves and our communities safe.

"Moving to Level 1 will mean more normality but, with talk of a third wave, we must remain vigilant.

"Also, while the pandemic is first and foremost a health crisis, it is also a terrible economic crisis which will continue for a long time to come.

"The UK and Scottish governments need to get their act together and ensure support is in place to get firms through the coming months."

Planning applications ready

> From Page 1

The first masterplan and supporting technical documents were submitted to the council in August 2020.

Consultation was undertaken, including with Transport Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland and the council's roads department, archaeologist, flood risk management team, contaminated land officer, access officer, sustainable travel officer and strategic housing.

After comments from all consultees and an informal response from officers in October 2020, which advised the masterplan was insufficient, another meeting was held in December 2020.

An updated masterplan and supporting information on specific subject matters was submitted in January followed by another plan in February which councillors are now asked to adopt.

The report added: "A pre-application consultation has been carried out to ensure the masterplan reflects the vision and aspiration of all key stakeholders.

"More public engagement and community consultation will be carried out at the detailed planning application stage.

"The masterplan will contribute to economic recovery in the area post-COVID-19 and allow development to proceed for private and affordable housing.

"Some of the units will be extra-care houses. Loreburn has worked with the adult health and social care partnership to provide homes for people with particular needs."

Permissions

Graham Robertson, Loreburn's head of development, told the E&L Advertiser: "The masterplan is the first step in terms of getting the permissions we need to start on site.

"The council is being asked to adopt the principle of the development and all the bits which go with it, like the bridge, the open spaces and where the homes will be. It's not consent to crack on.

"We're about to submit detailed planning applications for the first phase which is the extra-care housing, along with a separate application for the bridge. They're sitting with the council at the moment.

"We're all of the opinion that the masterplan will be signed off and the applications are sitting there, ready to go."

Mr Robertson said Loreburn had hoped to start on upgrading the road at the start of the year but it had been delayed.

Start

It had to be done before they could go on site but the contractor was ready to start.

Murtholm had been earmarked for housing in the council's local development plan for some years so this development would not come as a surprise.

£92m to save region's pandemic-hit economy

Dumfries and Galloway Council will continue to aid recovery

THE economic impact of COVID-19 has had a disproportionate effect on younger age groups, women and some localities with particular types of employment, says a leading councillor.

Councillor Archie Dryburgh was commenting on a report to the economy and resources committee, of which he is vice-chairman.

The report focuses on work by the council to mitigate the impact from the economic and trading restrictions and on the economic recovery plan.

Next week's committee meeting will hear that during the pandemic and including the business rates-linked property grants distributed in response to the first lockdown restrictions, which totalled £42.948, the council has distributed almost £92m to businesses to date.

The report also gives an update on the progress of the Economic Recovery Plan 2020-2023 and the business support funding provided by the Scottish government for allocation by the council, together with a final update on the delivery of the discretionary fund.

Recovery

Members are asked to agree to ask the finance transformation committee to consider allocating COVID-19 support funds of up to £200,000 to support town centre business recovery.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the economy and the challenge now for the council and its partners is to support long-term recovery.

As well as the government's sector-by-sector support and the strategic framework fund linked to the tier levels, extra funding was given to councils.

Archie Dryburgh, economy and resources committee vice-chairman, says new funds to support recovery will come on stream

The purpose was to give more support to businesses where individual local authorities considered this necessary or justified, subject to guidelines from the government.

Dumfries and Galloway's share of this fund was £3.8m.

Its discretionary fund opened on February 16 and closed on March 15.

A total of 1,052 applications were received, of which 600 were approved. After an appeals processes, £3,893 was paid to businesses which met the eligibility criteria.

Mr Dryburgh said: "The allocation of almost £92m is a fantastic piece of work.

"The model of national funding with local delivery has worked well during the pandemic response and is likely to continue as new funds to support longer-term structural economic recovery come on stream.

"Early signs are that the economic impact is likely to be unequal, with a disproportionate effect on younger age groups, women and some localities where employment in hardest-hit sectors such as retail, hospitality and leisure is more prevalent."

Producers market

THE Muckle Toon Producers Market has folded after the committee decided it could not continue.

In December 2019 the organisers stepped down but agreed to continue until someone took over. They did this until the final market in March 2020.

Jim Robertson, chairman, said: "Last week we met to discuss the market's future. Given the uncertainties of the restrictions, which may be put in place for it to continue, we have decided not to start up again.

"As stated in the agreement when we started the market, surplus money in the account would go back into the town.

"We have chosen to divide the money between Langholm Day Centre for all the hard work they've done during the pandemic and the Thomas Hope League Of Friends.

"I would like to say a massive thank you for all your support over the years.

"It's been an incredible journey from start to finish and we've all enjoyed being a part of this.

"A special thanks to Janice who has been present from the very beginning and was very much the face of the market and the go-to person. She, along with her sister, Dorothy, made the market a very special place for producers, crafters and the public."

Canonbie pupils bag it and bin it to help the environment

Oliver and David Mundell help Canonbie pupils to bag it and bin it

PUPILS at Canonbie Primary School have been actively supporting the Great British Spring Clean and Keep Scotland Beautiful's Summer Clean efforts.

The youngsters have been out and about in the surrounding area with their teachers carefully picking and bagging litter.

One group was joined by constituency MSP Oliver Mundell and his father, David, Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale MP, as they gathered discarded rubbish from the scenic banks of the River Esk.

The politicians praised the effort, applauding the eagle-eyed children for spotting even the smallest of items among the stones.

Oliver Mundell, who is Scottish Conservatives' shadow cabinet secretary for education, said: "The pupils are setting an excellent example.

"Discarded litter is not only an eyesore but also potentially dangerous to wildlife and pets."

David added: "It never ceases to surprise me why anyone would throw away rubbish when they can take it home and, perhaps, even recycle. The sides of some of our roads are a disgrace."

Both had warm words for growing community efforts in their constituencies to clean up rubbish.

The volunteers were conveying a positive image to visitors as the tourism season reopened after lengthy lockdowns.

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Memories of Joe's shop

A BLAST from the past was uncovered during renovation works at a long-established business premises in Langholm last week.

Lisa Rothwell-Young, a jeweller, bought the shop in Henry Street, formerly owned by grocer John Ritchie.

The shop is being gutted and fully refurbished and Lisa is having a new sign painted by artist Katie Anderson.

Katie was sanding down the wood in preparation for painting when she discovered, underneath, a sign for Joseph Martin.

Joe owned the corner shop many decades ago and Arthur Elliot, now 85, of Academy Place, remembers going there as a schoolboy during and after the war. He left school in 1951.

He said: "I remember Joe. He had a nickname "Hungry Joe" but I don't know how he came by it.

"The lads, who came to school from the country and couldn't go home at dinnertime, queued up outside his shop. There was no dining hall in the school.

"There were quite a few corner shops in those days but Joe would command quite a lot of customers.

"He would make quite a bit of money out of those schoolkids.

"He sold all sorts and if you went in with a halfpenny, you'd always be able to buy something."

Katie's specially-commissioned sound and sculptural installation The Call was a highly-intriguing addition to the Spring Fling Spring Fling Pop Up at Mill on the Fleet, Gatehouse and Dumfries.

It featured two performers with large, sculptural speakers and listening devices.

They moved around, playing an original contemporary composition created from recordings of people singing the chorus of Scots song Ca' the Yowes.

The song, thought to have been from a poem by Ayrshire's Isabel Pagan, has been popularised at different times by figures such as Robert Burns and Dougie MacLean.

Lisa, who took part in Spring Fling, is vice-chairperson of organiser Upland.

She hopes to have her new shop and workshop open by the end of July.

Above: Katie Anderson, artist, discovered the original sign above the shop

Right: Joe Martin's shop in its former glory
Photo courtesy of Langholm Archives

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

Slow down, you move too fast

I SEE that drivers through Langholm have, not before time, been reminded by a speed-detecting flashing indicator at the A7's junction with Glenesk Road that they are entering the High Street of a town built in the days of horse and cart with pavement widths to match.

But, judging by the accelerating demands of new legislation to meet the pressing exigencies of carbon emissions and air pollution, much more will soon be necessary.

The COP26 world climate change conference convenes in Glasgow in six months' time, said to be the last chance to avert catastrophe, yet the city does not even meet World Health Organisation air pollution limits.

One of the city's bus companies is going all-electric within two years and no new fuelled vehicles can be sold in the UK after 2030.

Clean air zones are being introduced in Birmingham and other cities and towns this month, with the most polluting being charged to enter.

It would be enlightening to know Langholm's pollution level, given its situation on the Carlisle to Edinburgh trunk road, but it probably needs more to fix than some electric charging points on the Kilngreen.

As recorded in the E&L Advertiser's Times Past archive column from 75 years ago (May 27), an American GI, one Lewis Schumacher, of Los Angeles, California, wrote an open letter to the "dear people of Langholm" expressing his appreciation of "the most restful and peaceful spot that I have ever had the pleasure to visit".

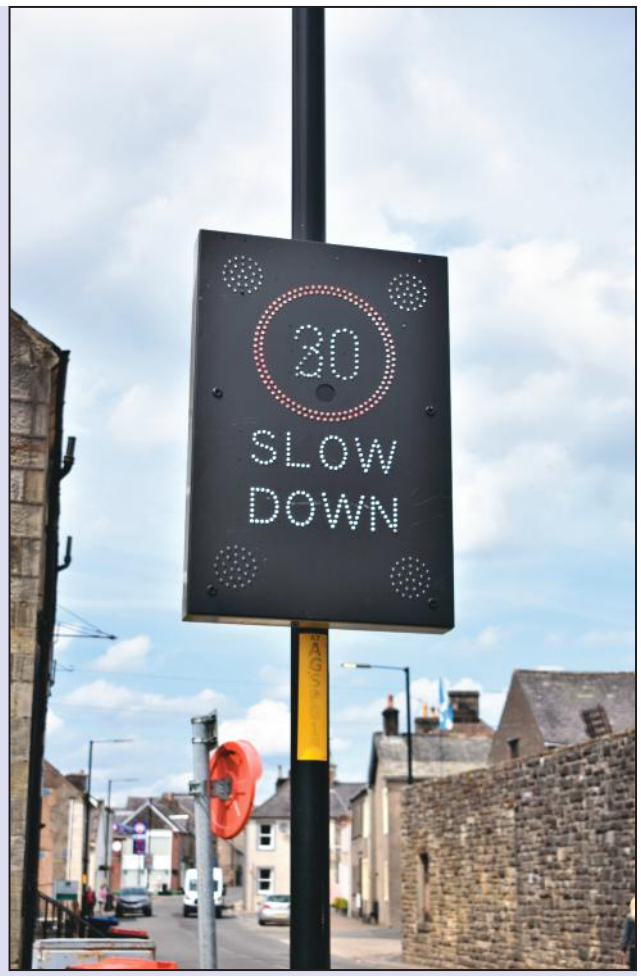
He added: "Your Langholm, which is called The Gates of Eden, in our country we would call Out of this World".

Although, strictly speaking, the Gates are a view two miles up the B709 to Westerkirk, the town then was a lot more "restful and peaceful" than today.

Despite its thriving textile mills, car ownership was mainly for the well-off and a railway station to Carlisle, Edinburgh and all points in between still existed.

There is a campaign to restore the line but, given the protraction of such ventures, even with Boris Johnson's "levelling up" of the north, who expects to live to see it?

In all events, I sense the government is, at last, aware that something has to be done about the tyranny of traffic over our lives so we may allow ourselves to look forward to some approximation of "the peaceful and restful" border town of yore.



The new flashing slow down sign at the Townfoot junction

Richard Lennox
Henry Street
Langholm

Celebration of Bob's artistry

WELCOME to Langholm hopes shortly to host a retrospective celebration of the artwork of Bob McLure.

I know there will be many people in Langholm and district who are proud owners of Bob's work.

Please could I make this appeal for a loan of your paintings for a month, from Monday, June 21 until Thursday, July 15.

Pictures can be dropped off at Welcome to Langholm from Monday, June 14 from 10am to 2pm.

Let me stress the pictures are for show, not sale, and any donations received in the course of the exhibition will go to Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Bob was a multi-talented man who we all miss greatly.

Margaret Pool
Langholm

Multi-talented artist and much-missed frienf Bob McLure

Fiona launches snap a Selfie with a Beltie

Langholm's colourful cow will be on the Kilngreen for photos

SNAP a "Selfie with a Beltie" this weekend and help put Langholm and Eskdale on the tourist map.

A multi-coloured life-sized Belted Galloway, dressed in Armstrong tartan, will appear on the Kilngreen by this weekend as part of the region's role as host of the Royal Highland Showcase.

The event is being held in partnership with the Royal Bank of Scotland and runs from June 14 to 20.

In total, 12 Belties are being installed around the region, with an invitation for visitors and locals to snap a "Selfie with a Beltie".

The cut-out cows, created from sustainable materials, are intended to highlight some of the best which south-west Scotland offers in food, drink, leisure, culture, society and tourism.

Among them are one covered in hearts for Gretna Green, one decorated with book covers in Wigtown and one with scallop shells for Kirkcudbright.

The project is part of a series of bright, bold arts initiatives, designed to make the most of Dumfries and Galloway's role as the show's host.

It replaces the annual Royal Highland Show at the Ingliston Showground near Edinburgh and, while it is being held behind closed doors, it will be live-streamed for free.

Symbol

A different region of Scotland is invited to act as host each year, giving it a chance to highlight its rural economy.

The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) honorary president is broadcaster and Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries, Fiona Armstrong.

"We can't bring the public to the showground so we're taking Dumfries and Galloway to the world and there's no better-loved symbol than our Belties.

"These colourful cut-outs will put the focus on some of the brilliant things our region offers from chocolate and ice cream from our dairy herds, scallops from the sea, mountain biking and kayaking in the hills and lochs to romance at Gretna Green and the bookshops of Wigtown.

Fiona Armstrong and friends with the colourful Belties
Photo by Colin Hattersley

"As restrictions ease in the months and years ahead, we hope people will enjoy posting pictures of themselves with our Belties, and even travelling around to snap the whole herd."

The Belties were created and distributed by Alba Printers of Dumfries, with design input from students and Dumfries and Galloway College.

One, the Camouflage Beltie, will be at Ingliston during the Showcase as part of the Veterans' Garden initiative.

Langholm

This involves former military personnel creating a colourful flower garden and a portable display at the showground.

After the event, it will go to the Veterans' Garden in Dumfries, which has a children's play area.

The Belties and their themes are at: Stranraer, Galloway tartan; Wigtown, books; Kirroughtree, Newton Stewart, mountain bikes; Gatehouse of Fleet, ice cream; Kirkcudbright, scallop shells; Twynholm, chocolate; Parton, kayaks; DGRI Dumfries, rainbow; Moffat, hills and walking; Gretna Green, hearts; Langholm, Armstrong tartan; Ingliston Veterans' Garden, later in Dumfries, camouflage.

IN BRIEF

Activity sessions

A FREE programme of exercise for people who have had or are having treatment for cancer has been launched.

Move More Dumfries and Galloway is a physical activity programme enabling people affected by cancer to stay active.

Being active is known to improve physical and emotional cancer outcomes and can reduce feelings of isolation.

However, many people affected by cancer feel nervous about building activity levels.

Move More is a programme of activity specifically designed for people affected by cancer but is also suitable for those with a long-term condition.

From gentle movement classes and low-impact exercise to low-impact gym instruction and walking there is something for everyone. All the activities are free for 12 sessions for people affected by cancer. Normal charges will apply after this free programme is finished.

Some charges apply for people with a long-term condition.

For more information go to dg.aande-community-link@nhs.scot or ring Annandale and Eskdale health improvement team on 01461 204741.

Plants sale raises £400

Catherine Lithgow tries her sales pitch on Patricia Stirrup-Jones, Maureen Brown and Anne Harvey

GREENBANK Court residents in Langholm held their annual plant sale in the car park last Saturday afternoon and raised an impressive £432.

The funds will be spent on taking the 13 residents out and about during the year.

Many thanks go to everyone who went along and to those who donated plants and pots.

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Film unearths mental health

UNEARTHING Farming Lives is a new film examining some of the most common causes of mental health problems and their potential solutions in the farming and wider agricultural community.

The film has been directed and released by Pink Sphynx Media.

It is the brainchild of several organisations in north-east Scotland, including NFU Scotland, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeenshire Council and Samaritans.

Martin Kennedy, NFUS president, will chair the panel at the launch of Unearthing Farming Lives

The film highlights the hidden mental health issues in the agricultural industry to a wide-ranging audience, including fellow farmers and their staff, the broader agricultural supply sector, educational establishments and politicians.

It is launched next Wednesday at 7pm on Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__MckzyxB-Smqmxba1lO-s9g.

Martin Kennedy, NFUS president, chairs the event which will be followed by a Q&A panel session.

Panel members include north-east farmers Kevin Gilbert and Tom Johnston; Elaine Mottram, deputy regional director for Samaritans Scotland; Stephanie Morrison, lecturer in public health at Robert Gordon University; Sheila Waterhouse, Aberdeenshire Council's cultural development officer; Erin Smith, founder of Pink Sphynx Media; and Lorna Paterson, NFU Scotland north-east regional manager.

Alan Simpson, north-east regional chairperson, said: "I'm well aware of how much time, effort and energy has been invested by my fellow farmers Kevin Gilbert and Tom Johnston, among others, who have helped create this production.

"The panel members are top drawer and the Q&A session will allow everyone to share their opinions and stories.

"This will enable us to better communicate these important messages to press colleagues, policy makers, politicians and anyone else who genuinely wants to help address this increasingly serious situation."

Lorna Paterson, the union's north-east regional manager, added: "Mental health is just like physical health.

"We can all struggle with ailments and pain. However, most of us find it difficult to admit when our mental health is suffering.

"This film can really help drive change and allow everyone, including young people, to see that it is normal to have low moods sometimes and it is brave to admit this and seek help."

Campaign inspires link with the land

MyLand.scot will connect people with the land around them so they can benefit from its fair use

THE Scottish Land Commission has launched new campaign, centred on a new content hub, MyLand.scot.

It connects people to the land around them, using inspiring stories to show how Scotland's land is owned, used and managed and its impact on people.

MyLand.scot will connect the public with land and how it affects everyday life, from employment to empowering communities and how it can affect house prices.

The campaign will inspire residents, particularly those in urban Scotland, to participate in land-related conversations, ensuring land is used fairly and productively.

MyLand.scot is also a place where residents can find relevant information and resources.

Hamish Trench, chief executive of the commission, said: "The way we own and use land influences many parts of our everyday lives.

"From the price and availability of housing, access to green space, the effects of derelict sites in the heart of our communities and our ability to take climate action to giving people the means and confidence to build businesses and communities.

"MyLand shines a light on communities taking an interest in the land around them so it benefits everybody.

"We hope these stories inspire people to have a look at the land around them and stir interest to take action, helping to create a Scotland where everybody benefits from the ownership, management and use of the nation's land."

The commission is driving a programme of land reform spanning both urban and rural land, ensuring it is owned and used in a fair, responsible and productive way.

MyLand's campaign highlights various stories of people coming together to use land to benefit the community and combat social inequalities, loneliness, and lack of facilities, to name a few, in the hope these stories will inspire more to follow suit, get involved with land and take action in their communities.

The commission wants people to think about the land around them, how they value it, what it is used for and how it can be used for the greater good.

As part of the campaign, the commission will launch a podcast, The Lay of the Land, hosted by filmmaker and broadcaster Calum Maclean.

Calum Maclean is best known for his work on BBC's The Social and BBC Alba series Dhan Uisge, which shared some of Scotland's hidden outdoor swimming spots.

This new podcast explores what land means to the people of Scotland from the way it is used and owned and how those decisions are made to the reuse of derelict sites and the wonderful transformations which have happened in communities.

Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts had another large entry of ewes and hoggs with lambs at foot on Tuesday, June 1.

A very keen enquiry with new customers again flocking to Longtown. The sale topped for a monster of a Texel x hogg with a single lamb from Messrs Slaven, Foregirth at £130, with Quarry House & High Wood being hot on their heels at £128.

Ewes with single lamb: Texel £94 Belsay, £86 Brewery House Barn, £86 Longrigg, £81 Pilmuir. Mule £94 Moss Side. Ewes with twin lambs: Mule £94 & £85 & £84 Moss Side, £85 Brewery House Barn. North Country Cheviot £94 Longrigg. Texel £92 Quarry House. Charollais £83 Moss Side. Cheviot £69 Cooms, £65 Girnwood. Blackface £61 Morven. Shearlings with single lamb: Mule £85 East Farm. Hoggs with single lamb: Texel £130 Foregirth, £128 Quarry House, £128 & £120 High Wood £120 & £118 & £117 & £116 East Farm. Cheviot Mule £114 & £98 Douglas Hall. Mule £104 & £102 & £101 St John's Kirk, £103 & £100 Seat Hill. Suffolk £110 Douglas Hall.

The mart had forward 4,729 sheep comprising 1,363 prime hoggs, 1,040 spring lambs and 2,326 cast ewes and rams at the weekly sale on Thursday, June 3.

Cast cows were all native bred with quality scarce. The sale topped at 113p for a Galloway shown by S Busby, Unthank, Langholm. More numbers are needed weekly to fulfil demand.

A larger show of 1,040 new season spring lambs. A super show of lambs forward to an increased ring of very competitive buyers, ensuring all classes were on fire. Heavy lambs proved the trade of the day, with many pens surpassing £175. Heavy lambs, best Beltex export and best Beltex small lambs are in massive demand.

Top price per kilo of 395p for Texel lambs shown by KJ & CS Wilson, Wood Farm, Thursby and for Charollais lambs from AJ Stott, Shaw Head, Longtown. Top per head of £197 for Suffolk lambs from J Watson & Co, Bowsden Moor, Berwick Upon Tweed. Overall average 345.3p (SQQ 345.8p)

NSL in numbers are needed weekly to satisfy increased purchaser enquiries.

Principal prices (per kilo): Texel 395p Wood Farm, 393p Fingland, 385p Burnside, 382p Fineview, 381p Shawhill, 380p Wood Farm. Charollais 395p Shaw Head. Beltex 387p Frankstown. Suffolk 376p Kilnford Croft, 366p Wood Farm, 364p Frankstown, 362p Grindon Hill, 361p Shaw Head, Drumburn & The Land, 360p Wood Farm, Bowsden Moor & Guardsmill.

A smaller show of 1,363 prime hoggs was forward. Good meat and heavy hoggs proved good to sell, being dearer on the week. Leaner store hoggs were difficult to cash.

Topping the sale per kilo at 315p was a pen of Texel hoggs shown by A Clark & Son, West Glengyre, Leswalt. Top price per head was £182 for Texel hoggs from J Hope, Orthwaite Hall, Wigton. Overall sale average 240.5p (SQQ 238.2p).

Principal price (per head): Texel £182 Orthwaite Hall, £172 Mainside, £168 Kinning Hall, £162 Larkhall, £161 West Glengyre, £160 Pasturewood & Riggshield. Suffolk £168 Syke Head, Kinning Hall & Fearn, £157 Broomhills, £156 Culquhasen, £152 Outertown. Cheviot £162 Thirstane Cottage, £154 Cossarhill. Lleyn £158, £148 Marygate. Beltex £146 West Glengyre. Blackface £140 Hyde Park

A similar show of 2,326 ewes was forward. All classes in massive demand and more weekly to satisfy a growing customer base.

Heavy ewes topped at £212 for Texel ewes consigned by A Miller & Sons, Aimster, Thurso, with several penfuls of ewes breaking £200.

Mules were a lighter show, selling to the same high rates, topping at £125 for a penful of Scotch-bred mules consigned by Kirranrae farms, Wigtownshire.

Hill ewes topped at £120 for Cheviot ewes from J Anderson & Son, Priesthaugh, Hawick and from R I Cameron, Borlum Farmhouse, Fort Angustus. Rams in massive demand, topping at £205 for Texels from Marygate.

Averages. Lambs: light to 341p (327.6p); standard to 381p (344.1p); medium to 395p (347.5p); heavy to 387p (342.8p); overweight to 352p (328.1p). Hoggs: light to 231p (204.6p); standard to 272p (232.7p); medium to 288p (251.9p); heavy to 315p (248.9p); shearlings to 288p (220.7p). Ewes: light to £120 (£76.34); heavy to £208 (£123.20). Rams £212 (£135.07).

A warm welcome to D&G's staycationers

Staff and volunteer visitor and town centre ambassadors ready

A GREAT welcome is being given to a growing number of 'staycationers' to Dumfries and Galloway this summer.

With its rolling hills and beautiful coastlines, who can blame them for heading into the region in 2021?

People, who have lived under COVID-19 restrictions for many months, will be encouraged to both visit for the day and stay a little longer if possible and they will be very welcome.

To give a warm and personal welcome, Dumfries and Galloway Council plans to have more staff and volunteer visitor and town centre ambassadors who will be out and about in all locations.

Staff from council services, partner organisations and volunteers will be able to answer questions and signpost people to attractions.

Volunteers are appreciated at any time of the year and, being Volunteers' Week last week, the council thanked them once again for all their hard work and the time they give to others.

Councillor Elaine Murray, leader, and councillor Rob Davidson, depute leader, met volunteers and staff at Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre to thank them for all the hard work they are doing to get the region ready for visitors this summer.

Start here

To prepare for welcoming back visitors, the council is working with Scotland Starts Here https://scotlandstartshere.com/ to promote the region and encourage responsible tourism.

It's asking people to protect and respect but, ultimately, enjoy the natural environment and do some shopping to boost the economy.

Visitors and communities are already seeing a selection of posters with images of spectacular countryside which promote a number of messages and signposting information in all parts of the region.

Councillors Elaine Murray and Rob Davidson promote Dumfries and Galloway but ask visitors to respect and protect the countryside

The information in them has come from community conversations around the region to establish what people saw as the positives and challenges from visitors coming back.

These posters are available for free on the council's website for businesses and communities to download and print for displays in shops and other outlets in their towns.

Dr Murray said: "It's great to see visitors returning after the lockdowns.

"We ask that visitors respect our countryside and communities but, with our volunteer and staff visitor ambassadors, they are ensured a warm welcome.

"We hope this will enable enjoyable and safe visits and encourage tourists to return in the future."

Mr Davidson added: "Tourism is very important to our economy and, with our beautiful rural landscape and interesting high streets, it is an ideal destination for 'staycationers'.

"Our visitor ambassadors will provide a friendly face with good local knowledge and I thank our volunteers for giving us their time to say 'Welcome back everyone'."

Information is on the council's social media channels and at https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/22333/Visit-Dumfries-and-Galloway

Dumfries & Galloway Council

IN BRIEF

Inspiring graduates

NINE graduate places will be advertised in Dumfries and Galloway as part of a scheme run by the council.

Under the INSPIRE Graduate programme, there will be five graduate places at the council and four places for organisations outwith the local authority.

Graduates will work, learn and grow in the new scheme to spot talent and future-proof the workforces of the council and businesses.

Successful candidates will have roles in the council's response, renew and recover team and there will be four external regional placements.

The funding criteria mean this fantastic opportunity is available to those aged 16 to 25 (or 29 if they are a care-experienced young person).

Councillor Archie Dryburgh, economy and infrastructure committee chairman, said: "The project team, who developed the INSPIRE project, is looking at ways we can work through the recruitment process in a timeous and technologically-friendly way, like online interviews and different ways to engage with candidates."

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Fun and games at Primary School Sports Day

LANGHOLM primary school sports day, held on the 3G pitch last week, was enjoyed under blue skies and warm, sunny weather.

It was a perfect day for the children, the staff and all the supporters who cheered on their teams and friends.

There was a variety of races, with the sessions split into P1 to P4 and P5 to P7.

It was a great way for the children and the teachers to let down their hair and have some fun outdoors after such a difficult year for everyone.

And they certainly made the most of it, taking part in all the traditional races such as running, egg and spoon, bean bag, relays and lots of hopping, skipping and jumping.

The staff are busy working on the results and the E&L Advertiser plans to publish them as soon as we get them.

In the meantime, enjoy the photos.

Finlay Yarrow and James Bell in the P1 egg and spoon race

P1 pupil Levi MacDowall

Ciara McKinnel and Brooke McPake enjoy the running races on sports day

P5 pupils Isla Davidson, Lauren Davidson, Holly Irving and Mollie Phillips

Liam MacMillan and Joss Skelton in a fight to the tape

P1 pupil Junior Finlayson gets some encouragement in the bean bag race

P1 pupil Oliver Davidson has fun on the sports field

The boys battle it out on the running track

Emilia Graham shows her skills in the hockey dribble

IN BRIEF

Funding for projects

THE Langholm Alliance has offered to help community organisations to access small grants of up to £1,000 from Annandale and Eskdale area committee.

The grants support projects and initiatives associated with Christmas festivities, sport, armed forces and commemoration, public environment and infrastructure, music and creative arts, including community bands, community resilience, along with projects promoting heritage, culture and community spirit.

If this is of interest, contact the alliance on its Facebook page or email kerry@langholm-alliance.co.uk or nicol@langholm-alliance.co.uk for any help needed with submitting applications.

www.dumgal.gov.uk/AreaCommitteeFunding

If any group wants to express an interest in any of the allocations, they can complete the appropriate expression of interest form and return it to Grant Applications@dumgal.gov.uk by the stated deadline.

The area committee's discretionary budget is allocated to key civic and community initiatives.

Build back better fund

SCOTTISH Borders Council's Build Back a Better Borders recovery fund has opened for applications

The one-off £500,000 fund has been established as part of the response and recovery efforts relating to the pandemic.

The objective is to support initiatives, projects or events which will reboot or kick start activities relating to sport, culture, volunteering and tackling environment and climate change issues to strengthen community capacity, resilience and engagement.

It will also support events and projects looking to recognise the significant contribution made by individuals and groups during the pandemic by way of more volunteer activity and service to their communities.

The fund is open until May 31 2022 and available to constituted groups (maximum £15,000) and non-constituted groups (maximum £5,000 with payment through an umbrella body).

www.scotborders.gov.uk/bbbbrecoveryfund

April's Arctic blast shows nature's true resilience

Gardening columnist Helen Knowles marvels at plant-power

THE resilience of the natural world never ceases to amaze me.

After such bitterly cold weather in April and a very chilly May, the plants in the garden have burst into growth during the past couple of weeks; including some which were badly damaged by April's Arctic blast, and the garden is now full of colour and life.

The Lamprocapnos spectabilis or Bleeding Hearts (formerly Dicentra), which were reduced to soggy mush by the hard frosts, have recovered and are now showing off arching stems of dangling flowers.

The pure white form is stunning and brightens up a shady corner but I also love Valentine with its red-purple flushed foliage and warm red flowers.

Other plants, which have bounced back, are the Astilbes. The scorched foliage has been replaced by fresh, new growth which in many varieties is tinted red and bronze, making them very useful plants in the garden, even when they are not in flower.

There have been casualties and, while I hope the Buddleia globosa will still come back to life, it's looking doubtful.

All the top growth is most definitely dead so I'll cut that back but leave the roots because there is still a chance they may be alive and will produce some new shoots during the summer.

It was always borderline here but I was growing it in a sheltered spot but the endless frosts of April were maybe too much for it.

Another plant, which has given up, is the Clematis armandii which I was trying for the third time.

I will now admit defeat with that one and find another variety of clematis to plant in its place.

I had it growing among a white climbing rose so maybe a summer flowering variety of clematis with a contrasting colour would work well.

Clematis 'Etoile Violette' has rich purple-red flowers and is in pruning group 3 so needs to be cut back to about 30cm above ground in late winter, this will ensure a really good show of flowers.

On the plus side it looks as though we should be in for a bumper crop of apples this year.

They are flowering so much later than usual and should be pretty safe from frosts as a result.

We're very lucky and have the space to grow a range of fruit trees but having a small garden or just space for pots needn't stop you from growing your own fruit.

Rootstocks

Trees grown on dwarf or miniature rootstocks are ideal for a small garden; growing in a large container on a patio, in a mixed border or in the lawn and include apple, pear, plum, gage, damson and cherry.

Specialist fruit tree nurseries will have a good choice of rootstocks to ensure you get a tree of the right size for the space you have.

Once you have your tree, the bees will take care of the pollination and you can enjoy the result of their hard work.

We all know how important bees are as pollinators and this spring has really shown me how effective they are.

I grow a couple of apricots and a nectarine under glass and they usually flower before there are any bees about so I have to hand pollinate the trees using a brush, a rather laborious and repetitive task I'm not all that good at because it requires much patience.

We usually get a few nectarines but not many apricots.

This year is different, though. The bumblebees had been brought out by the early warm weather (a distant memory but it did happen) and found their way into the greenhouse where they spent several happy days buzzing about in the blossom.

The difference is quite incredible; the trees are laden with fruit this year, thanks to the bumblebees.

I just hope there are some about when the trees bloom next spring because they do a much better job than me.

Apple Blossom

Clematis Montana

Lamprocapnos spectabilis (Bleeding Heart) in white and red varieties

New hub will bridge area's digital skill gap

Southern Scotland's two colleges will provide real career routes

A NEW hub to promote digital skills has been announced by southern Scotland's two colleges.

Dumfries and Galloway College and Borders College are set to collaborate to build the Digital Skills Hub, which is set to be launched in early 2022.

The initiative will drive efforts to eradicate digital exclusion, create a powerhouse of digital skills and ensure employers and other stakeholders have a wealth of experience, expertise and training from which to draw upon in the future.

The Hub will also focus on upskilling and retraining people through increased digital capacity, learning, and training.

Moreover, the hub will seek to bridge the existing digital skills gap and provide real routes into fulfilling and exciting careers in technology for students in the digital curriculum.

To ensure maximum collaboration, both colleges are calling on people to get in touch at https://www.digiskillscotland.com

The colleges are committed to curating and promoting digital skills and working together to achieve this.

Joanna Campbell, Dumfries and Galloway College principal, said: "We're thrilled to work with our valued colleagues, friends and partners at Borders College to promote our hub.

Joanna Campbell shows John Swinney, deputy first minister, around the Digital Skills Hub when it was launched last year

"The area has the potential to be a beacon of digital skills for Scotland and the UK and we're committed to helping our beautiful region become exactly that.

"I look forward immensely to working with all stakeholders as we build our hub and seeing the positive results I'm sure will flow from it."

Angela Cox, Borders College principal, added: "Our exciting collaboration should have a transformative impact on closing the digital skills gap identified by business and industry.

"To fulfil the hub's true potential, we also seek to actively involve and work with our community in southern Scotland.

"Together, we can make it happen. Please join our conversation today and get in touch."

Dumfries and Galloway College has also launched its Green Skills Academy.

The programme brings together existing courses with an exciting selection of new learning opportunities, themed on sustainability and green technology to upskill students to work on the renewable energy systems of tomorrow and help achieve net zero.

The college was recognised as the UK and Ireland's sustainability institution of the year in 2020 at the Green Gown Awards 2021.

Building on this success, the Green Skills Academy includes opportunities at both the Stranraer and Dumfries campuses and covers the full remit of green subjects, including solar, hydro, wind, geo-thermal, and biomass technologies.

As well as its dedication to environmentally-friendly learning and teaching, the college prioritises accessibility and has made the full brochure, along with a selection of other materials and informative videos, available on its website.

Angela Cox, principal of Borders College, looks forward to "our exciting collaboration

This forward-looking attitude towards accessibility is reflected in the nature of the courses, which will allow learners to study full time, part time, alongside working or in the evenings to suit their lifestyle.

Go to www.dumgal.ac.uk/green-skills-academy

Ms Campbell said "The skills and experience our students will gain from these courses will undoubtedly have a hugely positive impact on them, those they work with and the environment in which we live and work."

Rural affairs recovery role for Smyth

Colin Smyth MSP now serves on Scottish Labour's national recovery team

SOUTH Scotland MSP Colin Smyth has been given a new role in Scottish Labour's national recovery team.

The MSP is now shadow cabinet secretary for economic development and rural affairs.

Mr Smyth, pictured on Langholm Moor, now the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve in Langholm, said: "Having lived and worked in the south of Scotland for my whole life, I am happy to champion the interests of those living in our rural area.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a terrible impact on people living in all parts of Scotland but those in rural parts have suffered more than most because of their reliance on some of the sectors hit hardest by lockdown, for example, tourism and hospitality.

"However, even before the pandemic, rural communities were suffering from a lack of significant investment from governments both in Holyrood and Westminster.

"In this new role I intend to do all I can not only for my rural constituents but also people living in all parts of rural Scotland."

IN BRIEF

Tribute to our loyal Davina

CANONBIE SWI ended the season on a very sad note, the passing of a very long-serving member, Davina Hope.

Davina was a regular loyal and very supportive member.

As a many-time president and member of the committee, she was always ready to lend a hand and offer advice.

Members' thoughts are with Diane and all the family.

Their entertainment for the evening was Jenny Pike, a local woman and an accomplished comedian.

Jenny put on an excellent performance as The Vicar's Wife, a very funny monologue.

Being a nervous woman, not cut out to be a vicar's wife, she had many mishaps, finding solace in the sherry bottle.

With her husband being a popular and well-respected figure, impressing many adoring, middle-aged women because of his status, she had a struggle to please.

Jenny is known to many as a brilliant actress and she did not disappoint, even on Zoom. Members joined in with laughter.

To end an enjoyable evening, they shared their favourite poems or short prose.

Jenny started with Pam Ayres' Oh I wish I'd looked after me teeth.

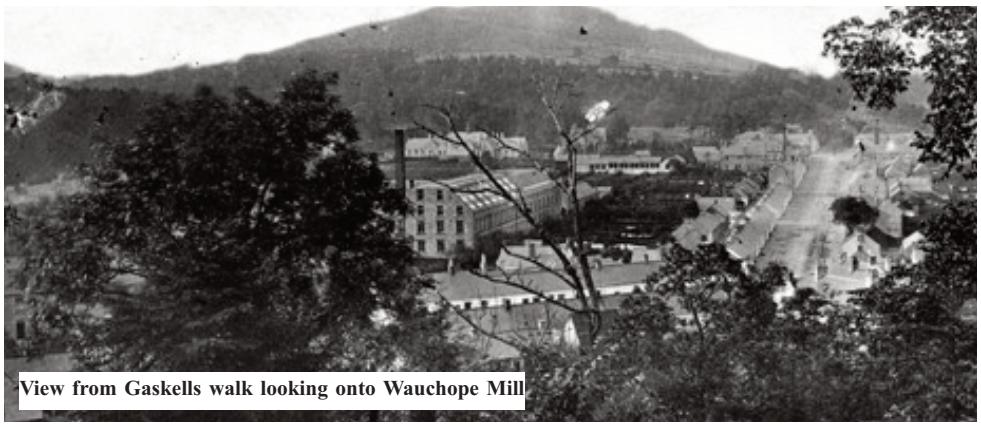
They continued with My Shadow, Leisure, My Dog and The Boy in the Train.

Hopefully, they will all be together again in the hall by September.

Royal Bank conversion

CHRIS Wyatt has applied for full planning permission and listed building consent for work to the Royal Bank of Scotland building in High Street, Langholm.

He wants to carry out external alterations, including the removal of the ATM machine and replacement with a glass panel in the ground floor window, the removal of floodlights, removal of metal bracket and repainting of external door and railings in black as part of the change of use of the bank to a ground-floor flat.



View from Gaskells walk looking onto Wauchope Mill

Memories and Milestones

We continue our serialisation of Tommy Beattie's book

DARE DEVILMENT

At twelve years of age, we were becoming adventurous or reckless depending on how you look at it.

To keep ourselves busy we began inventing things because we were outside most of the time, providing it wasn't too wet, we had to find something which would occupy hands and minds. That is the difference between our time and now. Today it is vandalism which fills the time. The housing schemes are such that space does not permit the young to carry on as we did in the country. There is little scope and conditions are cramped and busy with traffic the way it is. Had such conditions prevailed here then we might have been vandals just the same.

We had a rubbish tip where all kinds of things like old prams were to be found, the parts we used to make our boogies (four wheeled barrows). This was a wooden box fitted to a plank. Two rear wheels on the box were twice the size of those fitted to the front of the plank, this made the steering easier.

The wheels at the front were held to a cross bar by a bolt or large nail. String came from the bar to another wheel in the box to which it was attached, this was the groove into which the string was fed and allowed us to steer properly. All clever stuff!! The hand brake was a piece of wood, one nail through it so it would pivot and by pulling it the position was such that it rested against the tyre, very efficient it was.

Days were spent making this contraption, to find all the bits and pieces took time.

Using our boogie downhill was thrilling and it was amazing how efficient the steering was. Going back was heavy work because the weight of the wood did not enter our calculations. At twelve years of age, we were delighted with our engineering skills.

Meikleholm

Another of our daredevil pleasures was sliding down steep banks on a shovel. Our method was to have the handle out in front of you so you could keep the front of the blade in the air a little better. By leaning back on the handle, the top of the blade would clear small obstacles.

Sometimes we used a small sheet of corrugated iron and in retrospect the possibilities were horrendous. We could have been badly injured by a sudden stop; serious leg injuries were a real possibility but at that age you can't see those dangers. Having said all of that I cannot remember anyone receiving the slightest cut.

The most favoured slope was down the bank from the field above Meikleholm Pool (the pool corner). Have a look, it's some slope to come down anytime.

One thrilling escapade was swinging from a very large tree on Gaskells Walk just above Wauchope Cottage, on a very thick rope. The rope was so thick the end of it when knotted made a seat for any one of us to sit on with our legs wrapped round it.

As the rope was suspended over the edge of the bank, we had to pull it towards us to get on at all. When the rope was back to its furthest point you either got on or ran forward with it and mounted the knot just as it took off.

One day Enid Cowan slipped on take-off and was catapulted into space. She had not let go of the rope at the point of slipping and was carried to extreme end of the swing before falling off. We stood there rooted to the spot as she flew throught the air to land on her back on top of the thick willows that covered the riverside in those days, at the foot of the bank...

(to be continued)

Wedding group taken at Barrackpore, Bengal of Capt. A Grabham, Royal Fusiliers, and Nursing Sister, Jessie Erskine daughter of Mr and Mrs A Erskine, Charles Street (Old)

Times Past

100 years: What makes Children Grow?

At one time it was thought that an ample supply of food, of almost any kind, was all that was necessary. Modern research by Professor Armstrong, Dr Salesby, and others shows, however, that certain "constructive elements" must be included in a child's food, or it will not grow properly. It is satisfactory to learn that these elements are contained in a high degree in a popular article of kitchen use – "ATORA" Shredded Beef Suet. "ATORA" can be used in making puddings of all kinds, including even milk puddings. (Milk can be saved in these by using half milk and half water, and one tablespoon of "ATORA" to each pint) "ATORA" is very economical, because there is no waste, and every little shred can be used. No time is wasted in chopping and there are no impurities. Sold by all Grocers and Stores in 1lb and ½ lb cartons. Sole Manufacturers, HUGON & CO LTD, Manchester.

75 years: Wedding in India

The wedding took place at the Methodist Church, Barrackpore, India on Saturday April 20th, by the Rev J H Barker, between Nursing-Office Jessie Erskine Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R) eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A Erskine of Charles Street (Old), Langholm and Captain Anthony H Grabham, Royal Fusiliers, only son of Mr and Mrs F. A Grabham, Illford, Essex. The bride was dressed in white organdie, trimmed with silver brocade, and carried a bouquet of red carnations. She was attended by Nursing Officer Elsie Hamilton, Q.A.I.M.N.S (R), wearing a pale green taffeta and net dress, with a bouquet of white carnations. The bride was given away by Major W.A Woods, Royal Artillery, and the best man was Captain A. B. McCallum, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The reception was held in the Sisters Mess, Barrackpore, from where the bride and bridegroom left for their honeymoon on the Orissa.

50 years: Langholm Missed yet again

Yet again Langholm has been omitted form a list of events taking place throughout Britain during the months of June, July and August. The publication responsible this time is British Tourist Authority's illustrated monthly magazine "In Britain", which is compiled from the information received from the Scottish Tourist Board, the Wales Tourist Board and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. In the magazine under the heading "Coming Events in Britain", is a comprehensive list of dates covering such items as Appleby Fair on 9th June, Melrose Festival on 14th June, Lockerbie Gala and Riding of the Marchers, 6th to 12th June, Hawick Common Riding, 11th and 12th June; Beltane Festival, 20th to 26th June, Royal Highland Show, 22nd to 25th June. The Braw Lads Gathering, 2nd and 3rd July, Annan Riding of the Marches, 3rd July, Cumberland Agricultural Show, 22nd July. But not a single mention of Langholm Common Riding on 30th July. We notice one advertisement in the June issue of "Scotland's Magazine" to the effect that "If you long for hills and valley and rivers and the peaceful countryside, come to Langholm on the Border Esk. The Gateway to the Borders. We would suggest that a free entry in the Tourist Authority magazine would have far better results so far as attracting tourists is concerned than an expensive advertisement in a magazine with very limited circulation.

25 years: Langholm Principals follow Hawick Cornet

The controversy over whether women should be allowed to ride and which clouded the build up to Hawick Common Riding was thankfully put to one side and the split community united to celebrate in traditional manner. On Thurday evening the "Banner Blue" was graciously 'bussed' by Cornet's Lass Julie Hodgkins at the colourful and ofter emotional Colour Bussing Ceremony. Cornet David McVittie with Ex-Cornets Ellwood and Ewart were among the guests as was Ex-Cornet David McVittie, Chairman of the Common Riding Committee. The morning dawned dry and bright and the young "Teries" were eager to join in the scrum at the "snuffin" to try and get their bit out of the horn. Cornet Alan Weir was given a great reception as he led the 300 plus riders round the Marches. The Langholm trio were in the cavalcade. After the Cornets Chase round the Moor, the wonderful carnival picnic got into full swing with old friendships and memories being revived. It is now planned to have a meeting between the two sides in the dispute so that the ugly scenes which took place two weeks ago will never be repeated.

This photograph was kindly given to us by Irving Edgar who is seated front right with his friends during the 1940's

The E&L Gallery

'Sunrise, early in the morning' captured by Stan Wilson of Langholm

Camera: Sony RX10

The second Gilnockie Tower

By Mairi Telford Jammeh

ON AN estate in rural north Northumberland I discovered that there is a second Gilnockie Tower.

During a tour of Cragside, a National Trust property near Rothbury, I found out that part of the main house is called Gilnockie Tower, named after the one to the south of Langholm.

Cragside was built and developed by Lord William and Lady Margaret Armstrong.

He was an engineer and she was a naturalist.

The house has extensive gardens and was the first property in the world to be electrified by hydro-power.

Armstrong was an advocate of renewable energy.

He was a scientist, inventor and inventor of artillery.

He subsequently gave the patent of his 18-pounder gun to the British government and was created a Knight Bachelor.

The house had many visitors from various countries such as Japan and Siam as well as the Prince and Princess of Wales, the future King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, in 1884.

The gardens and estate are extensive and Margaret was a great naturalist.

The couple planted more than seven million trees and, at one point, employed 300 gardeners.

Reivers

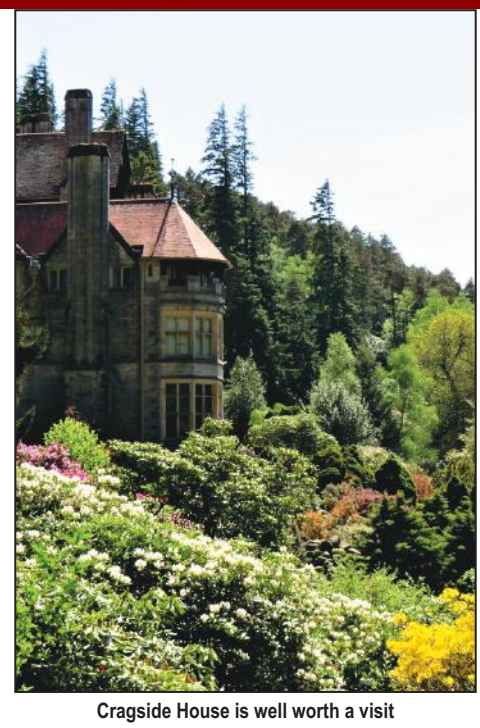
Being an Armstrong, William was an admirer of the Border Reivers.

A painting by Emmerson of what we might think of as 'our' Gilnockie Tower in 1530, painted in 1880, shows a band of Reivers in the River Esk with the tower behind.

The painting forms part of Cragside's extensive art collection.

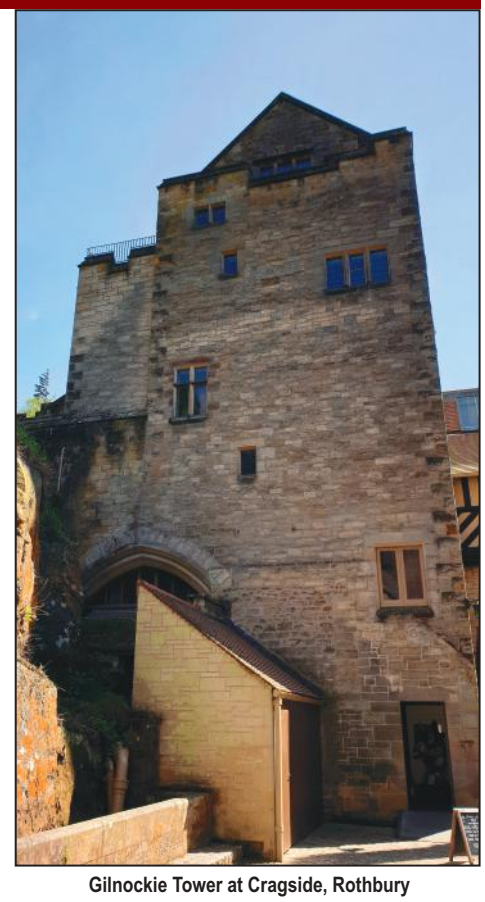
The Gilnockie Tower at Cragside held Armstrong's observatory and beneath that is a staircase.

Cragside has been in the National Trust's ownership since 1977 and as well as the house the gardens and lake are worth a visit.



Cragside House is well worth a visit

But, best of all, go and see the second Gilnockie Tower.



Gilnockie Tower at Cragside, Rothbury

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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 Planning@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 24.06.2021 (Type A) or 01.07.2021 (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

21/1009/FUL (A) **Royal Bank Buildings, 29 High Street, Langholm -** Proposed change of use of bank to ground floor flatted dwelling and external alterations including removal of ATM machine and replacement with glass panel in ground floor window, removal of flood lights, removal of metal bracket, repainting of external doors and railings in black
21/1010/LBC (B)
Royal Bank Buildings, 29 High Street, Langholm - External alterations including removal of ATM machine and replacement with glass panel in ground floor window, removal of flood lights, removal of metal bracket, repainting of external doors and railings in black as part of change of use of bank to ground floor flatted dwellinghouse.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COUNCIL, DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COUNCIL PENSION FUND, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD, SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP AND NITHSDALE CONNECTED TRUST FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Notice is hereby given that under Regulation 9 (1) of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 that copies of the unaudited Accounts of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council Pension Fund, Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board, South West of Scotland Transport Partnership (SWestrans) and Nithsdale Connected Trust Funds for the year ended 31 March 2021 will be available for public inspection on the Councils website at www.dumgal.gov.uk from 1st July 2021 to 21th July 2021 both days inclusive.

Due to the current impact of the COVID 19 virus hard copies of the unaudited accounts will not be available for review at any area offices.

Any interested person is entitled to inspect all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to the Annual Accounts being audited. As it is administratively impractical to assemble all these documents in one location, inspection requests should be made to the Head of Finance & Procurement by emailing finance@dumgal.gov.uk during the 15 working day statutory inspection period indicated above. Arrangements will then be made to make the appropriate documents available as soon as possible, at a mutually acceptable date and location.

Any person interested may object to the Accounts or to any part of those Accounts, no later than 24th July 2021, by sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds on which they object, to the External Auditors, Grant Thornton, Level 8,110 Queen Street, Glasgow, G1 3BX and to the Controller of Audit, Audit Scotland, 4th Floor, 102 West Port, Edinburgh EH3 9DN and to Dumfries & Galloway Council, Dumfries & Galloway Council Pension Fund or SWestrans and to any Officer who may be concerned.

The auditor shall, if requested by the person objecting, one of the bodies, or by any officer who may be concerned, afford to that person or body or officer, as the case may be, such an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the auditor with respect to that objection; and that any such person or officer may so appear and be heard either personally or by a representative.

Paul Garrett, Head of Finance & Procurement /Treasurer
Katy Kerr, Chief Finance Officer, Integration Joint Board

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100 miles and 29 hours: Kirsty's biggest challenge yet

Muckle Toon Jogger turns a 100k virtual race into a 100 mile reality

Kirsty Ash of Langholm challenged herself to run 100 miles and she describes how she dealt with being on the go for 29 hours.

LAST November myself and Pauline Irving ran a virtual 100k race in one day and, when I finished, I thought why not try 100 miles?

So the idea began to grow and I decided to attempt this challenge in June.

My longest training run was The Lap Ultra (48 miles) around Windermere in April.

The date was set for Friday, June 4 at 3pm. I plotted my route on OS maps and the mileage came to 99.8 miles.

I am very lucky and many of the Muckle Toon Joggers offered to run different sections with me so I never had any lonely miles.

Langholm extreme runner Kirsty Ash ran 100 miles in 29 hours

I hired a tracker from Open Tracking so friends and family could follow my route and have a rough idea at what times I would be at the feed stations.

My route started at Hermitage Castle and I had the company of Pauline Irving and Mhairi Beattie.

We went over Roan Fell to the Holm, through Newcastleton Forest to the Bloody Bush and down to Kielder.

Dawn Lamb joined us for the section round Kielder Water during the night and we were lucky enough to see a lovely sunset and sunrise.

After this section, I was at 50 miles and said bye to these three and was joined by Liz Forsyth who chummed me to the finish.

The next section took us through Kielder Forest and Kershopefoot Forest to Kershopefoot where we were joined by my daughter, Lucy, Carol Irving, Gemma Skelton and Lynne Aitken.

It was getting very warm by this point and I was struggling to eat but seeing friends and family gave me the motivation to carry on.

The Muckle Toon Joggers split up to accompany Kirsty on different parts of the route

We went through Tinnisburn Forest and this is where Sharon Irving joined us. She came with a coolbox full of Pelosis ice cream; 85 miles in and the ice cream hit the spot.

The next food stop was at the Rashiel bridge where we were met by so many supporters.

This was one of the high points of my run. Ice lollies and hugs and we were off on the last 14 miles. I was joined now by Karen Grant, Debbie Wilson, Aileen Grant and Sarah Phillips.

After a couple of cool-downs in the river along the back of Tarras, we went up over Arkleton to Ewes church where Sarah Blaikie joined us.

I hit the 100 miles at Henwell but, having come this far, I might as well keep running to the finish line at the town hall.

103.5 miles and 29 hours later I ran along the High Street, flanked by 11 Muckle Toon Joggers to a crowd of friends and family who had come to cheer in myself and all the lovely lassies.

A few of the joggers achieved personal goals, with three getting more than 50 miles and three 27 miles.

I could not have done this without the support of my family: Alan, mum and dad, Lucy and Carol who fed, encouraged and hugged me throughout the 29 hours.

A huge shout-out to everyone who messaged and tracked me and turned up to cheer us on. Thank you.

The biggest thank you goes to all you lovely Muckle Toon Joggers; you are the best.

Now it's time to put the feet up and work on the next challenge.

New winners

Hounds

THE recent change in weather has thrown up some new winners over the past few trails.

This was certainly the case at Newcastleton last Wednesday.

Delta Script won her first senior trail of the season, winning easily from Polaris who chased her gamely home down the finish.

The Telford kennel showed their liking for the heat when Fire Lass recorded her first win, beating kennelmate Fire Belle in the maidens with a closely-contested race to the line.

In the pups Mr Finnegan has been progressing well and romped home for his first win, with favourite Explore failing to finish.

The final race of the night was the All in when Matilda beat Delta Status and Border Brae.

At Walton last Sunday it was business as usual for Jazzle who skipped home down the finish.

Polaris was the only one challenging and Delta Script was a clear third.

The maiden trail was a good race with a few hounds in with a chance as they came into view on the finish.

Delta Scope looked as though he was going to win but ran slightly wide just before the line to let the Fire Lass and Fire Belle burst through and over the line.

Favourite Explore was back to winning ways in the pups and he came home alone.

Second-placed Milo Moon a good way ahead of the third dog Pat Moon.

Several of the pups did not make it round and returned to the start.

The final race of the day was the All in and there was a good race to the line, with Matilda winning again from Border Brae and Lucky Charm.

The Lyndsay family with Explore

Walton, Sunday, June 6

Seniors: Jazzle, Polaris, Delta Script, Fire Strike, Frankel, Delta Status. 6 ran. 22.50.

Senior maidens: Fire Lass, Fire Belle, Delta Scope, Vinny Moon, Splendid Mikey, Eden Raine. 10 ran. 25.00.

Pups: Explore, Milo Moon, Pat Moon, Mr Finnegan, Sea the Stars. 13 ran, 5 finished. 14.41.

All In: Matilda, Border Brae, Lucky Charm. 5 ran. 15.30.

Newcastleton, Wednesday, June 2

Seniors: Delta Script, Fire Strike, Polaris, 6 ran, 3 finished. 29.21.

Senior maidens: Fire Belle, Fire Lass, Eden Raine, Castle Clansman, Delta Scope. 5 ran. 31.00.

Pups: Mr Finnegan, Splendid Sally, Border Pride, Pat Moon, Fire Princess. 8 ran, 5 finished. 15.19.

All In: Lucky Charm, Delta Status, Border Brae. 5 ran. 13.00.

A game third

Horseracing

JAMES Ewart Racing had two runners at Cartmel last Wednesday, with The Blame Game picking up a third.

The 16/1 shot was ridden by Brian Hughes in a handicap hurdle over two miles, six furlongs on good going.

The horse was jumped in blinkers for the first time and Hughes took the inside and quickest route, saving ground and never panicked over them going a bit too quickly in front.

Briony Ewart, assistant trainer, said: "He was a little slow away from his hurdles, perhaps finding things happening a little too quickly, and would do better on a slower, more galloping track."

The field was very well bunched on the last bend and The Blame Game moved forward into third but was always held by the front two.

Briony added: "We will likely keep the blinkers and drop back in trip.

"We have a 2m4 at Hexham, which will be ideal, on June 20."

For Three ran in a handicap hurdle over two miles, one furlong, with Oakley Brown in the saddle, and came last of six.

The horse won best turned out in the paddock.

Brown walked him out last, thinking he would be keen but, on this track and ground, they were always going a strong gallop so it paid to be up with the pace, with the winner making all.

Briony said: "We jumped the first two nicely but then he didn't really look happy on the ground at all and started to put down at one or two.

"We went wide as well losing ground so not ideal on such a tight track.

"We have another target at Hexham this Saturday."

Sports News
Thursday June 10, 2021
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A WARM BORDERS WELCOME

Mixed fortunes for Langholm's cricketers

Cricket

LANGHOLM were completely outgunned by Carlisle 3rds.

Batting first on a dry track, they scored only 110, with Tony Steele top scoring on 41.

Carlisle had no problems knocking off the runs for the loss of just one wicket in fewer than 19 overs.

Skipper Graham Park elected to bat and he and Stuart Duggan opened.

The score was on 6 when Duggan was caught behind off Law for 1 to a good catch by the keeper.

Tony Steele joined Park and they quietly moved the score along and picked up the run rate. They moved past 50 in the 20th over.

With the score on 61 in the 22nd over, Park was bowled by a low, full toss for 29.

Nicky P came to the crease but his bad run continued when he was caught off Bell for 4.

Ross Rae was next in but a lack of communication had him run out for 0. Chris Stewart was the next to go LBW to Short for 2.

This meant Langholm had gone from 61 for 1 to 73 for 5. John Bell joined Steele and they added 10 before Steele was caught at deep gully off Sawdon for 41.

Jay Gordon joined Bell and they got the score up to three figures before Bell was clean-bowled by Sawdon for 11.

Aidan Wilson joined Gordon and they saw the innings to an end adding 10 before the 40 overs finished.

Not a great score but Langholm have won with less this season.

From the very first ball Christoff Vever attacked the bowling and the home attack had no answers as Vever and Humpleby scored runs for fun.

Langholm were not helped by Tony Steele pulling a calf muscle. Only one wicket fell as Vever was caught at slip by the limping Steele off Wilson's bowling, with the score on 97 for 1. Aidan's figures were 1 for 16.

Langholm travel to Hawick tomorrow night for the Gordon Johnstone Cup game and entertain Nunwick on Saturday.

Cricket 2nds

LANGHOLM 2nds returned from St Michaels with a 68-run victory after an all-round performance by the young side.

Skipper Jay Gordon elected to bat and openers Hughie Donaldson and John Bell added 17 before Hughie missed a straight one and was clean-bowled by Wharton for 4.

Gordon joined Bell and they kept the score ticking along, although boundaries were hard to find with the long grass and one boundary about 80m in the distance tested the batsmen's fitness.

Drinks were followed by two wickets falling, mainly from exhaustion as Bell was caught by Bowie off Rayen for 25 and in Rayen's next over Gordon succumbed the same for 17, leaving the score at 74 for 3.

Brady Wilson joined Chris Stewart and the scoreboard started to tick over and each batsman hit a boundary.

The score had reached 98 when Brady was caught off Wharton for 13. Brother Aidan joined Chris and he added 7 before he was clean-bowled by Wharton with the score on 110 for 5.

Club captain Graham Park, mainly in the team for his car-driving skills rather than his waning cricketing ones, and Stewart added 20 before Park fell for 12, caught in the deep off McBurnie.

Ryan Johnstone saw out the overs with the score on 132 for 6, with Johnstone 1 not out and Stewart 24 not out.

The bowlers never let St Michaels into the game, the all-teenage attack, apart from Stewart, kept St Michaels under pressure. McLoornie fell as he edged Aidan Wilson brother Brady took the catch, leaving the home side 0 for 1.

Aidan clean-bowled Barnett with the score 14 for 2. A change of bowling saw more wickets tumble as Moss, who had survived the ball rolling against the stumps off Corey Park's bowling, was not so lucky when, on 14, lobbed Gordon to Graham Park who took the catch.

Rewards

Corey got his just rewards when he clean-bowled Rayan for 7 with the score 30 for 4.

There was no rest for the St Michaels batsmen as Jake Park and Stewart entered the attack.

Jake clean-bowled McBurnie and Stewart clean-bowled Begg for 2, leaving St Michaels 6 down for 43.

Jake picked up the next wicket when his uncle took a sharp catch in the slips to dismiss opposing captain Bowie for 6.

We won't mention the absolute dolly the experienced Park dropped off his nephew in the previous over.

Ryan Johnstone got in on the act, clean-bowling McGowan for 8 to leave the Dumfries side 8 down.

Gordon picked up his second wicket when Johnstone took a good catch off Wharton at mid-on to leave St Michaels 9 down. With the score on 64, Corey clean-bowled Turner for 0.

In the bowling Corey Park had 2 for 8, Aidan Wilson 2 for 12, Gordon 2 for 12, Jake Park 2 for 12, Stewart 1 for 9 off 4 overs (2 maidens) and Johnstone 1 for 11.

A tremendous performance by Langholm. With eight of this side all teenagers, it bodes well for the future of cricket in Langholm.

150 years in flowers

Rugby

2021 marks the 150th anniversary of Langholm Rugby Club.

To celebrate this special occasion, a 150th anniversary flowerbed was planted last weekend on the A7 just opposite the Kilngreen entrance.

Langholm RFC is indebted to the expertise of Kenny Miller for planting the bed and would like to pass on their gratitude to Cochranes Nurseries of Longtown for sponsoring the plants.

It would also like to thank to Councillor Ronnie Tait for organising the use of the plot from D&G Street Scene.

This is sure to be a fantastic photo opportunity spot during the summer so the club wants everyone to get their cameras ready for a small competition.

The idea is that everyone, young and old, goes along and gets their pictures taken.

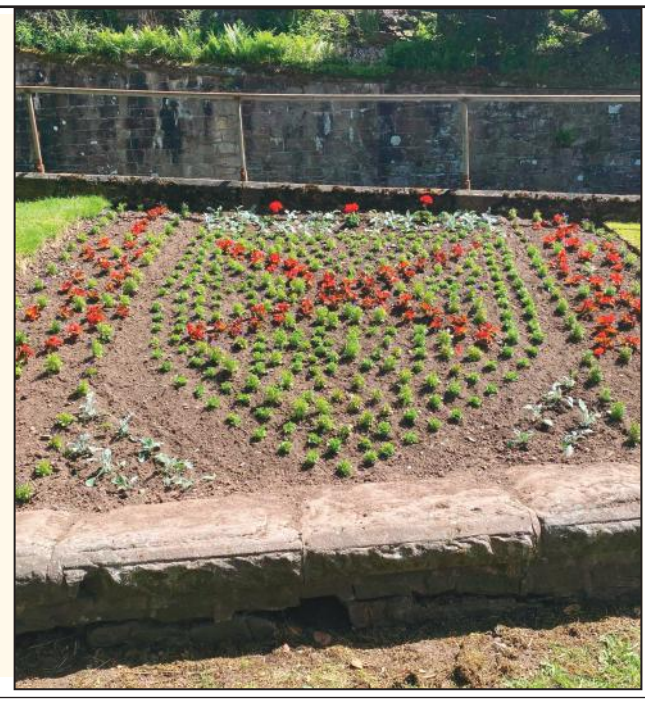
All they need to do is add it to the Youth Rugby Club's post about the flowerbed and to their own Facebook page and comment #lrfcflowerphoto with their photos.

The club will draw a random winner who will receive some "LRFC est. 1871" goodies.

So, be part of the 150th anniversary, send in your photos and be part of the history of this Muckletoon Club.

Give the plants a chance and wait a couple of weeks before sending in photos and be careful of the main road.

Anyone, who would be interested in helping to water the bed, please get in touch with the club.



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