



# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8420

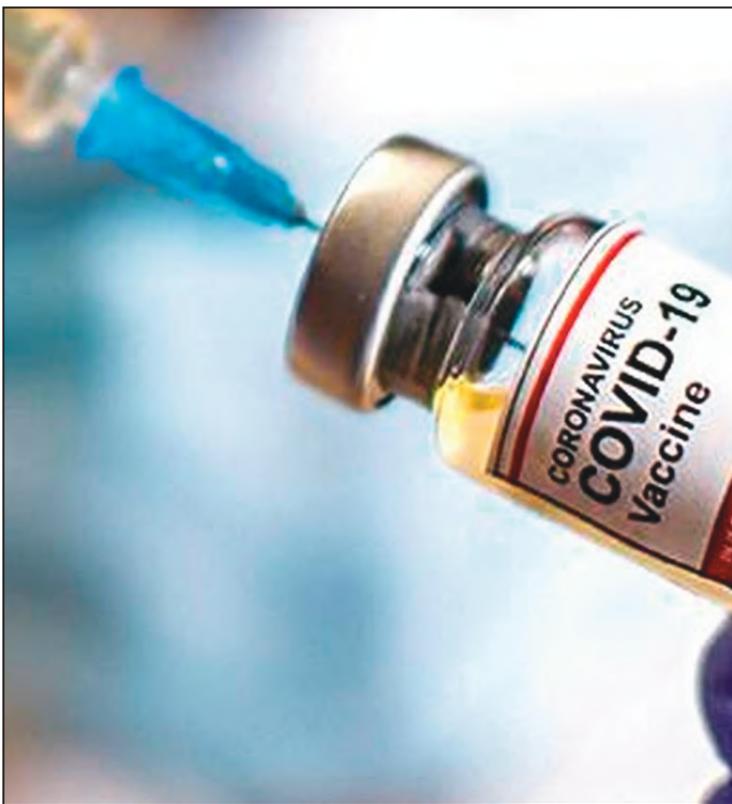
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# Call for unvaccinated to come forward for jabs

Covid passports to be introduced in Scotland for those aged 18-plus from 1 October



90.7% of adults over 18 in Dumfries and Galloway have received both doses

**A CALL has gone out to unvaccinated locals across Dumfries & Galloway to get their jabs.**

The call comes as the Scottish government confirms plans for vaccine passports for those over the age of 18 from 1 October.

Vaccine passports will be required to enter nightclubs and major events - MSPs in Holyrood voted for its introduction by 68 to 55 - despite a subsequent U-turn for similar plans in England.

Cases of Covid-19 remain high within Dumfries and Galloway, with just a very slight decline recorded last week.

A total of 709 cases were recorded in the week ending 11 September, against a total of 852 the previous week. In Langholm & Eskdale there were seven cases.

Public Health consultant, Dr Andrew Rideout said: "As much as we wish we were seeing the start of a move downwards in terms of Covid case numbers, it's still too early to say.

"Thankfully, over the past three weeks case numbers in Dumfries &

Galloway have held relatively steady and have not continued climbing in the way they have been in other parts of the country.

"What we're seeing just now is people being admitted to hospital unwell with Covid who haven't been vaccinated, and we don't want anyone to reach that position without having been informed about the potential risks in not taking up the chance of a vaccination."

Everyone eligible is being urged to ensure they receive the protection of two vaccinations, with the Scottish government hoping the passport scheme will encourage people to get vaccinated - especially younger age groups.

The call follows that made by NHS Dumfries & Galloway chief executive, Jeff Ace who also noted that those who were falling ill with Covid had not been vaccinated.

Mr Ace said: "We are still seeing unvaccinated individuals who are continuing to become seriously ill and are continuing to progress to critical care.

"That is so frustrating because vac-

cination is very easy, it is very safe and it is very available."

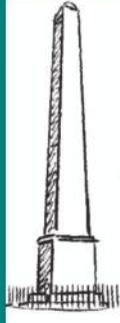
Dr Rideout added: "We have to recognise that we do have high numbers of cases right across our communities, which means there is a very real possibility that anyone could encounter Covid-19 at any time.

"It's therefore vital that anyone not yet doubly vaccinated against Covid gives serious consideration to taking up this opportunity.

"Vaccines train your body's own immune system to recognise and be prepared to fight the virus, and it's a very simple quick thing that provides people with the best form of protection against what is a potentially very dangerous virus."

Total first dose vaccinations in Dumfries & Galloway stand at 117,005 for those aged 18-plus - 95.7% against a national of 91.5% - and second doses stand at 110,839 as of Monday - 90.7% against the national of 85.1%.

• Full details of vaccination locations can be found by visiting [www.nhs.uk/vaccines/](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccines/).



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# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

# Smart ties for band

## Muckle Toon tartan for Cheltenham



Members of the Langholm Town Band were chuffed to receive their Muckle Toon tartan ties and a bear for the younger members

**A GENEROUS donation from Pollyanna's has allowed the Langholm Town Band to purchase new Muckle Toun tartan ties for their trip to the National Brass Band Championships this weekend.**

The band was keen to have a link between the town and the occasion and decided the tartan should be used in a new band tie to mark the qualification. Created by Alan Miller at 'Yarns to Yearn For', the ties

were presented to the band on Saturday morning following the band's latest rehearsal. The younger members of the band also received a commemorative bear from Alan Miller and Paula Shorland of Pollyanna's.

# Low-flying over Eskdale



A C-130 Hercules flies low over Langholm on Tuesday as part of the Cobra Warrior 21-2 exercercise. Photo Isobel Bil

**THE Ministry of Defence has a number of low flying planned exercises over the next week.** The Cobra Warrior 21-2 exercise will take place on Friday between 9am and midday, as well as Tuesday and Thursday between 6pm to 9.30pm. The exercise will and has featured a fast jet, a rotary helicopter and a transport aircraft.



**Wedding Day**  
**THE WEDDING of Russell Anderson from Langholm and Alexa Knox from Hawick took place on 21 August at Mansfield House Hotel, Hawick. Bridesmaids were Kirsty Grierson and Gillian Mabon. Best Man was Dale Irving and ushers were Grant Anderson and Euan Knox.**  
 Photo by ILF Imaging

### Deaths

#### WILSON

On 9th September 2021, peacefully at the Alexandra Unit, D.G.R.I. Robert (Rob) Wilson, Bon Accord, Lochmaben, devoted husband of Marilyn, a loving and caring father of Cameron and Catriona, a much loved father-in-law of Jamie, a dear uncle, brother-in-law and friend of many.  
 Service at Lochmaben Church on Wednesday 22nd September at 11.45 a.m. to which all are invited, thereafter private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers to Macmillan and Marie Curie can be given at the service.

### Church Notices

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**Liddesdale Church** welcomes you to Worship on Sunday mornings at 10am and  
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The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser is part funded by the above organisations along with charitable trusts and individuals from the community of Langholm.

# Public consultation on flood proposals promised

## Councillor says 'Ditch the Drain' campaigners are being heard

**A PUBLIC engagement event on Langholm's flood prevention scheme is on the cards, ward councillor Archie Dryburgh has confirmed.**

The admission follows a heated public community meeting held last week in which around a hundred locals voiced their concerns over the lack of consultation on the current scheme which sees up to 2m flood barriers in place along the River Esk.

Annandale East and Eskdale councillor Archie Dryburgh said while he did not wish to comment specifically on the Langholm Flood Group organised Ditch the Drain campaign meeting, he wanted to assure the community they were being heard.

"The initial and subsequent community conversations have been happening over the past number of years and the comments by the community have been taken on board by our councils flood prevention team, and an Environmental Impact assessment will be completed," he said.

"I can confirm we are currently progressing with all the boards, mock ups, etcetera needed for the next public engagement event.

"The EIA process will start after the feedback from the engagement event has been reviewed and therefore the community, as a whole, can have

another say in the flood defence scheme for Langholm."

He added that while it was clear that flooding may not happen on a scale that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency suggested, the flood events that have happened in the UK and across the globe did concern him.

"We need to do something to prevent flooding, especially to those houses near the river," he said.

"Not everyone will agree with the flood prevention scheme, but there are also those that do agree with it and this has to be taken into consideration as well."

It was suggested by some angered members of the public that the Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council should be dissolved.

### Volunteers

Their response was that they were 'all volunteers', 'received no recompense' and helped 'many organisations both in Langholm and in Dumfriesshire'.

"The CC made the decision both before Covid and at our October meeting to support the flood prevention scheme in principle, but to question certain aspects of if they would adversely affect any area of the town," its members reproached.

"As always, our concern was that anything put in place would



An artist's impression of the proposed channel across Buccleuch Park

ensure the safety of people and properties during possible flooding.

"The environmental study and the scoping report are not yet with us, so we could not have 'withheld them from the public'."

They also added that they were not formally invited to the public meeting.

Archie added: "The Community Council have been the elected representatives of the town which have been involved in this, and have always suggested that should there be something that the community do not like then they would raise this on the community's behalf, suggesting that the community council should disband is not helpful, especially as they

with many other issues in the community and not just Flooding.

"Whoever suggested this may wish to consider standing at the next election of the community council, and support those volunteers who do, I believe, a sterling job on behalf of their community."

The CC have advised they are now waiting for the EIA to be completed.

### Scoping report

A spokesperson for Dumfries & Galloway council added: "Once completed the EIA Scoping Report will be made available to view on the project website and will also be a publicly available document as it will be lodged with our planning team.

"If any person considers that the scoping, or the completed EIA, is in any way incorrect then they can make a formal representation during the statutory period once the scheme is published."

### Public

The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and associated 2010 regulations specify the information to be made available to the public in the promotion of a Flood Protection Scheme and this will include the completed EIA.

There will be a 28-day period for any person to make representation on the EIA and the Scheme.

At present a date has not been set for presenting a report to committee.

## IN BRIEF

### Tropical night at Ewes SWI

THE Ewes Scottish Women's Institute welcomed back members to its first meeting of the season last Thursday, including a new member and even a frog.

President Nancy McLure welcomed everyone back to its first live meeting since March 2020, with Michele Lowe on hand to explain the origins and principles of Tropic Skincare.

She demonstrated some of the products and later judged a few competitions.

This saw Maureen Brown win first place for her face mask recipe, with Nancy McLure coming second, and Susie Grant third.

Anne Hannah won first place for her perfume bottle, with Susie Grant coming second, Grace Brown third.

A frog made an appearance during the discussion of business, and as it was too late to hear about Tropic Skincare, it was safely returned to the outside world.

### Rural catch-up

WESTERKIRK Women's Rural Institute were delighted to be able to hold their first meeting since March 2020 last Tuesday.

A good catch up among friends followed the business meeting and AGM with some newly elected roles filled.

Lib McNeil and April Davey were thanked for their work in office as president and secretary respectively, and they stood down from their positions.

Newly elected to the roles were Anne Hislop as president, Elizabeth McNeil as secretary, K Kenny as treasurer, and H Johnstone as speaker secretary.

The vice president is to be confirmed.

The next meeting is to be held on 5 October with a demonstration from Tropic Skincare ambassador Michelle Lowe.



Buccleuch Centre managers Michele Lowe and Iona Davidson welcome James McGarrity back to Langholm for the first show since March 2020

## Events return to Buccleuch

**MUSIC once again filled the air at the Buccleuch Centre last week as it enjoyed its first live event back in 18 months.**

It was a good turnout of around 150 punters who showed up to be entertained by the Keep it Country Show.

Stars Philomena Begley, Gary Gamble, Joe Moore, Shaun Loughrey, Aidan Quinn and the Keltic Storm Band wowed audiences with their energy, humour and musicality.

Derryn Waitt said it had been a great night, one which her and her husband, had looked forward to since finding out the show was taking place.

"Wednesday 8 September was highlighted in our calendar for the Keep It Country show," she said.

"It was lovely to see everyone coming in, and there was a definite buzz of excitement – not

only because of the show, but meeting friends after so long."

Keltic Storm Band's James McGarrity said: "We were delighted to perform, we love coming back to the Buccleuch - we'll be back again in a month's time," he said.

"While it wasn't our first show since lockdown, because we performed outdoors, it was our first indoor show - our last was also in Scotland around 19 months ago - and it couldn't have gone better.

"People were singing away and there were tears shed by some, the audience enjoyed it and so did we."

The band will return for the Stars of the Irish Country Show.

The Buccleuch Centre manager Iona Davidson, said: "We're so pleased to be back open for events and see everyone so happy to return.

"The show went really well and we had a pretty busy pre-show dinner - it's great for us, the acts and our customers to get back to normal.

"Other event tickets are selling well and hopefully our successful first show back will encourage others to attend knowing we're Covid-safe."

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# A Tour o' the Moor

## Take a walk on the wildside with Langholm Initiative guides

**A TOUR o' the Moor will be offered by the Langholm Initiative this October.**

After being awarded £855.40 from Dumfries & Galloway council's Community Events Fund, the Initiative has set about preparing to hold two walking weekends to show off the moor that was bought out by the community.

Known as the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, organisation of the walking weekends is underway, with the first taking place on 9th and 10th October.

They will vary in length and will showcase the land now in community ownership and some of the habitats and areas of interest.

Margaret Pool, Chair of Langholm Initiative said they were excited to show people the extent of the community land by taking them on the walks.

"It will be an opportunity for people to find out about the area if they're not familiar with it and enjoy the company of others on the different walks," she said.

"We've recruited a number of volunteers to lead walks over the two weekends and are grateful to the council for the funding

we've received.

"We hope all who participate enjoy the companionship of their fellow walkers and are inspired by the long-term vision of the project."

The Tarras Valley Nature Reserve estate manager, Jenny Barlow added: "The moor is such a fantastic wildlife haven on the doorstep of Langholm.

### Sights and sounds

"We're really looking forward to the walking weekends and giving people the opportunity to experience the wonderful sights and sounds of nature that the reserve has to offer."

The Community Events Fund for 2021/22 has a total value of £55,000, with the maximum grant of £3,000 being awarded and a minimum of £500.

Those eligible must have had a festival or event taking place between June of this year and 31 March next year to be considered for funding.

The walks in October will be with walking guides, and numbers will be limited, so those interested, will need to sign up in advance to be able to take part.

The Initiative said to watch this space on how to sign up.



The Langholm Initiative will offer tours of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

## Hot date in Langholm

### First ever ChilliFest promises to spice-up your weekend

**LANGHOLM Chilli Club has announced its first ever Langholm ChilliFest.**

Fans of spice will flock to the widely regarded chilli capital of Scotland, Langholm to check out and test out some of the hottest chillis the world has to offer. Plus, there will be two celebrity chefs cooking up a storm and going head-to-head in what is thought to be the world's first ever space-chilli cook-off.

It will take place on Saturday 23 October and, according to one of its organisers, Mark Hodgson, it is going to be 'the biggest and bestest ChilliFest this year'.

"There's so much we've got planned and so much to look forward to," said the Langholm Chilli Club's founder Mark Hodgson.

"We want as many people as possible to come and

enjoy themselves, it's been a tough couple of years and this event is something the town deserves and we're excited to see many new faces from out of town too.

### Hot Stuff

"It's going to be hot stuff."

The festival will take place all around town, with Britain's biggest selection of chilli plants on display at the Buccleuch centre - alongside talks from leading global chilli experts.

On the Kilgreen, celebrity chefs, Tony Singh and Jilly McCord will present cooking demonstrations before competing against each other in a space-chilli cook-off.

In addition, 30 chilli-market stalls are planned and there will be a Scottish mariachi, as well as, of course, the obligatory chilli-eating competition with the world's 10 hottest chillies.

There will be some spice-less local food and drinks and plenty more to keep youngsters occupied.

The centre of town will see a street market, with local businesses all doing their own special chilli-based products and live bands keeping the tempo up.

Finally, down at the Langholm Social Club people can see the 'super-special-chilli-space-lab', where they can learn how to grow chillis, and meet a special intergalactic visitor.

The whole day will be rounded off with a four band Ceilidh at the Buccleuch centre.

The club thanked Event Scotland, the Arthur Bell Trust, The Bowman Little Trust, the Stevenson Trust and the Stoneypath Trust for supporting ChilliFest 2021.



Celebrity chefs Tony Singh and Jilly McCord will be cooking up some treats



Langholm's Chilli Club members look forward to the ChilliFest 2021

# Road through Benty being 'treated like a speedway'

## Council suggests traffic calming measures should be paid for by residents

**RESIDENTS in Benty have raised concerns over the 'crazy' speed of vehicles coming through the village.**

The road that runs through the village has a sign for 30mph but some residents have said it is being treated as a 'speedway' with some vehicles 'tearing through at 50-60mph'.

Many who live there have called for a petition to raise awareness of the issue and ensure councillors take notice.

Dave Cartner wrote: "It's getting worse. Although I haven't seen many log lorries speeding, there have been delivery vans and even a Forestry Commission van."

Another, Isla Green, wrote: "You have probably seen that we have put stickers on our bins to try and remind people that kids use these roads too – it's crazy the speed people drive along the road by us and it hasn't made any difference."

The concerns were elicited by Clare Johnstone, who lives next to the road, on social media, after she posted a query about people's experiences after becoming fed up of what she was seeing.

"The road is just outside my house and the stuff I see is frightening," she said.

"People treat it like a speedway, tearing through at 50-60mph – we need a deterrent before something happens."

She said she had been in touch with the council about the situation but felt after being told money was an issue in bringing about action, more needed to be done.

"It's a joke," she said. "There's no path, just grass verges and you've got vans and lorries being overtaken and swerving to avoid collisions, it's dangerous and the residents, about a dozen near it, want something to be done."



Drivers are driving through Benty at 'crazy' speeds

Clare's father-in-law contacted MSP Oliver Mundell who advised that the local authority would carry out a speed monitoring investigation.

Dumfries & Galloway network strategy and road safety team leader Anthony Topping said a recent site visit found that traffic flows were generally low and

vehicle speeds 'predominantly not excessive' and 'appropriate for the location and conditions'.

He advised that people should carry out their own assessment of risks and hazards on the roads and it was down to the parents and guardians to ensure the safety of their children.

He said: "Local residents can

report any instances of speeding or inconsiderate driving to Police Scotland. Speeding enforcement, as well as allegations of other motoring offences is a Police Scotland issue and incidents should be reported to them.

### Budgetary constraints

"Whilst we do have every sympathy with the issue, due to budgetary constraints across all departments, we are having to programme and prioritise both new infrastructure and road safety schemes and maintenance of existing assets to create efficiencies and target areas most at need."

He made the suggestion for the community itself to fund any traffic calming measures they felt were needed.

This could include £5,000 vehicle activated signs that flash when vehicles pass above the speed for the area, such as those funded by Torthorwald Community Council for the

A709 with 50% match funding from a Timber Transport fund.

Police Scotland's Sergeant Scott McDowall confirmed that any work to help reduce the speed in the Benty area, like those suggested, would only be paid for in higher risk areas.

He said between 1 January 2017 and 20 July 2021 there had not been any crashes and any priority would be given to locations where there were.

"However, I note your concerns and advise that officers will be directed to conduct checks at the location and action will be taken against any offences witnessed," he informed.

Clare added: "We want people to be aware of what is going on and if it boils down to raising that awareness so that people do slow down then that is what we'll do – the residents here want to feel safe."

## Tractor man's legacy



Alan Mundel from Dumfries Blood Bikes and Duncan Elliott from Xcel Project with their cheques from Angela and Susan Foster

**AN AVID vintage tractor enthusiast's tractor run has raised £1,000 for local charities.**

Jerome Foster died last year and a tractor run fundraiser put on in his memory in July saw scores of people take part in the event to honour him.

The total amount raised was £1,000 - of which over one third was by generous donation.

The Xcel Project, a charity that provides recreational facilities and activities for young people in Eskdale, was one of those who benefitted.

In addition, Blood Bikes Dumfries & Galloway, a charity that sees volunteers deliver blood and urgent medical supplies by bike between hospitals and healthcare sites in South West Scotland, also benefitted.

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## Spotlight on sustainability

**FARM visits have commenced to shine a spotlight on Scotland's sustainable food production.**

NFU Scotland, Quality Meat Scotland, and SAC Consulting have begun fact finding farm visits in the run-up to COP26, the global climate change summit being held in Glasgow.

The visits include local MSPs, MPs and Councillors.

Their aim is to highlight the importance of sustainable food production for the country, and the benefits of agriculture to the Scottish economy.

NFU Scotland's political affairs manager, Beatrice Morrice said they will demonstrate how farmers across Scotland are helping to tackle climate change.

"Our members are using and producing renewable energy, investing in low carbon technology, delivering effective carbon capture and investing in biodiversity and wildlife enhancement to help the country reach net zero," she said.

"NFU Scotland is delighted to be working jointly with QMS and SAC Consulting on this initiative to showcase this work."

The visits began on Friday, with COP26 taking place in November, and they will have particular emphasis on the environmental innovation taking place on farms.

Parliamentary regions across Scotland will have visits, including the West of Scotland.

Attendees will meet local farmers and see first-hand what action they are taking to help to tackle climate change in the area.

The visits seek to demonstrate specific elements of production that deliver positive action for the climate and biodiversity that Scottish farmers are taking.

QMS Market Intelligence and External Affairs director, Sarah Millar said: "The Scottish red meat industry is a priority sector that supports over 50,000 jobs throughout Scotland, and we look forward to showcasing some of the exciting work our farmers and producers have been doing to put them on a path to meeting the Scottish government's Climate Change Act."

SAC Consulting's head of food and footprint, Andrew Bauer added: "Climate change means concerted action must be taken by Scottish agriculture, but it's easy to lose sight of the fact we are usually talking about small businesses juggling a huge range of obligations.

"These events provide parliamentarians with a great opportunity to hear from those doing the juggling, helping promote informed discussion about what needs to be done."

## Dedication and pride

### SRC lecturer shortlisted for prestigious award

**A LECTURER at Scotland's Rural College has been recognised for her work during the coronavirus pandemic.**

Cath Seeds, programme team leader for wildlife and conservation management at SRUC's south and west faculty, has been put forward to win an award.

She has been shortlisted in the Most Innovative Teacher of the Year category of the annual Times Higher Education awards.

Cath, who is one of eight lecturers from across the UK shortlisted for the award, said: "I am both shocked and delighted to be shortlisted.

"It has been an unprecedented time for everyone in education and it is lovely to be recognised for the hard work and creative energy that went into delivering our programme over the last year.

"I found it an extremely challenging time but also an inspiring one, to see how far we could take our teaching delivery to ensure our students on the Wildlife and Conservation Management course could gain a high-quality experience despite the effects of Covid."

From supporting a cross-campus re-design of a key programme, to developing a virtual field trip during the first Covid-19 lockdown and completing the Scottish Academic Leadership Programme, Cath, has



Cath Seeds recorded virtual field trips for her students during the Covid-19 lockdown

been both passionate and imaginative in her support of colleagues and students.

Nick Sparks, dean of SRUC's south and west faculty, said: "Cath is recognised by colleagues and students alike as an outstanding, innovative and generous teacher.

"For Cath, the students come first, followed closely by her team, and she is always striving to give them the best experience

while also proactively supporting colleagues in their development.

"This nomination is richly deserved and will be welcomed by Cath's students and colleagues alike."

There were a record 600 submissions for 20 categories, covering a wide range of university activity across leadership and management, administration and academia.

With the awards focussing primarily on activity during the 2019-20 academic year, many submissions were based on the outstanding initial response to the challenges of Covid-19.

The 17th annual THE Awards, which are widely known as the 'Oscars of higher education', will take place on 25 November at the Hilton London Metropole in central London.

## Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 9,262 sheep comprising of 4,335 spring lambs and 4,927 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown last Thursday.

A much larger show of 4,335 new season spring lambs were forward.

Top price per kilo of 345p achieved for Beltex lambs shown by TR & EA Milburn & Son, Wallend, Carlisle.

Top price per head of £182 for a Texel lamb consigned by AM & L Sutherland, Carran, Thurso.

An overall sale average of 236.4p (SQQ 236.2p).

Principal prices (per kilo): Beltex 345p, 327p Wallend, 314p Balliemore, 305p Whiteside & Wallend, 291p, 285p Cleughbrae.

Texel 280p Barr Hill & Green View, 273p Mains of Balhall, 272p Cobble Hall Barn, 267p, 266p Stonehouse, 264p Housebyres, 263p Killocrow.

Suffolk 256p North Corriellaw, 254p Carnochan, 253p North Corriellaw, 248p Burnside Cottage, 247p Carsegowan, 245p Glenart & Cleugh-

brae.

Cheviot 251p Castle Crawford, 244p, 240p Langholm, 239p Lagalgarve, 235p Tushielaw.

Charmoise 248p Paulsland, Rouge 245p, 239p, 236p Crawfordhall.

Charollais 244p Orthwaite Hall, 240p Moss Side, 240p, 235p Knowe, 233p Moss Side, 230p Mains of Balhall.

Cheviot Mule 243p Housebyres & Kilford Croft, 238p North Corriellaw, 231p Skelfhill.

Herdwick 242p The Craggs, 241p Ashness.

Hampshire 238p Kirkland Hall, 231p Corneockle.

Easycare 231p East Fortissat.

Mule 230p Dalbhraddan & Brennanlea, 228p Whiteside & Auchaleek, 227p Greensburn, 225p Hoscoate.

North Country Cheviot 223p Earlside.

Blackface 220p Home Farm, 217p Bowanhill & Hoscoate, 214p Thirstane Cottage.

Principal price (per head): Texel £182 Carran, £144 Aucharua, £142 Woodhead, £136 Bayldon, £132 Thirstane Cottage, £131, £130 Guardsmill, £130 Langholm, Aucharua & Glenart.

Rouge £162, £154, £134 Crawfordhall.

Beltex £151 Drumburn, £143 Cleughbrae, £138 Priory Nook, £131 Wallend & Priory Nook, £130 West Millhills & Drumburn.

Suffolk £142, £133 Guardsmill, £131 Cleughbrae, £128 Guardsmill, £126 Carsegowan, £124 Drumburn.

Bluefaced Leicester £121 Crawfordhall.

Cheviot Mule £119 Kilford Croft.

Charollais £118 Moss Side, £115 Knowe.

Cheviot £115 Tushielaw, £109 High Chesters, £107 Aucharua, £103.50 Kirkton.

Half-bred £114 High Moat.

Mule £113 Dalbhraddan, £105 Whiteside & Grindon Hill, £101.50 Hoscoate, £101 Minsca.

Hampshire £112 Kirkland Hall.

A larger show of 4,927 ewes were forward to the usual busy ring of buyers. The best quality and heavy ewes continued to sell at extreme rates with these being short of requirements. Lean horned ewes were forward in greater numbers and would be slightly easier on the week.

Heavy ewes topped at £210 for Texel ewes consigned by J Stephenson & Sons, West Millhills, Hexham.

Mule ewes topped at £126 from T Hill & R Wright, Mill Farm, Doncaster.

Hill ewes sold to £117 for Cheviot ewes from J Common & Son, Crossdykes, Lockerbie.

Rams to £210 for Texels from Beckfoot.

Heavy ewes: Texel £210 West Millhills, £198 Viewley, £191 Chaseside, £180 Beckfoot & Skelfhill, £178 Farnbury, £176 Mill Farm, £175 Viewley & Cleughbrae.

Suffolk £170 Cleughbrae, £160, £148 Viewley, £144 High Wreay,

£138 Killocrow & Viewley.

Beltex £168, £132 Killocrow, £130 Wallend.

Charollais £158 Chaseside, £154 Hillhouse, £140 Maryholm.

North Country Cheviot £138 West Millhills, £127 Carruthers, £120 High Moat, £120, £118 West Millhills, £116 Carruthers.

Cheviot Mule £130 West Millhills, £120 Commonsides, £118 Mill Farm, £117 Moseley Grange, £115 Branxholm Braes.

Bluefaced Leicester £130 Tinnis. Mule £126 Mill Farm, £124 Kirkland, £115 High Wreay, £114 Oaklands, £113 The Row, £111 Kirkland, Castlemilk & Staffler.

Light ewes: Cheviot £117 Crossdykes, £98 Kirkton, £97 Crossdykes, £95 Mainside, £94 Branxholm Braes, £91 Crossdykes, £90 Mainside.

Romney £102, £97, £90 Holme Farm, £91, £90 Castlemilk.

Blackface £97 Unthank, £93 Broadmeadows, £90 Drumlanrigg Mains, £84 Unthank, £82 Nether Stenries,

£81 Unthank.

Easycare £86 Carterton, £79 Villa View.

Beulah £82 Higher Roserrow.

Lleyn £82 Dranigower.

Rams: Texel £210 Beckfoot, £192 Chaseside, £174, £165 North House.

Bluefaced Leicester £184 Whiteside.

Suffolk £160 Branxholm Braes.

Beltex £154 Solway House, £152 Bridgestone.

Romney £133 Castlemilk, £130 Holme Farm.

Cheviot £130 Branxholm Braes, £124 Mainside, £120, £114 Branxholm Braes.

Averages:

Lambs: Light to 259.0p (210.6p), standard to 345.0p (239.5p), medium to 327.0p (237.1p), heavy to 291.0p (238.1p), and overweight to 251.0p (229.3p).

Ewes: Light to £117.00 (£62.67), and heavy to £210.00 (£99.66).

Rams £210.00 (£105.48).

# Councillor's comments



First of our regular columns from D & G councillor Ronnie Tait

**WELCOME to our new council column with monthly updates from Annandale East and Eskdale councillor, Ronnie Tait.**

**He will provide an update on the current hot topics in Langholm.**

First and foremost, I want to say what a great night I had at the **Langholm Rugby Football Club 150th anniversary dinner** in the Buccleuch Centre last Friday.

Dumfries & Galloway council was one of the main sponsors of the celebrations and I was asked to represent the council and also present a trophy on its behalf to the president Douglas Beattie.

I must congratulate the club on the guest speakers some of whom were very humorous and informative and some controversial.

Excellent meal too. Having played for the Club for many years and been involved over many years off the pitch I think this is a great achievement for the club to reach this milestone and to be still going strong.

Great crack and well done to the guys who organised the

whole evening.

Next, I would like to follow up on several matters related to the town.

The **Erskine Church** situation is currently ongoing.

The traffic lights are gone having caused some problems but the work carried out on the spire was essential to keep it in reasonable condition. So, what happens now?

1. Contact the new owner
2. Carry out further investigations and survey the property to identify the condition of the building both inside and out.
3. Liaise with Historic Scotland regarding listed building status and hopefully then have a conversation with the owner, council and any other stakeholders - the community, for one.

I know quotes have been obtained to take the spire down, repoint it but I personally think

we should discuss the condition of the building as a whole.

The suspension bridge will re-open tomorrow.

It took a closure to realise how much further it is to the town centre from a good part of the new town especially for the older generation.

Work at **Langholm suspension bridge** started on 10 May and was due to be completed on 27 August but unfortunately the engineers carrying out the blasting work came across a previous repair which had some corrosion on a structural cable.

A decision was taken to repair the affected area whilst the bridge was already being worked on so an extension was applied for. There will be new lighting on the bridge at both ends. The light design has been approved. The brackets to hold the new lights have to be fabricated. It is my understanding the lights will be operational by the end of October or beginning of November.

There have been complica-

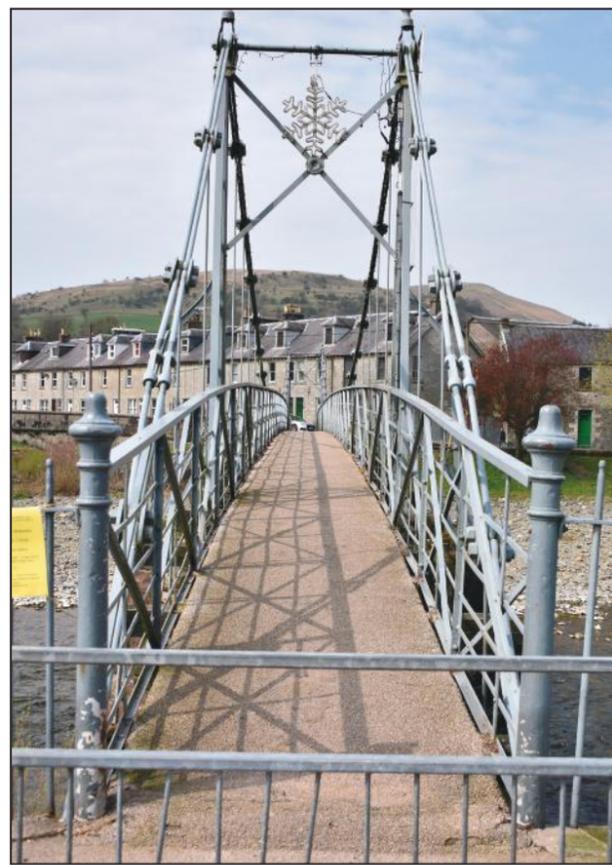
tions taking the stage one community asset transfer request for **'the Dump'** by the Langholm Chilli Club and Langholm Alliance forward. This is mainly due to it being a contaminated land site and a designated open space sports field which is in the local development plan two.

This Community Asset transfer request has now been withdrawn.

We are looking at having the existing goal posts refurbished, new nets, this should happen fairly quickly, and then sourcing some capital finance to repair the perimeter fence.

I will keep you posted.

• **Ronnie's next update will be on 14 October.**



Langholm suspension bridge reopens tomorrow

## Bon Accords delight locals at Canonbie Hall



**CANONBIE Hall welcomed visitors to enjoy an afternoon of dance with the Bon Accords on Sunday.**

It was the first dancing to take place since lockdown and it was well attended by locals who tried to remember the steps.

Many soon got back into the swing of things though with laughter, smiles and overall cheer filling the air.

Canonbie local, Catherine Lithgow was one of those who attended the afternoon.

She said: "Some muscles which hadn't

been used for 18 months groaned but loosened up as the afternoon wore on.

"To hear live music playing was fabulous.

"It only cost £3 and that included a tea or coffee."

Judged a resounding success, it was decided that another will be held in less than a month's time.

The next music and dance event with the Bon Accords at the Canonbie Hall is due to take place on Sunday 10 October 2pm-4.30pm and all are welcome.

## 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](mailto: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!*

# LANGHOLM400

# LANGHOLM 1621 to 2021

# LANGHOLM400

This Sunday marks 400 years since the signing of the charter which made Langholm a Burgh. To celebrate this anniversary, the Heritage sub-group of the Langholm Alliance have created a timeline to highlight some of the notable dates in the town's long and colourful history.

Originally it had been hoped that the anniversary would be celebrated by holding a series of events on and around this date, but due to the uncertain nature of the Covid pandemic, the group decided to hold a year long series of events instead. This takes in the 150th anniversary of the local rugby club and the 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's visit to the town in March 1972.

Chairman of the Heritage sub-group, Billy Young said: "The launch of the timeline, and the other events, which are scheduled for this weekend, will act as a curtain-raiser for a year-long programme of events.

"The organisers of these events hope that they will celebrate what makes our 'Wee Bit Toon' so special and loved by so many."

He added: "Picking the dates to include in the timeline has been by far the most difficult part of the whole project.

"The 28 different panels only cover some, but certainly not all, of the many notable events in the town's long and colourful past.

"We hope that it may be possible to create a permanent record of this in the near future and would welcome any feedback from the public about other events that they feel should be included in this."

The panels will be displayed in the windows of businesses and shops in the town, creating an open-air exhibition space for all to see and enjoy as they walk down the street.

## 19th September 1621

This was the date when King James VI made Langholm a Burgh of Barony. A Burgh of Barony was a type of Scottish settlement which fell under the control of a landowner or Baron who held his estates directly from the crown. In this case the Baron, Robert Maxwell, Earl of Nithsdale, was given the right to choose bailiffs and burgesses, to erect a public hall and market cross, and to hold weekly markets and two annual fairs.



King James VI

**10th June 1641** John Maxwell of Broomholm, the Baron's Bailie (deputy), was accused of illegally drowning Rossie Baittie and her son William Irving for stealing 16 sheep. The drowning pit was at a place called The Grieve in the bed of the River Ewes near its confluence with the Esk. Drowning had one distinct advantage over hanging - it was much cheaper, as a good "hang raip" could cost 8d!



ANNA DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH. B. 1651 D. 1732. WITH HER SONS JAMES EARL OF DONCASTER, AND LORD HENRY SCOTT, AFTERWARDS EARL OF DELORAIN.

**7th April 1643** The Earl of Nithsdale lost his lands here in April 1643 due to his support for King Charles I. They were then passed to Francis, second Earl of Buccleuch, who became the Lord-Superior to the Barony of Langholm. When his daughter Countess Anne married the Duke of Monmouth in 1663, King Charles II created for them the titles first Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. In 1685 Monmouth was brutally beheaded by King James II after his failed attempt to take the throne. However his widow was allowed to retain her titles and lands, and in 1687 Langholm became a Burgh of Regality, i.e. a settlement that was under the jurisdiction of a leading Scottish nobleman who held large estates and had wide powers in criminal and civil law.



1st Duke of Monmouth



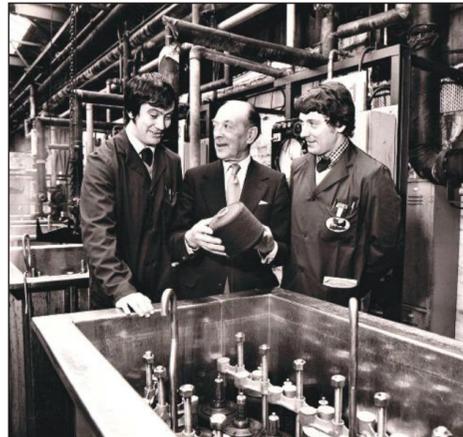
Portrait of Archibald Arceche the king's jester by Thomas Cecil



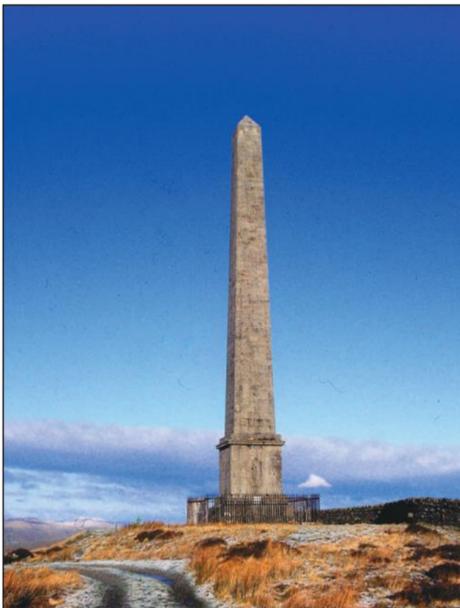
Neil Armstrong taking the oath during his Freedom of the Burgh ceremony 15 March 1972



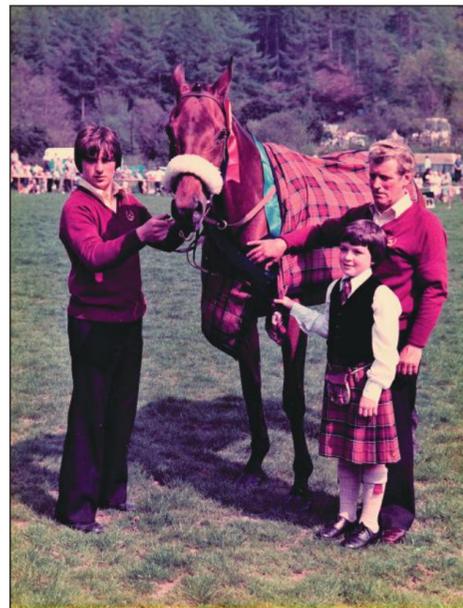
Reid & Taylor's mill on fire in 1933



Langholm Dyeing and Finishing with Billy Smith, Drew Stevenson and Frankie Steele, 1979



Langholm's Malcolm Monument, erected in memory of Sir John Malcolm in 1835

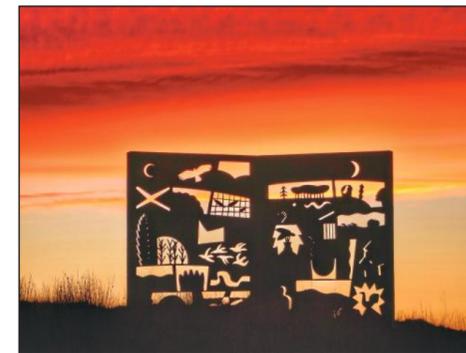


Stuart Johnstone with Red Rum at Milntown on 3 June 1979

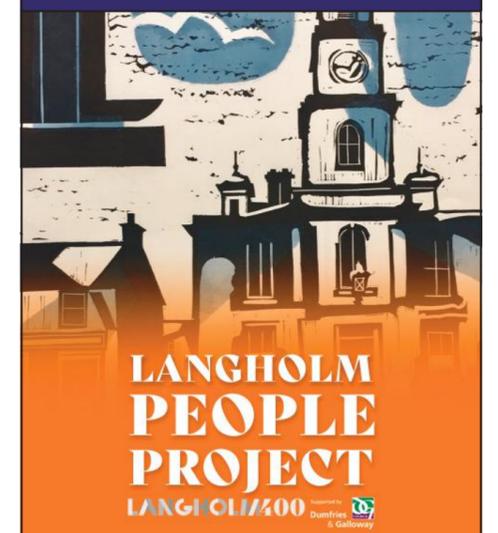
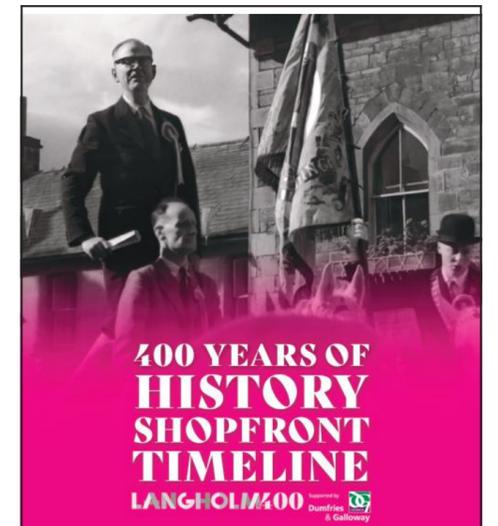


Ewes Water as it is today

*four hundred years of history*



The MacDiarmid Memorial on Whita Hill



# 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 [danielle@eladvertiser.co.uk](mailto:danielle@eladvertiser.co.uk)

## Community Council responds

Through the courtesy of your columns, Langholm Ewes and Westerkirk community council members wish to correct the completely inaccurate statements made at the Ditch the Drain meeting, reported in the E&L Advertiser and also those comments made on Facebook.

We meet in, normal times, on the first Monday of each month, ten months in the year and an advert is put in the paper beforehand giving the date, time and place. It also states 'members of the public are welcome to attend'. The editor of the E&L would attend and it meant anything discussed could be reported in that week's paper.

During Lockdown we held a meeting in October last year but constraints on numbers meant that we advised members of the public to submit their questions beforehand. Only two did so and replies were duly sent.

At our recent meeting in August constraints on members, quite correctly made by the venue, meant that we advised members

of the public that they should apply beforehand and that the first six applicants could attend. Only one did so.

### Distress

On Facebook the reaction was that we are a 'closed group', that we have 'something to hide' that the 'community is always excluded', 'Who's pulling the strings here' and 'my guess is there's some bad eggs in the pack', implies that there is some kind of malpractice going on in the CC. This is causing considerable distress to our members.

The CC made the decision both before Covid and at our October meeting to support the flood prevention scheme in principle, but to question certain aspects of if they would adversely affect any area of the town. As always, our concern was that anything put in place would ensure the safety of people and properties during possible flooding. The environmental study and the scoping report are not yet with us, so we could not have 'withheld them from the public'.

Two members of the CC were present at the Ditch the Drain meeting and one has now conveyed to us the thoughts and comments made. No formal invitation was made to the CC.

Over many years the CC has supported, both financially and through writing letters, many groups and individuals within our community. We have also led successful campaigns against the NHS and other authorities which would have caused great harm to our community.

### Recognition

We frequently try to bring recognition of Langholm and Eskdale to a wider audience as being beautiful, welcoming and worth visiting.

We are all volunteers, receive no recompense and not only attend CC meetings, we help with many other organisations both in Langholm and in Dumfriesshire. Do we deserve to be the targets of such abusive comments? We leave it to a wider audience to judge.

Members of LEWCC

## Town Band very, very grateful

Langholm Town Band would like to thank everyone who has donated towards the band's trip to the National Finals of Great Britain which will be held in Cheltenham this weekend.

Each and every one of you has made our trip possible and without your help we simply would not be able to attend and represent Scotland in the third section.

Can I thank our sponsors for our trip - The Stevenson Trust, BGS Cayzer Trust, Bowman Little Trust Fund and Arthur Bell Trust.

I would also like to thank the local business and individuals who have taken up the offer of 'Sponsoring a Seat' in the band - Stevenson & Johnstone, The Langholm Alliance, I & M Electrical, Tommy & Diane Morrison, Cochranes Nurseries, Ian G Bell Painter & Decorator, Martins Garage, New Town Convenience Store, Ross Calvert Joiner, JK Salon, Alasdair Hutton OBE, Andersons of Langholm and Glenfirra. To Pollyanna's for donating the funds so that we could

purchase Muckle Toun tartan ties for the band members to wear at the contest and Yarns to Yearn For for assisting with the ties and donating our Mascot Toon Ban' teddy.

Finally, thank you to the members of the public who donated to our Just-Giving page and handed in donations. We are overwhelmed by the generosity and support shown to the band. We have worked exceptionally hard to prepare the piece of music we have to perform at the Contest and we will give it our best shot on the day and hope that the adjudicators enjoy our performance.

We are up against another 16 bands from across the UK but we are the only Scottish band in our section. Two other Scottish bands Kingdom from Fife in the first section and Annan Town Band in the second section will join us down in Cheltenham.

Thanks doesn't seem enough.

On behalf of everyone at Langholm Town Band,

Christine Calvert  
Secretary



Langholm Town Band thank all individuals and businesses that have donated to help fund their trip to the national finals in Cheltenham

## River depredation

I have just listened to BBC Radio Four's environmental programme 'Costing the Earth' about the state of Britain's rivers - found to be 'in crisis'.

Admittedly, he was on his old boyhood haunt the River Cam in Cambridge, but, although somewhat stating the blithering obvious, the presenter, Tom Heap found that a combination of population explosion and drastically dryer weather was killing his river with pollution from algae growth and repeated discharges of often raw, untreated sewage by Anglian

Water.

Though we do not, as yet, have the 20% recent population growth of Cambridgeshire to accommodate, we do not in Langholm have far to look for evidence of our own River Esk's depredation from climate change - can anyone remember the river, now scarcely more than a burn, so low - and, as a result, so scummy with 'run-offs' of various origins. Just look under the town bridge, and when was the last salmon taken from this once famous fishing river?

Methinks a flooding barricade is not the most pressing of Langholm's needs.

Richard Lennox,  
1 Henry Street,  
Langholm

## Fighting Fund?

Like many others in the town, we would like to thank Erica Luukas for the huge amount of time taken on our behalf to painstakingly and accurately research the shocking flood defence plan.

The meeting on 7 September raised so many issues of concern not least that Newcastleton are now dry dredging - so why not Langholm?

We would like to suggest consideration be given to setting up a fighting fund. This would ensure monies are available to seek legal advice when this is required.

John and Aileen Armstrong  
13 Eskdaill Street  
Langholm

## Ducks help hall funds

The Benty Hall committee would like to thank everyone who bought ducks or came to sample our wonderful cream teas on Sunday.

The winners of the duck race were Mark Grieve in first place, Ally Hutton in second and Craig Hislop in third.

We raised just over £800 for hall funds - a wonderful amount to boost our funds. The whole event was a great success and it was much needed after the last 18 months of lockdown.

Once again thank you for your support.

Bentpath Hall  
Committee

# New scams on the rise in Scotland: Be on your guard

## Fraudulent emails and texts are targeting people of all ages, including students

**SCOTS have been warned about several new scams on the back of ScamWatch Week.**

Consumers have been urged to be aware of new scams which are on the rise in Scotland, with this year's campaign highlighting the misconception that only older and more vulnerable people are caught out.

Scammers are increasingly using emails and texts to prey on people of all ages.

This includes students as HMRC warned young people to beware of fake tax refund scams.

In the past year almost 1m people reported scams to HMRC.

Nearly half of all tax scams offer fake tax refunds, which HMRC does not offer by SMS or email.

Links or files sent in scam emails or texts can also download dangerous software onto

a computer or phone.

Between April and May this year, 18 to 24-year olds reported more than 5,000 phone scams to HMRC.

HMRC's head of cyber security operations, Mike Fell said: "Most students won't have paid tax before, and so could easily be duped by scam texts, emails or calls either offering a 'refund' or demanding unpaid tax.

"Students, who will have had little or no interaction with the tax system might be tricked into clicking on links in such emails or texts.

"Our advice is to be wary if you are contacted out of the blue by someone asking for money or personal information and if in doubt, our advice is – do not reply directly to anything suspicious, but contact HMRC through gov.uk straight away and search gov.uk for 'HMRC scams'."



Scots urged to be aware of the increasing number of scams

Advice Direct Scotland, which runs the national consumer advice service consumeradvice.scot on behalf of the Scottish Government, have also seen a steady rise in

reported scams as the Covid pandemic eases.

Advice Direct Scotland chief executive, Andrew Bartlett said: "With information more readily available, and methods of con-

tact more accessible, scammers are increasingly targeting Scots consumers.

"The more vulnerable members of our communities are often the preferred targets of scammers because of the belief that they will be easier to deceive, but the reality is that anyone can be caught out.

"Due to an increase in the volume of scam emails, text messages, and telephone calls, cyber-scams are on the rise in particular."

Some of the most common scams include fake parcel delivery texts, scammers claiming to be from HMRC, and investment scams such as cryptocurrency offers.

Alongside this are more traditional doorstep scams by bogus callers pretending to be tradespeople, charity collectors or energy meter readers.

Scots are being urged not to

send any money or buy anything from someone who they think may be a scammer, not give any personal information, bank details, passwords or PIN numbers, and not to download any attachments or files in emails or click on any links.

They are also being advised not to ring any numbers received in an email or letter they think may be from a scammer, but to contact their service provider for advice.

- **Free, impartial and practical advice is available to anyone in Scotland through Advice Direct Scotland.**

- **Consumers can seek help via freephone on 0808 164 6000; and online, web chat and email at [www.consumeradvice.scot](http://www.consumeradvice.scot). Police Scotland can also be contacted on 101, or, 999 in an emergency.**

## UK-wide memorial quilt

**BELTED Galloway cattle, thistles and the rolling southern Scotland hills all feature on a UK-wide Covid-19 memorial patchwork quilt.**

The images, on a six-by-six-inch square patch, represent the Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency on the quilt which is being created by well-known Mouswald-based craft quilter Ann Hill, BEM.

The Parliamentary Covid Memorial Quilt, which goes on display later this year, will be a lasting tribute to those who died as a result of the pandemic and an acknowledgement of the dedicated contribution by so many front-line workers.

### Initiative

A cross-party initiative, led by London Brent Central MP Dawn Butler, resulted in MPs, peers and staff at the Palace of Westminster being invited to take part by contributing or arranging patches.

The quilt also reflects all others whose lives were impacted during the global emergency



Ann Hill hands over the Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale square for the Parliamentary Covid Memorial Quilt to constituency MP David Mundell

and the fact that four popular staff members at the Houses of Parliament were amongst the many who died from Covid.

Local MP David Mundell was happy to take up the challenge and turned to his good friend Ann, a nationally known quilter

and an author of a book on the subject.

The former Scottish Secretary said: "I was delighted when Ann volunteered to use her skills to complete a patch based on some of my off-duty lockdown mem-

ories of taking regular walks in the Moffat Hills near my home.

"Ann did a remarkable job and the patch's hills, belties and thistles reflect how the countryside and outdoors brought a great deal of solace and comfort to many people in the constituency in what was an uncertain and difficult time."

### Wonderful idea

The quilted wall-hanging project was supported by the Speaker of the House of Commons, and Sir Lindsay Hoyle, who described it as 'a wonderful idea' which had brought the parliamentary community together.

During lockdowns, Ann's self-isolating quilting group across the region made and gave out 650 morale-boosting quilts, many featuring farming and other rural scenes, to people living alone.

She added: "I'm told these 'quilted hugs' proved a real tonic for the recipients."

## Plans revealed for Spring Fling

**PLANS are underway for the 2022 Spring Fling event.**

Regarded as one of Dumfries & Galloway's premier vibrant visual art and craft open studios event, next year's event will be over four days and it will be a celebration of their 20th anniversary.

Between 90 and 100 professional artists and makers throw open the doors to their studios, offering visitors the chance to get behind the scenes of artistic practice.

It also allows people to experience artists and makers demonstrating and explaining their processes and inspirations and have the opportunity to buy a piece of art direct from the artist.

It has previously seen Langholm-based Daniel Lacey Design & Furniture, Jo Walker Ceramics in The Wee Workshop, and Sian Yeshe, who is a freelance filmmaker.

In addition to the core event, over the Spring Fling weekend visitors can enjoy a number of extra events and happenings such as pub-

lic art commissions, exhibitions, performances, workshops and events.

It will take place between 2-5 June.

A spokesperson for the event said: "This is a big deal and we intend to celebrate in style.

"We also plan to return to our normal open studio format and can't wait to welcome you back to the studios.

"This follows the normal format of having the event at the late May Bank Holiday weekend, however, due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, these dates and the bank holiday have moved and it will be a four-day event rather than the usual three."

Applications for artists and makers to be a part of Spring Fling 2022 are now open.

The deadline for submission is 24 October.

- **For full information on how to apply, visit <https://www.weareupland.com/opportunities/spring-fling-2022-applications-open>.**



# Memories & Milestones

We continue our serialisation of Tommy Beattie's memoirs

## New lessons

### I was learning fast and becoming useful to my father.

He was a postman by day and in late afternoon he reverted to his original calling, namely Monumental Mason. This was mainly a part-time occupation in the spring and summer governed obviously by the weather conditions.

He cleaned headstones and this was a job at my age I could do, hard work though it was. I got well paid. I think I got 6d a night.

Lettering headstones was the best earner and dad got 1d per letter. Some letters were filled in with paint and that was where I shone. I also drilled the anchor holes in marble stones for the lead wire. This was beaten into the letters with an Ebony mallet shaped like a rugby ball. To drill the holes I used an old Archimedean drill, we did not have electric drills then. An Archimedean drill is worked by pushing a nut up and down a threaded piece of round metal. That is the best description I can give. Once the holes were made I used to beat this ¼ inch lead strip into the letter and trim off the surplus with a sharp knife.

Remember I was about twelve when I last did this work and the trade will have advanced, I would expect, from those pre-war days.

I thought I would follow in my ancestors' footsteps but the truth of the matter was I could not draw. Roses, thistles and all sorts of things were carved in stone. The art side missed me but my daughter Marilyn is very good and has sold some of her work. I am proud the gift was transferred to her because I found my niche in life as a Sales

Representative.

Whilst we are dealing with inscriptions on headstones, carvings and the like, I think it is prudent to advise everyone to go to the old Churchyards and read some of these inscriptions. Some are heartfelt, some are witty, some are rude, but all are interesting. If you would take an hour of your time you will see one inscription where it says, or at first glance it seems to say "Lord she was thin". On further examination you will see the "amateur" sculpture had set his letters out badly and ran out of space. He had no room for "E" and therefore had to go round the side of the stone to finalise the inscription "Lord She Was Thine".

You will also come across another which showed little love or affection and it reads "Below this sod lies another". There are countless pieces of quotes which are loving and tender and put there in the right spirit.

## From clogs to barrows

At this time in my life I wore clogs at school. It seems, on looking back, not too many boys wore clogs and fewer girls. One of the things about clogs was the advantage gained when playing football or rugby. Your opponents seemed not over keen in tackling you, I

wonder why?

Using clogs in winter, as I have already told you, was like wearing skates. In summer you could make super sparks fly by slicing your caulkers on the road.

One lost out at hide and seek because running in clogs was doing the impression of a Clydesdale at full gallop. When caulkers wore thin they became like a razor, when that happened it was join the queue at Billy McVittie's shop in John Street, usually Saturday morning. Our clogger had his stool in the centre of the shop, or room would be nearer the point, right in front of the open fire. Coal or wood was burnt not electric. I believe gas was used to heat some of his tools and he had a gas poker he used if the fire got low.

All the customers sat on a form which was fixed against the wall around the room. You kept moving round till it was your turn. You took off your clogs and handed them to Mr McVittie. He first of all placed a new caulker on top of the old one to make sure of the size. The next thing was removal of the worn caulker and throw it on top of a heap in the corner. When the caulker was removed holes in the wooden soles were filled with pieces of wood like match sticks. This done the new caulker could be nailed to the clog sole. Watching this was interesting to us boys because Mr McVittie always had a mouth full of little nails. He could produce one nail at a time by using his tongue and lips. This technique was obviously quicker than stopping to pick up each nail individually. The nails popped out as from a machine, really incredible.

(to be continued)



## Times Past

### 100 years:

The children attending our Infant School are fortunate in having such a teacher as Miss Wilson. The progress made under her fostering guidance is little short of marvellous. Scholars of today are lucky bairns compared to those long ago. Take this from page 471 of "Langholm as it was". Extract from Session records of Langholm Kirk: March 6 1726. The Session allow J L and J B, two of the poor scholars, a quarter to learn to sing the common tunes at threepence per month. The minister reported that he had tried who of the poor scholars had ears and none of them were capable but these two. We are a long way past that state of things now. All our scholars nowadays get help of trained musicians, and rightly so. But who was the minister mentioned in this case? He was the Rev. Alex Meikle, who before he came to Langholm was assistant to Dr Issac Watts, the famous hymn writer. The fine soul of the author of "Jesus shall reign where're the sun" and "When I survey the wonderous cross", undoubtedly had influenced the work of Mr Meikle, and two poor scholars were helped to learn the "common tunes", because of it. It seems a little thing, but in those far-off days it was rather a big stride forward. Goodness knows how much Mr Meikle had to conquer of our uncharity before he was permitted to try the ears of the scholars.

### 75 years: Visit of the Lochgelly co-operative Choir

As will be seen from our advertising columns, a concert is to be given by Lochgelly Co-operative Choir of Saturday 12 October. This Choir is well known in central Scotland generally for its fine choral singing and artistic interpretation. It has during the past years, gained the premier award at Musical Festivals at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth, Stirling and throughout Fife, and has received high praise from many of our leading adjudicators of the country. In May this year it gained the championship for Co-operative choirs of Scotland. It is hoped even at this early date that the choir is conducted by a native of Langholm in the person of Miss A J Fletcher, and the concert is in aid of the Eskdale and District Nursing Association which cause deserves all the worthy and general support it can get. We understand that a varied programme will be presented, including items by male voices and by ladies' voices.

### 50 years: Scroggs!

We didn't know how to 'christen it'! First of all we thought of "floribunda" and then of "Multiflora" and of all the other expressions which mean an extraordinary yield and thereupon we, to use a colloquial phrase, became "nuts" so to speak. The object we are referring to was a cluster of scroggs. Now, there were several people in the company when this particular scrogg cluster was handed round, and all referred to the days when they gathered scroggs and of how threes and fours and even fives and sixes were relatively common. This "exhibition" cluster however compromised no fewer than fourteen perfectly formed scroggs, and it was the first "multiple" specimen that anybody in the company had seen. Accompanying the "fourteener" was a "niner" and here all nine nuts were cracked and were found to be full – not one was "bose". Incidentally, this cluster did not come from the Scrogg Wud on the Castlehill but from the "Nitbusses" up Lynholm way. The point is, can any of our readers beat a "fourteener" scrogg cluster?

### 25 years: Artists of the future show town of the future

A group of local students saw their work being "unzipped" on Saturday when their mural was introduced to the public. Langholm Academy Head Alan Gray did the honours by cutting through a paper zip to expose the mural beyond. The theme is most appropriately "The Community of the future". This event also marked the opening of an exhibition of the art and design work of members of "The group of '96," who are all ex-pupils of the Academy. Three of them are now students at Cumbria College of Art and Design, Carlisle, the fourth will soon be taking up the study of Psychology. The mural can be seen in Room 1 at the Community Centre. It covers the greater part of a large wall and conveys ideas of how a future community like Langholm might be envisaged. The result is not a run-of-the-mill type of wall painting but is refreshingly young, vigorous, imaginative and colourful.



Langholm Seven which defeated Gala at Earlston Rugby Club Sports on 13 September 1946



Head teacher Alan Gray with Alex Borthwick, Dwayne Bell, Aeron Egerton, Paul Gardner and Brian Gormley

# The E&L Gallery



Unusually still waters at Langholm Bridge, perfectly captured by Mark Hodgson of Langholm

Camera: Nokia 3

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Rave Review: The Keep it Country Show

By Derryn Waitt

**WEDNESDAY 8 September was highlighted in our calendar. Why? Because we had tickets for the Keep It Country show in The Buccleuch Centre.**

We were there by 6.30pm, keen to soak up the atmosphere of a LIVE show – after 18 months.

It was lovely to see everyone coming in, and there was a definite buzz of excitement – not only because of the show, but meeting friends after so long. The Buccleuch Centre staff were obviously happy to be back, serving drinks with a smile.

Having been involved with many Irish Shows during our playing career, we were looking forward to just sitting back and enjoying the evening. Keltic Storm were on the stage and started promptly at 7.30pm. We really enjoyed these lads, plenty of energy, superb music and vocals – a great band in their own right – and as was soon proved, a fantastic backing band for the

singers to follow.

Compere Gary Gamble kept the show moving with plenty of humour between acts, and he was hilarious with his Daniel O'Donnell impression and a very good singer too.

Joe Moore was a revelation, one of the best Country singers we've heard. With an easy-going effortless style and deep baritone voice, he sang some great songs such as Diana, Kiss and Angel Good Morning and the popular Crystal Chandeliers.

Shaun Loughrey kept the momentum going. Another fine singer who kept us all entertained. We won't mention all the songs but favourite Galway Girl and a super ballad Until You Have Walked in My Shoes were included.

We were thoroughly enjoying the show, as was everyone, judging by the happy atmosphere, and we still had the Queen of Country to look forward to.

Back in the late 70s, a great accordionist and friend of ours, brought us some LPs of Irish singers. One of them was



Philomena Begley (centre) with Derryn and Robin Waitt at the first Buccleuch Centre concert for 18 months

an album by Philomena Begley. We have been fans of hers since then, and can honestly say, her voice is as strong and vibrant as it was back then. An inveterate performer, she had her audience with her from the outset. With favourite songs, including a lovely arrangement

of The Dark Island, and with great backing from Keltic Storm, Philomena finished the show in true Country style.

A fantastic professional show with superb sound and perfect lighting and a great start to what we hope will be normality for The Buccleuch Centre.

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# Horse show win for Rashiebrae

## Horse Show

By Dianna Staveley

We all wish to qualify for the Country Fair where the National Pony Society have their annual Members Open Show, but this year, owing to Covid-19, things were different - it became an open show.

A prelim wash of our Connemara pony, Rashiebrae in the river Esk left us with a wishy-washy weak coffee coloured pony, so at Blair Atholl we did a deep clean, and we eventually got a snowy white superstar.

Part of the team, Jodie Jackson took on the mare who knows it all and thought she was in charge. All went well and in a class of 26 they came out the top.

While Rashiebrae thought she

had done her lot and expected a reward in front of the judge - a habit taught to her by her previous handler that blondes give her Hobnobs - there was a wait for other classes to be completed before the adult championship for four years old and over.

She won it though. The announcement by the commentator was that it had been won by a pony bred in Langholm and though we could not believe our luck, it was then that a party of Langholm supporters made their noise heard.

We cannot thank them enough, Rashiebrae went one better than in 2019 when she was runner-up and won another silver medal.

We live in Eskdalemuir, but were so proud to be with our friends from Langholm and represent our town



Rashiebrae with her filly foal Molliebrae at Blair Atholl 2021  
Photo by Julia Shearwood photography

# Bowling Roundup



Club champion and president  
Kevin Irving



Lochrie Shield and  
President's Prize won by  
Raymond Redmond

## Langholm Old Town

LANGHOLM Old Town bowling had their final day of the season on Saturday.

It saw a presentation to the prize winners of its competitions.

In the Men's Championship Kevin Irving came out on top, with Raymond Redmond the runner-up.

The Jim Lochrie Shield winner was Raymond Redmond and the runner-up was Lauren Scott. Raymond Redmond also won the President's Prize, with Ann

Wilkinson taking second place.

In the Ladies Championship the winner was Lauren Scott and the runner-up was Elma Aitken.

The Club Pairs saw Nicky Dunn and Ann Wilkinson win over Raymond Redmond and Julie Lydon. The Club Triples winners were Tony Little, Donald Little, and Nicky Dunn, who succeeded against James McVittie, Gavin Graham, and Kevin Irving.

After the conclusion of the presentation, bowling president, Kevin Irving thanked everyone at the club for all their hard work during the season.

# Four in a row for Langholm First XI

## Cricket

By Graham Park

LANGHOLM rolled off their fourth win in a row as they beat Carleton at home by 28 runs.

Batting first Langholm posted 169, largely due to a superb 87 from Gregor Park. An initial opening stand of 46 by the Carleton openers had Langholm worried but three quick wickets eased any concern and after that the visitors never really looked in the hunt as they posted 141 for 7 in their 40 overs.

The Carleton skipper put Langholm into bat with home side openers from Stuart Duggan and Gregor Park riding their luck as Carleton put down some very easy catches. Tony Steele joined Park and the scoring rate increased as they took Langholm past 100 in the twenty-fifth over. An over later, Steele fell. Nicky Piszczykiewicz joined Gregor and the run rate sky rocketed. In the end Langholm finished on 169 but considering they had been 159 for two after 32 overs it was a

bit of a disappointment.

The Carleton openers, Jim Litherland and Alex Park got off to a great start adding 46 for the first wicket. The run rate required started to increase however, and the pressure was put on the Carleton batsmen. With the score on 85 after 27 overs an easy catch was given to Gregor Park. The return of Dave Steele into the attack proved decisive as he bowled Harry Powell first ball and more importantly was difficult to score off.

The visitors never really looked like reaching the Langholm total and when Dave Steele clean bowled Daniel Tickner for 36 with the score on 114 in the thirty-fifth over the victory was all but sealed. Carleton finished on 141 for seven.

That completes the cricket season at the Castleholm with only the final game against Temple Sowerby away left on Saturday.

It was a good victory against a strong Carleton side, though Langholm will be disappointed that after being 159 for two they finished on 169.



Langholm Cricket Club on the Castleholm

# Men's Open a vibrant affair

## Golf

By Andrew Paisley

WON by Simon Tweddle, Langholm Golf Club's recent Men's Open was a vibrant affair.

As with many Opens over the years the weather played a big part in trying to derail the blue-ribbon event in the Langholm Golfing calendar.

It was a damp start to the event with the first players teeing off at 6am with the rain getting heavier as the morning rolled on.

Tweddle carded a one over par total of 71 in that first group, converting to 38 stableford points. His round was a fine display of golf.

That total was there to be aimed at for the rest of the day. The points tally of 38 was equalled with a great round by Scott Collins, however, on a countback basis of a better inward nine holes Tweddle remained on top.

Lewis Haws finished third on 36 points with Neil Irving and Alan Borthwick also on that total taking fourth and fifth places on countback.

Andrew Porteous took the scratch prize.

Best Visitor was John Scott from Hawick.

Nearest the Hole on the fourth and thirteenth was Jamie Gormley.

Nearest the hole on the ninth and eighteenth was Barry Robson.

There were five magic two's -

Andrew Paisley, Barry Robson, David Robson from Lochmaben, and Andrew Porteous with two magic twos.

Persistent rain caused a delay at lunchtime as the greens filled up.

Many golfers looked like drowned rats, and players sought out a dry spot at the clubhouse to wait it out.

After an hour suspension the greens eventually dried up and were playable.

The final group came in at 7.45pm, however, despite some valiant attempts no one got past Tweddle's total.

Well supported by players from Carlisle, Hawick and Lochmaben taking part, the clubhouse was vibrant once more.



Simon Tweddle is the winner of the Langholm Golf Club Men's Open



# Exceptional evening for exceptional club



Back row L-R - Rae Elliot, Ronnie Tait, Kenneth Pool, Bruce Aitchison, Nathan Smith  
Front Row L-R - Ian Barnes, Ian Landles, Dougie Beattie, Ian Barr President SRU, Andy Irvine

## LRFC 150th

IT was a full house at the Buccleuch Centre on Friday night to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the formation of Langholm Rugby club.

With 130 attending, it was a great evening of exceptional speeches taking in the club's 150 years since its 1871 inception.

The club's chairman, Kenneth Pool welcomed the guests, including those from other clubs, club officials, life members of the Scottish Women's International team, Ally Ratcliffe and Jilly McCord, and four members of the championship winning team of 1958/59 George Maxwell, John Elliot, Billy Murray and Zander Turnbull.

Unfortunately, Langholm, Scotland, and British Lion, Billy Steele could not attend but good wishes came from him.

Proposing the toast to Langholm RFC was Hawick historian and raconteur Ian

Landles who got the evening off to a great start in his own inimitable style. Club captain Nathan Smith followed this up with his own speech.

Callum Graham who is known for his work with sport in the region presented the club with an award in recognition of its special achievement from Annandale and Eskdale Sports Awards. Councillor Ronnie Tait gave this to club president Dougie Beattie.

A toast was given to the Scottish Rugby Union, followed by a speech from SRU president Ian Barr.

The club was delighted that former president of the SRU and former Scottish international rugby player Andy Irvine was able to attend to propose a toast to rugby football.

During the evening, there were a number of videos shown to help celebrate the club's

anniversary, with messages coming in from several friends and alumni of the club.

## Alumni

This included, Wasps Rugby player and Langholm's own, Robin Hislop, SRU player Lisa Thomson from Melrose who was vice-captain for the 2021 Women's Six Nations Championship, and Langholm's Tommy Elliot, who gained five caps for Scotland between 1968 and 1970.

To add to the celebrations, it was announced on Friday by the SRU that former Langholm and Scotland Women's player, Ally Ratcliffe had been inducted into the SRU hall of fame. The chairman congratulated Ally on behalf of the club.

A vote of thanks was given by the chairman for an excellent celebration of 150 years of Langholm rugby.



Councillor Ronnie Tait presents LRFC president Dougie Beattie with the Annandale and Eskdale recognition of special achievement award

# Jamie's glorious Glory Fighter



Jamie Gormley of Langholm wins for Iain Jardine on Sunday

Photo: Alan Raeburn

## Horseracing

**GLORY Fighter won for Iain Jardine Racing on Sunday at Musselburgh.**

The five-year-old had 7-1 odds and ridden by Jamie Gormley it beat the favourite, Sound of Iona, which came last, in the five-furlong handicap on good to soft ground.

The horse, owned by Kenneth Macpherson, won with a disputed lead after leading narrowly under two furlongs out.

He faced strong challenge for the final furlong and kept on well and won going away.

Earlier Hi Meh Darling came second in her race, while Ravenscraig Castle came second in the two-

mile handicap despite being touted as favourite for the race.

He had raced freely, tracking the leader and led under four furlongs out, but faced a strong challenge with the eventual win going to Haizoom.

The day previous, The Gloaming also came second in the five-furlong handicap at Musselburgh.

Ridden by Andrew Mullen, the three-year-old had a dwelt start and held up in behind the leaders.

She pushed along though and switched right over one-furlong out, and while she led narrowly inside the final furlong, came second on the finish.

# Back to business after celebrations

## Rugby

By Kenneth Pool

Langholm RFC 24  
Corstorphine Cougars RFC 19

**THE first home league match of the season for Langholm Rugby FC turned out to be a tough one against a gutsy, if at times, undisciplined Corstorphine side.**

It was the visitors who started the better of the two sides and took control of the play. They raced to a 10-nil lead in the first 20 minutes. A good individual try from Fraser Mitchell, converted by the captain, Nathan Smith reduced the deficit to

three points before another penalty by the visitors extended their lead to 13 points to seven at half time.

It was a more determined home side that took the field after the break and despite another successful penalty from Corstorphine. A quick ball to the wing was taken by Rikki Kiore who burst over in the corner at full stretch for a fine touchdown. While the difficult conversion was missed, another good move by the Milntown men to the other wing saw Calum Helling receive the ball just outside the visitors 22. He determinedly wove his way through the Corstorphine defence, dodging a number of tackles before running over the line between the posts for

an excellent try which received a great cheer from the large home crowd. The conversion by Smith saw Langholm go ahead for the first time by 19 points to 16. However, Corstorphine won another penalty making the score 19 points each with just over five minutes to go.

Langholm threw everything into attack with veteran Alasdair Cavers taking the ball forward on more than one occasion to take the home side closer and closer to the line. A quick ball was moved out to Smith who ran in for a good try before the elated Langholm supporters. Try number four, it gave the home side a bonus point. The conversion was missed and though it was a nervous last few

minutes, the ref blew for full time with the score 24-19 to the Milntown men.

A hard-won match, it will give both the coach, Craig Hislop, and the players confidence and encouragement for their East League 2 campaign.



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