

Fiery Festival of fun

LANGHOLM'S INAUGURAL CHILLIFEST IN WORDS AND PICTURES: PAGES 3, 8 & 9



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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BRIEFING

NEWS

Erskine Church stays forlorn and neglected



BIDS to purchase Erskine Church failed to meet the unknown reserve price placed on the building when it went under the hammer

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SCOTTISH NEWS

Flu and Covid-19 booster jabs latest



INVITATION letters have been sent out for the next eligible groups for the flu and Covid-19 vaccine jabs

Full story: Page 11

SPORT

Big day at Milntown in top-of-table clash



IT was a big day at Milntown on Saturday for the East League 2 top-of-the-table clash between Langholm and Leith Rugby Club

Full story: Page 16



One of the highlights of the weekend's Chillifest was the chilli eating competition. Five contestants munched their way through some of the hottest varieties on planet earth with the eventual winner being Duncan Lockie from Denholm...see the story on page 3 and 8 and 9 for pictures
Picture by Danielle Kenneally

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Second phase buyout

If successful, nature reserve would expand by 5,300 acres

TARRAS Valley Nature Reserve may double in size as the second phase of south of Scotland's biggest community buyout is launched this week.

The Langholm Initiative, a community development trust, aims to buy 5,300 acres of Langholm moor and three residential properties from Buccleuch, to expand the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve to 10,500 acres at a cost of £2.2m.

The money needs to be fundraised in order to take the make the purchase reality, adding the already purchased 5,200 acres during the last year for £3.8m.

A further successful buyout would boost plans for community regeneration, including nature-based tourism opportunities, and for tackling the nature and climate emergencies.

"We're aiming to repeat the impossible

and open a new chapter in this inspiring story of hope and community by doubling the size of Tarras Valley Nature Reserve – and so doubling the benefits for people, nature and climate," said Jenny Barlow, the reserve's estate manager.

The nature reserve was created earlier this year after the community's historic purchase of a similar-sized swathe of the wildlife-rich and culturally important land from Buccleuch, in a fundraising drive described as an 'impossible dream'.

Its purchase would mean globally important peatlands and ancient woods can be restored, native woodlands established, and a haven created for wildlife such as black grouse, and hen harriers.

Plans to create social and economic benefits include development of appro-

priate renewable energy and responsible nature-based tourism.

There is now a race against time to secure the additional 5,300 acres. Buccleuch's offer of keeping the land off the open market is time limited, and the community needs to raise the funds by next May.

"We need all the help we can get to achieve a big win for wildlife, climate action and community regeneration – and a legacy for future generations," added Jenny.

"But the pressure is on – this is the last opportunity to bring this land into community ownership.

"If the land goes onto the open market, its price will probably surge beyond our reach – with the risk it will be bought by corporate investment firms,

which are currently banking large amounts of land in the area."

A public crowdfunder was launched yesterday with the aim of raising at least £150,000 of the £2.2m needed to bring the land into community ownership.

The crowdfunder is being accompanied by applications to major grant-funding bodies and it has already been given a huge kick-start by a generous £500,000 pledge from a private donor.

This purchase of the 5,200 acres and six residential properties for £3.8m. came about as a result of an agreement reached by the Langholm Initiative and Buccleuch last October, with the funding target only reached in the final 48 hours.

>Turn to page 2

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Trip hazard

Surface of suspension bridge unsafe



Residents are concerned about the walking surface of the newly refurbished suspension bridge in Langholm

CONCERNS over the 'bubbling' of the newly repaired suspension bridge in Langholm has been raised by locals, including a former councillor.

Dumfries & Galloway council have responded to complaints, notifying residents that they will look to fix the surfacing of the bridge, which has been classed as a 'trip-hazard', in the next 10 days.

Refurbishment to the suspension bridge to improve its deteriorating condition cost £425,000.

Its new surface is meant to be anti-slip, however, it has begun to expand and bubble between the screws.

This could be because of the recent continuous heavy rain.

It has seen many complaints from members of the public, some who have said they have tripped while walking across it.

There is said to be at least six areas that could be dangerous for someone who struggles with

their walking – and definitely if it freezes.

Former councillor, Denis Male described its current condition since the heavy rain as 'lethal'.

"It is raised by at least an inch in these areas and will be a definite trip hazard to elderly or infirm people who use it," he said.

"It looks like the top surface has expanded between the screws and is definitely getting worse with bad weather.

Lethal

"If it now freezes then it is going to be absolutely lethal."

A spokesperson for Dumfries & Galloway council said officers had met on Monday with the contractor, Diack and McAuley Construction Services, to inspect the bridge deck surfacing.

The inspection found that there are some localised issues relating to the adhesive between the anti-skid surface and the timber.

"The council and contractor are

investigating the issue relating to the adhesive and the surface," the spokesman said.

"A repair will be carried out as soon as possible, which will require additional fixings to be fitted."

It is anticipated that this will be within the next 10 days.

There will be no need to shut the bridge.

The council will continue to monitor the surface of the bridge and take any further action as required.

The bridge had been shut since 10 May and work had been due to finish on 27 August but additional work was needed after a main structural cable was also found to be corroded which saw it reopen, instead, on 17 September.

New lighting on the bridge at both ends is still yet to be installed and these are expected to be operational by the end of the month or the beginning of the next.

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Price of E&L set to increase next week

THE cost of the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser will increase from next week.

The paper will increase to £1 after newsprint mills notified several newspapers, including the E&L, of an increase to their costs which will take effect from 1 November.

It comes as a result of supply chain issues – the shortage of HGV drivers – as well as rising energy prices and the struggle for mills to procure the recycled fibre required to produce newsprint.

The paper's chairman, John

Hammond said: "This increase means unfortunately it needs to be recouped by an increase in cost to the paper itself.

"We have a very loyal readership who I hope understand the reasons for this and continue to buy the paper in the knowledge that we have not made the decision to increase the cost lightly.

"We are still a paper which is owned by the community and published for the community and this ensures we see this continue into the future."

Tenacity and vision bode well for future

> From page 1

In March this year, the community took ownership of the land for the first time in its history.

Buccleuch Estate's executive chairman, Benny Higgins said: "We were delighted that The Langholm Initiative was able to purchase the initial area from Buccleuch last year, having shown such tenacity and vision.

"Having reached agreement on timeline and value, we wish them every success with this next exciting phase, both for the initiative and the community."

• A video about the new appeal can be viewed at bit.ly/LangholmVideo

• To support the new appeal, visit their go fund me page at bit.ly/LangholmMoorAppeal or visit langholminitiative.co.uk



The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser is part funded by

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and charitable trusts and individuals from the community of Langholm.



Scottish Rural Development Programme



Town's first ChilliFest is fiery, friendly, fun affair

Several hundred visitors make all the preparation and work worthwhile

IT may have been cold outside, but things were heating up in Langholm at the weekend during its first ever chilli festival.

The self-confessed chilli capital of Scotland saw crowds turn-out in their droves as locals and visitors ventured into the town to see the heat dialled up a couple of notches with cook-offs, stalls, and eating competitions all vying for their attention.

It was deemed a success by all who visited despite the intermittent heavy downpours as people tried to get a piece of all the action.

From a chilli market featuring over 180 plants, to children's activities, including a merry-go round, and stalls of all kinds – pies, honey, and crafts.

Plus, there was music from the Langholm Town Band, the Langholm Pipe Band, and more from local bands, Dark Horse, Durango Blue, and more.

Deborah Maxwell described it as the 'best day ever'.

She came out to support the Langholm event and enjoy all the festivities – her partner was even part of the Town Band.

"It's been on a par with the Common Riding, it's been that good," she said.

"My partner loves chillis, so I've bought some chilli products, like brownies, but only one of them is chilli so it's going to be a bit like Russian roulette, then I've also been testing out the drinks from Lee's Gin and the Borderlands Brewery which are amazing.

"We're having so much fun and we're only halfway through the day."

Celebrity chefs, Tony Singh and Langholm's own Jilly McCord took part in some cooking demonstrations

and then a cook-off with the Crown Hotel's Samantha Park.

It was a tense affair filled with humour and witty remarks and fashioned in the style of a Ready Steady Cook cook-off, especially when the panel of chilli experts were taste-testing the results.

Catalonian Josep Soler said he particularly enjoyed the chocolate chilli created by Samantha, however, it was Jilly who came out on top with her chicken chilli dish.

MasterChef

Jilly said: "It's been great to be back here and to see people I know and be invited to take part in the festival, the cook-off was a bit like being back on MasterChef with the pressure.

"I think Tony's left in a huff because he didn't win."

All in good camaraderie, Tony stayed for practically the whole day and was in high demand for pictures, cooking demonstrations and just general chats – he even met his Tony Singh clone, an Indian cuisine chef with a stall at the festival with the same name and a similar appearance.

"I've been really honoured to be a part of this festival," said Tony.

"It's been fantastic for the community and I can see how it has all come together for a great atmosphere that was very well attended – I can't wait to come back next year."

Lucky Lochian McNae, 11, got to try out some of Tony's creations from his demonstrations, including a chilli cheese samosa.

"It was good to get on the stage and see Tony up-close and the samosas are really nice," said Lochian.

Elsewhere there were talks on how to grow chillis, a big reveal on the space chillis that went into space with Buzzbo the cosmonaut, which has been followed by The One Show, and a pick your own chillis at the town's chilli tunnel, which was enjoyed by Hawick's John McKenzie and Edinburgh's Vanessa Wegstein.

"I've come from Edinburgh to check out what's happening," said South of Scotland Destination Alliance's digital marketing coordinator, Vanessa.

"My company likes to find out about what's going on around the south of Scotland and promote it, but I've also come on a personal basis as I like chillis, which is why I'm stocking up on them now."

Rounding off the day was a chilli-eating competition like no other as five hopefuls from Hawick, Langholm, Penrith and Prestwick battled to stay in the contest the longest.

If the cook-off was tense, this was off the scale as nobody wanted to cave in to the heat.

It was eventually won by Duncan Lockie from Denholm, a small village located between Jedburgh and Hawick, who downed cartons of milk as he was crowned the chilli king of Scotland and declared it his 'greatest ever achievement'.

Many are now waiting with baited breath whether it will go ahead next year – one of its organisers said it would be dependent on volunteers and sponsors.

This year's was sponsored by Event Scotland, the Arthur Bell Trust, the Bowman-Little Trust, the Langholm Alliance, the Stevenson Trust, the Stoneypath Trust, and Visit Scotland.

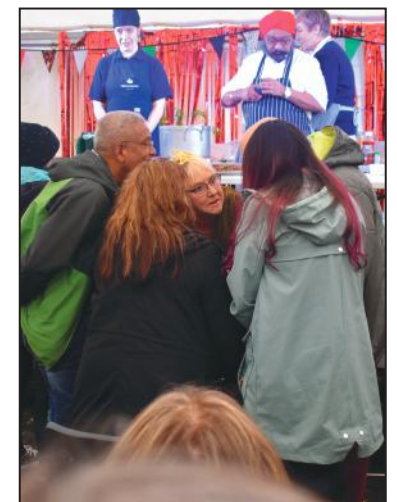


The Kilgreen all ready for last Saturday's inaugural Chillifest

Pictures by Sharon Tolson



Stuart Campbell of Borderlands Brewery



The judges in a huddle to decide the winner of the Chillifest Cook-Off

Precariously perched bridge

EROSION underneath a foot-bridge on Gaskells Walk has resulted in its closure while engineers look into it.

A bridge located on core path 278 has seen a large amount of the soil underneath it disappear, leaving it perched precariously on a small amount of land – recommendations on what can be done are being considered.

Dumfries & Galloway's countryside access officer, Richard Masters, said: "Earlier this year I was contacted by Buccleuch Estate, who had noticed that a bridge we installed several years ago was suffering due to the erosion underneath it, leaving it perched on not very much ground.

"I've had a look with our path engineer and we are getting concerned about the future of the bridge."

The bridge itself is in good condition.

This week engineers from D&G's infrastructure team visited the bridge to survey the embankments to provide an opinion on its stability.

Following this visit, a D&G core path design officer advised its closure was necessary due to it being 'in a state of collapse' and a 'danger to anyone using it'.

It will remain closed until engineers can assess the situation and provide a suitable solution to the problem.



Gaskell's walk bridge is perched on precarious ground and left its location



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Four more dates for makers and menders

Rose's Wardrobe workshops help make that stitch in time

A POPULAR craft workshop has been extended another four weeks to cater to all the make and mend extraordinaires in the community.

The free 'make and mend' workshop with Rose's Wardrobe at Drove Weavers is up and running again after the pandemic and after a successful first day back they have added four more dates.

It sees a wide variety of people join the sessions and not only do they appeal to adults but the younger generation too, as they have also had some free youth fashion workshops for nine to 16-year-olds.

Rose's Wardrobe's Emma Duncan said: "It's half-term for the kids at the moment and we thought we would put on some sessions to appeal to that generation.

"We've got some activities to show them the impacts of fast fashion and from which they can learn about how long different types of materials take to decompose.

"We're a very eco-conscious company and we want to pass on both our knowledge of how to sew and make clothes and also the impact people can have

on the environment."

Youngsters learnt how to make reusable face wipes, tote bags, and t-shirts, taking away their creations to make use of while learning the benefits of what it means to re-use, recycle and repurpose.

Chloe Duncan said: "I'm quite interested in crafts and making things and it's been good to be a part of the workshop.

Aware

"Coming here has made me more aware of the problems of fast fashion."

There will be a full house for the last fashion workshop this week, as there will be at the make and mend workshops.

Both have been put on in collaboration with Textiles Eskdale – Weaving a Future, a Langholm Initiative project that aims to re-energise our traditional textile heritage, and both are proving the go-to event for locals of all ages.

"We've got extra dates for the make and mend sessions because it proved so popular," added Emma.

"It means we've now got four more weeks from 4 November.



Rose's Wardrobe workshops left to right Chloe Duncan, 13, Anna Watson, Emma Duncan, Rose McLeod, 13

"People come down with what they want to mend or what they want to make and we help, it's all about confidence and we're on hand to build that confidence and see people make and mend, be that a dress, patchwork trousers, or a baby dungaree set."

• Booking for the workshops is essential, so to get involved email hello@roseswardrobe.co.uk or contact Emma on 07702 520 958.



Fast fashion

Copshaw Craft Fayre returns

NEWCASTLETON Village Hall proved the perfect venue for a spot of early Christmas shopping last weekend.

Seen as one of the best-loved highlights of the village calendar, Newcastleton Craft Fayre made a welcome return this week, albeit later in the year than usual.

Covid-19 forced the cancellation of the Craft Fayre in 2020 – the first time it has had to be called off since it was first held in 1983.

It is traditionally held at the end of May over eight days, but tight Covid restrictions were still in force then, so the organisers went for an Autumn event instead and say the decision was definitely worth it.

Next year, however they hope to return to their usual May date.

The event brings together local craftspeople ranging from artists, to photographers, to candlemakers, to weavers and jewellery-makers, giving them a place to showcase and sell their work.

This year there were 30 stalls.

It also raises funds for the Village Hall Fabric Fund – normally making around £5,500.

The village hall's secretary and treasurer, James Rowan, said: "The crafters did really well

"We made around £1,000 for the Village Hall Fabric Fund and it will cover the work needed on the hall itself and it'll help towards the refurbishment of our meeting room.

"We could potentially have two craft fayres next year, one in May and one in October for four days each, and we're in discussions about that."

He thanked the crafters and visitors for their turnout during the four-day event.



Newcastleton Craft Fayre pictures by Gilly Fraser



Caroline Photography



Erskine Church stays forlorn and neglected

Reserve not met at latest auction for Langholm church

BIDS to purchase Erskine Church failed to meet the unknown reserve price placed on the building when it went under the hammer last week.

Bidding started at £30,000 with Bond Wolfe auctioneer, Graham Carter, in charge stating optimistically it would increase by £10,000, however, as no-one was initially tempted this went down to £20,000 before any interest was shown.

It was a slow start and despite eventually meeting the starting price of £30,000, it still went unsold as the reserve, which was not made public, was not met.

Graham called it 'disappointing' and said a lot of interest had been shown for it and said they were 'not far off' the reserve price and to see the team if interested.

Only external viewings of the 165-year-old Victorian church were allowed prior to the auction which in its portfolio had described it as 'among the stand-out properties' to come up for sale with them.

They had advised it was in need of extensive repair and renovation, but had previously benefitted from planning per-

mission for conversion to four apartments and this could be a plan for any potential buyers if looked into again.

While the current owner is not publicly known, work was recently undertaken on the church after the publication of a damning engineer's report, which branded it as 'dangerous to a degree that could cause personal injury or death'.

Dumfries & Galloway council paid for work to replace the scaffolding boards, which have been in place for around 19 years and have stated that any new owners will be liable for any repairs.

They also said a legal requirement had been discussed with the auction house to ensure any new buyers must start work within a timescale, however, this conversation was with Future Property Auctions who previously held the sale.

It has been up for auction on several occasions, but has failed to see development, and has remained empty and unused for more than 30 years.

The church was last sold, according to the Land Registry, in October 2020 for £24,777.



Bond Wolfe auctioneer, Graham Carter, had his work cut out to try and sell Langholm's Erskine church

IN BRIEF

Food award shortlist

THE Buccleuch Centre has been shortlisted as one of the Food Awards Scotland 2021 finalists.

The Food Awards Scotland 2021 are back for the seventh year to celebrate the best in the food industry; from restaurants, chefs and servers, to the specialists and suppliers.

The Buccleuch Centre is just one of 10 places to make the shortlisted category of Best of South Scotland.

Other eateries to feature include Kingsknowes Hotel in Galashiels, Adam's Kitchen in Hawick, and Just Be coffee shop in Lockerbie.

A black-tie ceremony of the winners will take place on 29 November at the Marriott Hotel in Glasgow.

Clocks go back

THE clocks will change on Sunday at 2am, going back an hour.

Earlier this year, we set the clocks forward on 28 March called British Summer Time (BST).

When the clocks go back on Sunday it will be on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Flood marker unveiled

By Gilly Fraser

A STONE marker has been unveiled in Newcastleton to commemorate the night when the village was hit by the worst floods in its history.

The stone bears the words River Liddel, along with the date of the flood 15-2-2020, carved by local retired stonemason, Billy Armstrong who says he had never seen the river running as high as it did on that night.

More than 120 houses were hit by the floodwaters, and more than 85 of them were badly damaged.

50 adults and children had to be rehoused to allow their homes to dry and for repairs to be carried out and some were still living in temporary accommodation months later.

Any hopes that it had been an extreme, one-off event, were dashed almost exactly a year later when the village was hit by flooding once again.

Now, Scottish Borders Council are in the process of planning a flood mitigation scheme and have been drilling to discover the depth of the water table and bedrock.

A limited amount of river dredging was also permitted.

Community Council Chairman Greg Cuthbert who unveiled the stone marker said it is hoped that Newcastleton will go into the next round of Scottish government funding for some sort of flood scheme as there are still many problems to solve.



Billy Armstrong carved the Newcastleton flood marker

The E & L Gallery

Send us your photographs!

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

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

Photo by: Caitlin Weatherstone

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C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



Haystacks dilemma

STAKES are high with under-insured haystacks, a farming expert has warned.

Rupert Wailes-Fairbairn, of rural insurance broker Lycetts, is concerned many farmers in the region are unaware that farm insurance policies stipulate stack and distance limits for haystacks.

According to DEFRA, there are more than 1,000 fires in agricultural buildings each year, many of which are preventable.

On the back of this, Rupert has urged Scottish farmers to take stock of hay and straw stacks – or risk their investment going up in smoke.

With stacks at their most abundant post-harvest, he is calling farmers to check their policy for any restrictions.

Rupert warned that if stack limits are contravened, such as being too close together, too high or undervalued, farmers face significant shortfalls in the event of loss, such as accidental fire or arson.

“Hay and straw prices peaked earlier this year, due to an unfavourable 2020 harvest, and while this has seen a gradual downturn in recent months, prices

are varying so much, and it is important that farmers take stock and determine the value of each year’s yield, to ensure that they are sufficiently covered in the event of a claim,” said Rupert.

“It is also imperative that farmers find out if there is a haystack limit defined by value rather than volume.”

If, for example, a stack with £60,000 worth of hay catches fire, there is a strong chance it exceeds the limit.

Often there are distance limits written into policies too, which is usually 20 metres, but this can vary.

“Stack and distance limits don’t just apply to haystacks,” added Rupert. “Potato growing businesses often stack boxes adjacent to farm buildings, as stores empty.

“However, many farmers are unaware of the required distance between a shed and the empty boxes to keep their policy valid.” He has advised that the best way to comply with the terms of a policy is to split stacks and keep them in different locations but checking the policy wording should be the first port of call.

NZ/UK trade deal threatens viability

ANGER has been expressed at the New Zealand trade deal announcement by NFU Scotland.

A further free trade deal that grants a major exporting nation unfettered access to the UK, while offering less to Scottish farmers, growers and crofters in return, has been announced by the UK government.

Coupled with the Australian deal signed in June, it will see the UK potentially open up its borders to huge volumes of imported food, a significant proportion of which may not have been produced on farming systems permitted here.

The union says that threatens the viability of Scottish farmers and crofters at a time when consumer demand for local, sustainably produced Scottish food and drink is growing.

They say it went ahead without proper parliamentary scrutiny.

NFU Scotland President Martin Kennedy said: “Our fears that the process adopted by the UK government in agreeing the Australia deal would set a dangerous precedent going forward have just been realised.

“Having now put in place a similar deal to grant unfettered access to New Zealand, another major food exporting nation, the cumulative impact of all such deals on farmers and crofters will be substantial.

“This latest deal offers virtually nothing to Scottish farmers and crofters in return but risks undermining our valuable lamb, dairy and horticultural sectors by granting access to large volumes of imported

goods that could be produced in farming systems not currently permitted here.”

As with the Australian deal, there is to be a cap on tariff-free imports from New Zealand for 15 years.

This the union described as ‘merely a slow journey to allow New Zealand, a major exporter of food and drink, unfettered access to food and drink UK markets’.

“Once again, this is a deal that has not been afforded the appropriate level of scrutiny and consultation and has been agreed in advance of the promised statutory Trade and Agriculture Commission being established,” continued Martin.

“The Department for International Trade has repeated its claim that there

will be safeguards for UK producers within such deals without ever identifying what those safeguards would be.

“That is why parliamentarians must be given the opportunity to examine the Australian and New Zealand deals, and any future deals with the likes of the USA, Canada and Mexico, with government also carrying out a detailed impact assessment on what all such deals may mean for the agriculture and food sectors.”

He added they were ambitious to identify and grasp opportunities to build the industry and wider economy and their reputation for world class produce.

This, however, would require investment and collaboration between the UK government and the industry.

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Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts Ltd held their Annual Suckler Calf Sale together with Store Cattle on Saturday.

A smart entry of cattle were forward to a very busy ring of potential purchasers ensuring a very buoyant trade throughout.

The pre-sale show was sponsored by Dodd & Co and judged by William Miller of High Aketon, Wigton. After much deliberation the championship was awarded to a British Blue x bullock shown by A A Roskell & Partners, Laverhay, Moffat, which later sold for £1,420.

Reserve champion was received by Wanwood Partners, Wanwood Hill, Alston for their first prize Limousin bullock, which sold for £970.

A fantastic run of 70 Charolais cross calves consigned by D Storey, Greenburn, Canonbie, sold to a blistering trade topping at £1,140 for a pen of bulls, with several pens of bull calves from the same home breaking over the £1,000 mark.

The better end of cattle proved very good to sell, with all vendors going home delighted with their days trading at Longtown.

PRINCIPAL PRICES:

Bullocks: British Blue £1,420 Laverhay, £1,230 (x2) The Nook, £1,160 & £1,040 Laverhay, £940 Whitehill.

Limousin £1,210 Laverhay, £1,150 (x2) & £970 & £960 (x2) Wanwood Hill, £950 (x2) Ridsdale, £950 & £940 Wanwood Hill, £940 & £930 Ridsdale, £920 Wanwood Hill.

Charolais £1,180 The Nook.

Simmental £1,000 Gowarburn.

Aberdeen Angus £1,090 & £950 & £940 (x3) Spadeadam, £930 Ridsdale, £900

Whitchester.

Hereford £1,090 Bingfield.

Heifers: British Blue £1,380 & £1,320 Whitehill, £1,260 & £1,070 & £1,000 & £980 Lingey Field.

Charolais £1,105 (x4) & £1,100 The Nook.

Limousin £1,020 & £1,000 (x6) Lingey Field, £975 (x2) Greenburn.

Bulls: Charolais £1,140 & £1,100 (x3) & £1,090 (x6) & £1,045 (x6) & £1,010 (x2) & £985 (x7) & £950 (x2) Greenburn.

Aberdeen Angus £970 Greenburn.

At their weekly sale at Longtown last Thursday, C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 6,742 sheep comprising of 3,403 prime lambs and 3,339 cast ewes and rams.

A smaller show of cast cows were forward. The sale topped at £1,215 for a great Limousin from A Carruthers & Son, Peela Hill, Bewcastle, who sold others at 162p per kilo.

A reduced entry of 3,403 prime lambs sold to a fast trade being 10p up on the week, well-finished sheep proved a massive trade and very good to sell. Heavy lambs sold to a huge trade with countless pens of sheep being £135-plus topping the sale at an eye-watering £163 consigned by for Texels from J Peterkin, Barnyards, Inverness.

Best export sheep regularly ventured over 300ppk and proved in big demand. Top price per kilo of 320p achieved for Beltex lambs shown by Douglas & Charlie Elliot, High Greenhill, Kirkcambek.

An overall sale average of 246.2p (SQQ

246.6p) was achieved.

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO):

Beltex 320p, 309p High Greenhill, 304p Crawthart, 302p, 300p Breckon Hill, 300p, 297p, 293p High Greenhill, 293p Wallend & Breckon Hill, 290p Lingey Field.

Texel 286p Barnyards, 278p Buteland, 275p Breckon Hill, 271p Maidencots, 269p Ridsdale, 268p Buteland, 267p Guardsmill, 266p Lingey Field, Oaklands & Cubbyhill.

Blue Texel 276p Slealands.

Suffolk 265p Barnyards, 260p High Cattadale, 257p Guardsmill, 256p Breckon Hill, 253p Roxburgh Mains, 250p Morwood.

Herdwick 264p Ashness.

Charollais 252p Millhill, 242p Slealands & Tinnishall.

Blackface 244p, 243p, 234p, 233p Chapelhope, 233p Burnfoot, 232p Hole Farm & Maidencots.

Cheviot 242p Castle Crawford, 238p Falnash, 236p Castle Crawford, 235p Ridsdale.

Mule 240p Burnfoot, 238p Greensburn, 236p Kellah, 234p Westernhopeburn, 230p Hallburn, Temple House & Southdale.

Easycare 234p Stewartfield.

Cheviot Mule 233p Falnash, 232p Grindon Hill.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD):

Texel £163 Barnyards, £162, £158 Blackett House, £156 Tinnishall & Mill View, £153 Shalmstry.

Suffolk £149 Guardsmill, £143 Barnyards, £136 Guardsmill, £132.50 High Cattadale, £130 Roxburgh Mains.

Beltex £140 Wallend, £138 High Stenries, £138, £136 High Greenhill, £135 Springwells & Tinnishall, £134 Crawthart, £133 High Aketon, £132 Breckon Hill.

Charollais £133 Tinnishall, £127 Rigg Garth.

Mule £127 Nunsleugh, £118 Kellah, £116 Foulshiels, £113.50 Newbiggin.

Cheviot £120 Ridsdale.

Oxford £120 Guards.

Blackface £116 Hole Farm.

Cheviot Mule £114.50 Falnash, £112 Kirkbride.

A smaller show of 3,339 ewes sold to a full ring of purchasers. Ewes on a whole were dearer across the board, with best Texel and Beltex ewes selling to a blistering trade topping at £212 being consigned GJ Toppin, Bascodyne Foot, Ainstable, who’s run of 23 ewes went on to average £196. Countless pens breaching £180.

Light ewes sold to £99 for Cheviots from WJ Henderson, Whitehill, Corrie. Blackface ewes sold to a big trade topping at £91 from Hill Brae.

Mules proved better to sell with the heaviest ewes selling in excess of £100.

Cast rams sold to a massive trade, definitely being sold to vendor advantage. Topping at £172 for Bluefaced Leicester’s from K Lumley, Newbiggin, Blanchland.

AVERAGES:

Lambs Light to 264.0p (227.1p), standard to 300.0p (246.7p), medium to 320.0p (248.5p), heavy to 283.0p (245.5p), and overweight to 286.0p (245.6p).

Ewes Light to £99.00 (£51.49), and heavy to £212.00 (£92.76).

Rams £172.00 (£95.78).

Umbrella walkers will hope for no downpours

Fundraising walk has been held in Langholm since 1998

THE Rotary Club of Langholm's Umbrella Walk fundraiser will be taking place this weekend.

The walk usually takes place earlier in the year, however, after a successful rescheduled October walk last year, its organisers have decided to stick to the autumn season.

It will take place with two walks, one starting in Langholm and one in Canonbie, and both on Saturday with staggered start times between 9am and 10am.

The Rotary Club's Neil Gass said the walk's name derived from the fact that Rotary was organising and bringing all the groups together in a single fundraising event.

"It can take up to two hours to walk and it's not simply about doing it as quickly as possible," he said.

"People see it as a social event and it's meant to be fun, it's all about raising funds."

Around 37 groups and organ-



Rotarians Robbie Trussler and Tom Stothart

isations who are expected to take part have been contacted, including those from Langholm's mothers and toddlers group, the Langholm Youth Rugby, and the Langholm Legion FC.

Those participating receive the funds they raise, in addition to the funding which is given by a number of local trusts -

the Stevenson Trust, the Arthur Bell Trust, the Jock and Mary Elliot Memorial Trust, the Bowman Little Trust, and the Stoneypath Trust - effectively doubling the sponsorship raised by each organisation.

The Rotary Club deducts 5% of the amount raised to cover costs.

The Umbrella Walk was started



Father and son team Gareth and Kenny Irving walked last year

in 1998 by the late Alastair Davies, that year's community service convener.

Governor

Alastair went on to become president of Langholm Rotary Club and district governor of Rotary District 1020 in 2009/10.

The walk has been held annu-

ally, generally every year since with a few exceptions, and more than £285,000 has been raised, which includes £100,000-plus donated by the trusts and another £14,000-plus raised by Gift Aid.

It means the organisations and charities in the area have hugely benefitted from taking part in the walk.

IN BRIEF

Canonbie SWI

CANONBIE SWI welcomed 22 ladies made up of members, guests and new members to their October meeting in Canonbie Hall.

Flowers by Kathryn came to the meeting and demonstrated flower arranging in pumpkins, as well as an autumn wreath.

After tea and a chat there were competitions with flower of the month going to Dorothy Watson and Karen Pearson coming second.

Homemade tablet went to Liz Walters and Gillian Lamont came second.

A reminder was given about the poppy display at Eskrigg Nature Reserve.

An update was also provided on the federation's centenary year's cookery book, which will see three Canonbie members recipes included.

In addition, it will include some small art work from each institute, with the Gilnockie Tower with steel bonnets, and Scottish and English flags in each corner.

The next meeting will take place on 18 November at 7pm with crafts for Christmas - bring two jars to join in.

Roadworks

ROADWORKS will be taking place from today at Buccleuch Square and Henry Street in Langholm.

They will be there while Scottish Water works on a disconnection.

The roadworks are due to last until Monday with minor delays expected.

Employer support

A NEW free interactive guide for employers in Dumfries & Galloway has been developed to help businesses navigate through funding, incentives and support.

The guide has been created following discussions with employers who wanted an easy way to understand the help and assistance that is available within the region.

It was developed by the D&G employer engagement partnership and is being distributed to businesses through all employability partners including D&G council, D&G chamber of commerce and local training providers.

• The guide can be accessed under 'downloads' at www.dgtap.co.uk/employers.

Guides' Gilnockie guides

CANONBIE Guides visited Gilnockie Tower this month to learn more about its history as the scheming and plotting headquarters of the Border Reivers and their collaborators.

The Gilnockie Tower's Ian Martin and Tom Jack provided the youngsters with an informative guided tour the tower and tell them all about life inside it when the Armstrongs were a prominent Reiver family.

All the girls were fascinated by the truckle bed, weapons, food and living arrangements.

There were also many questions about the moon landings and everybody took turns to stand on the stone Neil Armstrong stood on when he visited the tower.

In addition, there was also some fascination about the young inquisitive Galloway bullock, which in 1943 managed get up the spiral staircase and onto the roof and subsequently fell to its death.

The Canonbie Guides got to learn a lot more about the history on their doorstep and enjoyed exploring just a small part of it.



Canonbie Guides are given the Gilnockie tour by Tom Jack



Ian Martin and Tom Jack of Gilnockie Tower with the Canonbie Guides

Graduation from Glasgow Caledonian for Alasdair



Recently Graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a 2:1 Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Applied Biomedical Science is Alasdair Scott, son of Ian and Sheelagh Scott, Langholm.

Alasdair is currently studying for his masters at the University of Glasgow.

Fiery Festival of Fun



Vanessa Wegstein of Edinburgh picking chillis
Picture by Danielle Kenneally



Tony Singh with chilli queen Mags Wilson
Picture by Mairi Telford Jammeh



Samantha Park, Jilly McCord and Tony Singh faced each other in the festival's chilli cook-off
Picture by Danielle Kenneally



Chilli king of Scotland Duncan Lockie from Denholm
Picture by Danielle Kenneally



Emma Harper MSP with Sue Toon, Tony Singh, Jilly McCord and Mag Wilson
Picture by Sharon Tolson



Lots of laughs on stage with Tony and Jilly, alongside Judith Johnson
Picture by Mairi Telford Jammeh



Lochian McNae, 11, enjoying Tony's creation
Picture by Danielle Kenneally



Chilli queen of Scotland Mags Wilson and husband Stan being interviewed by the BBC Scotland for The One Show
Picture by Sharon Tolson



Celebrity chef Tony Singh in action
Picture by Mairi Telford Jammeh



Langholm Pipe Band played some hot tunes during the afternoon's activities
Picture by Sharon Tolson



Cook-off judges take their task very seriously
Picture by Sharon Tolson



John McKenzie of Hawick picking some of the fine chillis in the polytunnel
Picture by Danielle Kenneally



A sombrero-ed Langholm Town Band entertains the crowd in chilli central
Picture by Sharon Tolson



Paul and Jan Rennie of Novelty Bottle Coolers
Picture by Danielle Kenneally



Chillis and Cheese - Darren Warren-Barnes of the Damn Fine Cheese Company
Picture by Danielle Kenneally

Soggy leaves and rain but still some colour



Some autumnal tips for November by our gardening guru Helen Knowles

At this time of year, it always seems to be a rush to catch up on all of those little jobs that need doing before the short days of winter and there is certainly plenty to do.

Clearing fallen leaves is a seemingly never-ending task at the moment but worth doing as a thick layer of soggy leaves on the lawns and borders really won't do the grass and plants underneath any good; it's far better to collect those leaves and make leaf mould that can then be used as a mulch or added to potting compost. Tidying up hedges and shrubs will keep the garden looking good all winter and if you're going to be overwintering plants in greenhouses then giving the glass a good clean now will let in as much light as possible.

Head-start

Some of the plants in the borders are starting to die back, often revealing some weeds that have been hiding under their foliage so get those out now to give yourself a head start in the spring. Once you've tackled the weeds then a generous mulch of well-rotted manure or home-made compost – last year's leaves perhaps – will replenish the soil in your borders and insulate the plant roots during periods of very cold weather.

There is still a lot of colour in the garden and it's not just from

the shrubs and trees that are showing off their autumn tints. Colchicum 'Dick Trotter' is just coming into flower now and looks fantastic amongst the evergreen foliage of Hellebores. It's later flowering than the other autumn crocus and will be looking good well into November. Like all of the Colchicum it's a hardy bulb that is very easy to grow, the foliage is produced in the spring and then dies away completely before the flowers appear from the bare soil.

Tender

Cyclamen hederifolium or ivy-leaved cyclamen are great for this time of year too. Their beautiful green and silver foliage appears in October and persists through the winter months and is a perfect foil for their tiny flowers which can be white, pink or even rich purple-red. Unlike the tender varieties that are often sold as pot plants at this time of year these cyclamen are truly winter hardy and can be planted out in containers or naturalised in the garden where they can, over time, form carpets of colour under shrubs and trees or on rockeries.

Tricyrtis is a wonderful genus of plants that go by the rather unfortunate common name of Toad Lily and it's maybe this that puts people off. I prefer the Japanese common name: hototogiso, which translates to

'little cuckoo'. These hardy plants produce exotic; almost orchid-like flowers from September onwards and will thrive in partly shady or woodland conditions. These plants are still flowering now and bring a bit of oriental elegance to the autumn garden.

If you didn't get around to collecting seeds earlier in the summer then it's not too late, gather the seed heads from the plants that you would like to propagate before the last of the seeds drop. Ideally do this on a dry day but that's tricky at this time of year. If the seed heads are damp, lay them out on sheets of newspaper somewhere warm and airy. Once they are dry the

seeds can be shaken out and then sown straight away in trays or pots, covered with a fine layer of grit or vermiculite and then put in a cold frame, cold greenhouse or a sheltered spot in the garden - some wire over the top will prevent the birds from scratting about in them.

Seedlings

Keep an eye on the seed trays but most of them won't germinate until the spring, at the first signs of growth I like to bring the trays inside, into the protection of a cold greenhouse where the seedlings can grow on before being potted up individually and eventually planted out in the garden.



Tricyrtis or Toad Lily



Colchicum 'Dick Trotter'



Cyclamen hederifolium

Letters to the editor

Have your say on the issues affecting our area.

Write to us at
Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser,
54 High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH
or
email your comments to
danielle@eladvertiser.co.uk

State pensions

The two MPs serving Dumfries & Galloway in the Westminster parliament, David Mundell and Alister Jack, were re-elected as recently as 2019 on a party manifesto pledge introduced by an earlier Tory government - to retain the 'triple lock' for UK State Pensions.

Had that promise been kept, existing pensioners might have looked forward to their state pension being increased by a relatively decent amount this coming April, though it would still have remained well below the level of £209.60/week that a recent report - published by the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association - estimates that a single pensioner needs to support what it defines as "the

minimum standard of living".

Not only are existing pensioners affected - applying the triple lock as promised would have raised the base level also for future generations; and for those WASPI women still awaiting their much-delayed first pension payment.

In the circumstances, any 'honourable/right honourable member' elected on a pledge to retain the triple lock would resign their seat and face their constituents in a by-election.

But I won't hold my breath waiting to see whether either Mr. Mundell or Mr. Jack will do the honourable thing.

**Disgruntled of
Dumfries & Galloway**



Scottish News...



IN BRIEF

New app

AS part of its ongoing bid to be bold and different for the people of the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway, South of Scotland Enterprise has launched its new mobile app.

The app, which is available to download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, has been developed as part of a wider concerted effort to make SOSE more accessible to businesses, community groups and individuals in the South of Scotland.

Research by SOSE showed fewer people accessed SOSE's website via mobile devices, which the app aims to change by being easy to use and enabling users to access information or find support in just two taps.

The app is equipped with the capability to send people alerts directly to their mobile devices, allowing users to be the first to hear about funding, vacancies and news stories from SOSE.

Funding opportunities

TWO new funds have been introduced this month by Dumfries & Galloway council in a bid to revitalise the high street, build economic resilience, and encourage community vibrancy.

The High Street Challenge Fund is aimed at refreshing town high streets by helping aspiring applicants to start new businesses in empty retail units.

This will be done by offering them a chance to win a grant package worth up to £10,000 in a 'Dragons Den' style competition, with winners getting support from expert consultants in digital, marketing, retail, financial planning and HR.

The plan is to support at least two applications from each area - the Stewarty, Nithsdale, Annandale and Eskdale, Wigtownshire.

A second fund called the Enterprise Seed Fund is an initiative from D&G council's business gateway to support start-up and early-stage development businesses, from pre-start to 12 months of trading.

The grant will be a flat rate of £1,500 to cover the project capital costs and requires match-funding by the applicant.

This initiative will operate on a first-come-first-served basis until no funding remains.

• For more information on either fund, visit <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/21963/Economic-Development>.

'See Me. See us' Scotland campaign to end stigma

Improved public perception of mental health is key to the initiative

PEOPLE across Dumfries & Galloway are being encouraged to join forces and build on improved public perceptions of mental health as part of a new nationwide campaign.

See Me, Scotland's programme to end mental health stigma and discrimination has called on people in the region to 'See Us' and build on progress.

Research from the programme carried out by Censuswide, found that more than half – 58% – of Scots surveyed say that their own perceptions of people with mental health problems have improved in the last 10 years, the same figure for the south of Scotland.

As well as this, 63% agreed that perceptions had improved since the start of the pandemic – 54% in the south of Scotland.

See Us encourages people from all walks of life to get involved in events, activities and speak up to challenge outdated stereotypes.

While attitudes have improved,

See Me says big changes are still needed in people's behaviours.

The same research found that more than two-thirds of people – 71% – with mental health problems surveyed have still experienced stigma or discrimination.

See Me volunteer spokesman, Osama Nadeem has struggled with his mental health since primary school as a result of racist bullying.

Talking

He said: "No one needs to be an expert to talk about mental health. If you're struggling, just talking about it – talking about stigma, talking about how you're feeling – can help a lot – that's why this campaign is so important."

Fellow volunteer, Jenn Barnes joined the call for support. Jenn, who has struggled with her own mental health since her teenage years, lost her brother to suicide in 2017.

She has spent the time since campaigning and raising awareness of the impact of mental health stigma and the power of speaking up.

"While there is more awareness of mental health now, stigma still exists – and I think a lot of people don't even realise it," she said.

"It's really important that we get as many people as possible to back the campaign to end mental health stigma and discrimination.

"You can't do it on your own. It's like mental health in itself – you need someone there to help you. If everybody comes together, it will make things a lot easier."

See Me director Wendy Halliday added: "For too long tackling mental health stigma has been seen as the responsibility of those who have experienced it.

"It's time to move past Seeing Me, the person struggling, and for everyone to stand up and



See Me See Us launch left to right Liam Rankin, Tommy Kelly, Chloe Whyte, and Osama Nadeem

say, 'See Us, we're making a difference together.'

"Wherever you want to make a change, and however you want to do it, there is something for you in this movement, and I would really encourage the people of

Dumfries & Galloway to show their support and get involved."

• To join in the conversation and help others to find out about the movement on social media use #SeeMeSeeUs.

Flu and Covid-19 booster jabs

INVITATION letters have been sent out for the next eligible groups for the flu and Covid-19 vaccine jabs.

Scotland's flu and Covid-19 booster programmes are continuing with pace as people aged 60-69 and adults aged 16 and over with underlying health conditions will start to receive invitations for their flu and Covid-19 booster vaccinations through the post.

Appointments for this group will take place at a local community clinic and will run from late October and throughout November.

Health secretary Humza Yousaf said: "For those eligible for the Covid-19 boosters, appointments can only take place six months or 24 weeks after your second dose.

"As such, it may take several weeks before you receive your invitation letter.

"We remain on track with Scotland's booster programme prioritising those at the highest risk for both Covid-19 and flu."

Currently, as per JCVI advice, vaccinations are being done for people in the highest risk groups for both flu and Covid-19, including those who are aged 70 years and over, people in older adult care homes, those who are on the highest risk list and frontline health and social care workers.

In addition, children under two years old who have underlying health condition, preschool children aged two to five, all school pupils, pregnant women and all NHS healthcare workers are being given flu vaccinations.

Together

The winter flu and Covid-19 vaccination programme are working together to reduce the risks for both types of illness and, where possible, those eligible for both are being given them on the same day.

"Appointments for both vaccines are being scheduled based on clinical need and age and it will take until the middle of

January for everyone to be offered their vaccines," said Humza.

"The flu virus changes every year, so you need to get the vaccine every year to stay protected.

"The vaccine cannot give you flu, but it can help stop you catching it, or suffering severe symptoms, as the Covid-19 vaccine does not offer any protection from flu, you need to get the separate flu vaccine."

More than 1.5 million COVID-19 and flu vaccinations have been administered since 6 September.

For those in the underlying health conditions group, the type of health condition will guide whether they will be given a flu jab, the COVID-19 booster, or both vaccines.

• Details on who is eligible for these vaccinations and when they can expect an invitation are available from <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>



The winter flu and Covid-19 vaccination programme are working together to reduce the risks for both types of illness



Memories & Milestones

We continue our serialisation of Tommy Beattie's memoirs

Leisure by the river

School days were good really and after all lessons and homework, oh yes, we got home work, not too much, but that was attended to before play. We spent hours outside, it kept us healthy.

We played football of rugby and with anything up to twenty aside. Jackets were laid on the ground as goal posts. One game would last from being let out of school till dark. (After homework and stick work was done.) Summer time was different, it was hunger which drove us home. I always had my jobs to attend to before play unlike a lot of my friends. I am not complaining it was good exercise and training. During the summer we would build islands in the rivers. On these islands we could be anything we wished, pirates or explorers whatever took our fancy that day. We always had a fire on our island and used to go home and get potatoes or eggs and cook them. Anyone can cook eggs, we had tin cans and plenty of water. We used to lie down like animals and drink out of the river.

Pollution was unheard of then. Whilst on our island we would stem the water for a better paddling pool or take turn about guddling. This is the art of catching trout with your bare hands. You don't see much of this today for two reasons, one is fish are not in the numbers they used to be and secondly, the waters are not as deep. Trees take a lot of water and there are far more of them than there used to be. A full-grown oak or beech takes about one hundred gallons each out of the ground per day, or so I'm led to believe.

When we had floods they would run full for a week or more. In days gone by it took seven hours for the Esk to reach full flood. The Wauchope and Ewes would be in flood in two hours. When the floods were

back to running strong rather than full flood fishing was good. When the water was back to normal you could catch brown or sea trout under the banks by tickling the belly of a fish. You could make the fish move onto the palm of your hand then move your fingers up to the gills. Some folk would use their hankie to hold the fish just in front of the tail, a good grip could be made that way. You would get a fright when an eel curled around your hand or wrist as sometimes happened guddling.

Guddling

We did not go out to catch eels that way. We used another technique, it was sure and deadly. For this kind of guddling a fork was tied onto a stick and by lifting up stones or sheets of metal you could see the eel lying there. Slowly you pushed your fork to a short distance above the eel then stab it. This seems cruel but it was a speedy end. You may think we were killing eels for the sake of it but you would be wrong. Mrs Halliday lived at the top of Caroline Street and cooked the eels for her hens. I believe we got one penny for each eel.

When we look at the rivers today it is a very rare sight to see a fish. In my boyhood days all the rivers were full of eels, beardies, minnows, brown trout etc. The beardies had whiskers and were of the catfish breed I expect. Salmon parr abounded in our rivers by the million and with a penny net we could catch them and put them in a jar to look at. We did not kill them, they were too small.

Finishing time at school

Back to my journey along life's highway. I am now into the finishing time at school. For my last prize-giving I was presented with a book on gardens.

I was also invited to sing solo

"Where e're you walk". Two things prevented me from fulfilling both of these pleasures. First of all my voice broke. What a disappointment after practising for three weeks with Mr Mallinson, I was quite upset.

I need not have been because I was confined to my bed with 'flu'. My books were delivered to Wauchope Cottage. I was never asked if I wished to stay on or anything like that. I was turfed out, no messing, I felt hurt at the way it was done.

Before I finish my school days let me say all the teachers in those far off days were good. I will not praise one over another. Incidentally I got the strap on many occasions and it did me no harm. I respected the teachers and did so after leaving the school. I did not go crying to my folks for one good reason. I got no sympathy and in all probability would have received another for getting strapped in the first place. Mostly my parents would say you would deserve it likely.

What a pity parents do not accept their little angels can, at times, be little devils and back the teachers. This would be good for the children's sake and the parents.

I bore no ill-will towards any teacher, ever. The strap hurt for an hour but after that it was ok.

Self-praise is no honour but I do not believe I am a bad person, or parent, because I was strapped a few times. If you have a family problem don't look at teachers, look closer to home.

I loved all sport at school but found little time for it after leaving. I regret missing that more than anything else, especially rugby.

So many things come and pass you by but I honestly believe the map is made for each one and you will travel a certain path no matter how hard you try to go the other way.

Times Past

100 years: Presentation

On Saturday, the staff of Langholm Co-operative Store Company invited Mr Park, who has lately resigned the managership, to meet them in the Board room in order that they might present him with a token of the esteem in which he was held by them. Mr Harkness, secretary, in a few well-chosen words, made the presentation, which took the form of a silver-mounted ebony walking stick, suitably inscribed, and a case of pipes. He referred to the long service of Mr Park, and the pleasant relations which had always existed between Mr Park and all who had any dealings with him and expressed the hope that he would be long spared to enjoy his walks in our lovely dales, and spend many pleasant hours soothed by 'My Lady Nicotine'. Mr Park suitably replied and trusted that Langholm Co-operative Store, which had in his time produced six managers, would produce many more. The staff had he hoped to meet them even oftener that heretofore in a social way, and would always take a deep interest in their careers. He thanked them for the handsome gifts and for the good wishes which accompanied them.

75 years: Rulewater Rural

At the monthly meeting of Rulewater WRI Mrs Telfer presided. After the business, Mrs Primrose, one of the members, gave a highly interesting and humorous talk on Indian Women and their costumes. After tea, great hilarity was caused by a 'Who am I?' game and a "tongue twister" competition, with the older members versus the younger. The same teams competed in the Bible quiz and both competitions were won by the older members. Every one took part in the "smelling" competition. It was announced that the business meeting would take place on Tuesday 12 November at 7pm, with Mrs Telfer, Mrs Easton, Miss Telfer, Mrs Caldwell, Miss J Swanson, Mrs and Miss Armstrong, Miss N Anderson, Mrs Scott, "Horse and Hound," and Mrs Primrose as tea hostess.

50 years: Familiar Name

The name of an Eskdale Armstrong is familiar to almost every child on the Border, most of whom may never have heard of Mangerton or Whithaugh – we mean Johnnie of the Hollows, the memory of whom, even after the lapse of centuries, is still cherished by the people of the district. With the possible exception of Jock of the Slide, does any of the old Border Ballads chronicle the feats and accomplishments of any of the Liddesdale Armstrongs? In Langholm and Eskdale we have the Ballads of Johnnie of the Hollows, Archie of the Stubholm, Archie of the Ca' field, while 'owner-by' we have Kinmont Wullie himself. But the greatest of the Armstrongs was Eskdale's Johnnie of the Hollow and his Ballad tells the story of a brave man's unjustifiable murder at the hands of a ruthless and unscrupulous teenage King, a tragedy which even today still has the power to fill the Border heart with a sense of shock and indignation.

25 years: Wattie takes the lid off Langholm

'I could write a book' is the claim of many entertaining story-tellers who have the gift of the gab and are never at a loss for words. But there are very few who exercise their talent by writing down their stories. Now, after much deliberation and talking about it for a long time, one local worthy has decided to put pen to paper and record some of his life experiences. 75-year-old Wattie Bell's original idea was to relate the Bell family history to his grandchildren and explain to them all about Langholm from whence came their forebears, so that in years to come their children and their children's children would never be in any doubt as to their roots and origins. This idea has grown in momentum and developed far beyond a family record. Author of the 'History of Langholm Rugby Club' and Langholm Golf Club's 'A round of a Hundred', Wattie has now written about his boyhood escapades in pre-war Langholm incorporating fascinating stories of another era told by his grandfather, his war-time experiences in the Royal Navy and much more. Now in its first stages of production, the book printed and published by E&L Newspapers Ltd is expected to be completed and on sale towards the end of November. With the title 'Langholm with the lid off', potentially an ideal Christmas gift both locally and abroad, particularly for Muckle Toon exiles in far away places.



Wattie Bell with some of the Academy pupils who visited the Day Centre where he regaled them in some of his tales appearing in his book 'Langholm with the lid off'



The E&L Gallery



Cobwebs on the kirk gate captured by Tom Hutton

Camera: Samsung A51

ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Neil Diamond tour in Langholm

BOB Drury's 'Viva Neil Diamond' comes to the Buccleuch Centre next month.

Rescheduled from April last year, the man who has been described as 'one of the world's finest vocal tributes to Neil Diamond' while performing in Las Vegas some years ago, will be in Langholm on the night of 13 November.

Bob has performed throughout the UK and in Ireland, France, Austria, and various other European destinations including, including cruise ships in the Mediterranean.

In 2015 he performed in Nashville Tennessee for the America Neil Diamond fan club and the following year was invited to Las Vegas as the only Brit/European to sing at 'Diamondfest 2016' – a four-day celebration of Neil Diamond's music where he performed on-stage alongside a number of Neil Diamond's long time band members.

He is now back touring the UK with his new acoustic-based show for 2021 celebrating the legendary artist



Bob Drury performing during one of his 'Viva Neil Diamond' shows

and his incredible back catalogue of songs.

Bob Drury's one-man award-winning show is thought of as an absolute 'must-see' for any Diamond fans that want to

hear the classics that continue to stand the test of time.

People should prepare to be blown away by his vocal likeness which has been delighting audiences around

the world combined with his guitar prowess.

By taking some of the songs back to how they were originally written, with just voice and guitar, Bob's intention has been to bring a whole new dimension to the songs, particularly the beautiful guitar ballads that are made to have a depth of emotion when stripped right back.

The show still includes loads of Neil Diamond's blockbuster hits such as Sweet Caroline, Cracklin' Rosie, Play Me, Hello Again, Song Sung Blue, Beautiful Noise, Red Red Wine, and Forever in Blue Jeans.

The audiences' aim will be to get those voices ready to sing along with the favourites and also prepare to enjoy a few lesser-known songs that may become firm favourites by the end of the show.

• **For tickets and more information, visit: <https://www.buccleuchcentre.com/whats-on/viva-neil-diamond/>.**

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Langholm Pop Up Dates

Kate's Kitchen will be holding a pop-up kitchen every second Thursday at the Langholm Social Club from 11.30 am till 1.30 pm.

Everyone welcome to come along for a free hot drink and light lunch. This is an opportunity to meet new folk, engage in some entertaining activities and get free advice and support.

October: 21st
November: 4th and 18th
December: 2nd and 16th

Call Lou on 07754 192182 or the office for further information

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Day Centre car park
Thursdays
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 11.11.2021 (Type A).

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

Ref No/Type Address/Proposal
21/1216/FUL (A) Murtholm Farm Site To A7, Langholm - Construction of bridge traversing the river Esk and associated engineering works and formation of ramps and paths

www.dumgal.gov.uk Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

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by email: secretary@eladvertiser.co.uk.

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Ashley Bank House, Langholm DG13 0AN

Welfare Trust Trails



Lakeland Hound Welfare Trust receiving cheque for £100 from BHTA funds raised at Sandale

Hounds

By Marti Borthwick

Wind and rain greeted the
hounds at Sandale on
Saturday as five hounds set
off in the senior trail.

Early reports were that Jazzle
and Delta Scope were heading
the pack with Delta Script in
third. As they came into view
just before half way Jazzle had
opened up a good lead with

Delta Script now taking up
chase. As they came up the final
hill and turned for home Jazzle
had about thirty yards lead and
finished well for the win.

There are only two trails to
go and Copshaw hound, Polaris
has a lead of nine points over
Carlisle-trained Jazzle. With
twelve points up for grabs in
the Senior Championship it
looks as though it could go to
the wire.

There were only two entries
for the senior graded and they

made their way round the trail
together. Delta Status came
home the faster ahead of Fire
Gun.

Pups

Next up were the pups with
nine runners. Border Prosper,
Milo Moon and Explore shared
the early work and these three
still had a lead over Delta
Supreme as they came along
the bottom. Explore was in front
and as they came through the
last gap, he was joined by Border

Prosper, but both hounds fin-
ished well and Explore won by
about half a length. Milo Moon
ran a good race for third.

Delta Style

The final race of the day was
the open maidens and as they
came into view Delta Style had
a good lead over Vinny Moon
with Camelot and Castle
Clansman some way back in
third and fourth. As they climbed
out heading up the fell, Delta
Style still had a good lead with
Vinny Moon still second and
Clansman now in third. When
they came out of the bottom
and turned on to the finish,
Delta Style was still in front
with Castle Clansman in second
and Vinny Moon in third. Delta
Style pulled away on the finish
as Clansman started to slow but
he just managed to keep going
for second with Vinny Moon
in third and Camelot taking
fourth.

Proceeds on the day were
given to the Lakeland Trail-
hound Welfare Trust who do a
marvellous job working with
the hound trail sport rehoming
some of the retired hounds.

Carpet bowling club hold their annual prize giving



Mick Garrard, Frances Jeffrey and Kieran Johnstone with their Triples trophy

Carpet Bowling

By Luke Tolson

LANGHOLM social club carpet bowlers had a small prize giving
ceremony last Thursday night.

Prizes were given to those who won during the 2019/20 season.

The singles champion was Ryan Johnstone, with the runner-up Mark Grieve.

The ladies' singles champion was Stacy Wood, and the runner-up was Sue
Roebuck.

Junior singles champion was Ryan Wood, runner-up Matt Hall.

The first Pairs were Chris Wood and the late Scott Morrison.

Second Pairs were Kieran Johnstone and Alan Wilson.

Triples winners were Kieran Johnstone, Mick Garrard and Frances
Jeffrey.

The points winner was Jack Hotson.

Club nights have started again on a Thursday night and they have seen a good
turnout of members.

IN BRIEF Adult indoor Pickleball

A NEW paddle sport combining
elements of badminton, table tennis
and tennis has begun at Canonbie
Tennis Club.

All equipment is provided, and
those wishing to enjoy the sport
are asked to wear comfortable
clothes and non-marking sports
shoes.

A qualified coach will also be
on hand when it takes place on
Sundays, this will be 31 October,
7, 14 and 28 November between
3.45 and 4.45pm.

Soft tennis lessons

LIKE regular tennis, soft tennis is
played by individuals or in pairs
where the object is to hit a ball
over the net and keep it within the
confines of the marked court.

Lessons for it are being intro-
duced at Canonbie Tennis Club.

As the name, soft tennis, suggests,
a soft sponge ball is used, the
court used is the size of a bad-
minton court.

All equipment is provided, and
those wishing to enjoy the sport are
asked to wear comfortable clothes
and non-marking sports shoes. A
qualified coach will be on hand.

• To book either sport, adult
pickle ball or soft tennis, visit
<https://Clubspark.lta.org.uk/canonbietennisclub>.



Big day at Milntown in latest top-of-the-table clash

Rugby

By Kenneth Pool

Langholm RFC 12-16 Leith RFC

IT was a big day at Milntown on Saturday for the East League 2 top-of-the-table clash between Langholm and Leith Rugby Club.

With Leith sitting top of the table and Langholm just three points behind them in second place there was a lot to play for and the large crowd was full of anticipation for what would be a tough match played in dour wet conditions.

Langholm Youth Rugby were in attendance and played a match before the main kick-off and then formed a guard of honour to greet the home side onto the pitch and cheered the team on.

Langholm started well and were soon putting pressure on the visitors' line and were unlucky to score with just five minutes played. Leith were a big side and when their forwards got the ball, they caused the home side some problems. A move by Leith saw them up just outside the Langholm 22 and they were awarded a successful penalty. Another penalty followed quickly and the visitors led by six points to nil. Langholm struck back however, and a ruck near the Leith line saw the ball moved out to the wing with Jon Wilkes scoring a well worked try. Nathan Smith kicked the difficult conversion and Langholm were in the lead seven to six. With half time approaching



Langholm Youth Rugby formed a guard of honour at Saturday's match

Leith were awarded a penalty just inside the Langholm half. The long kick, helped by the wind, went through the posts and Leith took a nine to seven lead into half time.

After the break Langholm looked the better side and started to assert some pressure with the backs and forwards working well. A long downfield kick by Langholm, however, was gathered by the Leith full-back who passed to the winger and he skipped through

two tackles and ran in under the posts for a good solo try. The conversion was successful.

Penalty

Again, Langholm came forward and were awarded a penalty which captain Nathan Smith decided to go for in a line out rather than the kick. From the line out the ball came to Alasdair 'Sally' Cavers who burst over the line for a

good try, which brought a great roar from the large crowd of supporters in the grandstand. The difficult conversion was missed. With time running out Langholm poured everything into attack and a good break by scrum-half Andy Allinson almost brought off a try. With the final play of the match, Langholm again attacked the Leith defence but the ball was bundled into touch and referee David Changleng blew for full time, much to the relief of

the Leith squad with the score Langholm 12 Leith 16.

The home side had to be content with a losing bonus point. Leith consolidated their top of the table position and Langholm slipped to fourth place albeit just three points off second place.

Next it will be another trip to Edinburgh to play Trinity Accies who are currently third bottom of the league. A good win for Langholm is essential to maintain their position near the top league.

Empire wins at Kelso

Horseracing

KELSO saw a Langholm-trained winner in Empire De Maulde on Saturday.

Taking the win in a six-horse race, the 13/8 favourite, ridden by Brian Hughes, was the first James Ewart-trained horse to race after their mid-season rest.

The seven-year-old gelding travelled strongly during the three-mile two-furlong 19 fence race, which saw it track the leaders before leading easy going into the last.

He was briefly overtaken but soon went clear for a comfortable win, beating Big River,

who was no match for Empire De Maulde's stride.

Speaking to Scottish racing news reporter, Gordon Brown, Langholm-based James Ewart said: "It would be nice to bring the Scottish National back to the Borders and he will have a break now before we prepare him for Ayr in April.

"He might not even run over fences before then as he could have a spin or two in hurdle company.

"He's a very versatile and classy horse as he has good form over a variety of distances."

It was not the only race to see a good result for James Ewart. The trainer also saw a

second-place finish with Muhtamar, with jockey Alan Doyle in the saddle at Ayr on Monday.

The two-mile nine-hurdle race was eventually won by the favourite, Gentleman De Mai, but had held on to a lead before being outpaced in the final 110 yards.

Notable

For Iain Jardine, there were a number of notable results during the week, however, only one win, again at Kelso.

Kevin Brogan was the jockey in charge for that three-mile two-furlong race on The Ogle Gogle Man, a race which saw



James Ewart-trained horses having a run-out at Ayr prior to the first meet after a rest

two horses pull-up and one fall. Five second-place finishes were seen at Carlisle, Newcastle, and Ayr, with Langholm's Jamie Gormley not seeing any top six finishes in his two races.

A number of Iain Jardine races

are scheduled for the coming week, including at Musselburgh and Ascot.

The next scheduled races for James Ewart are at the weekend in Carlisle with Brayhill, Cellar Vie, Juge Et Parti, and Karismatik.

E&L SPORT

