

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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BRIEFING

NEWS

Eskdale & Liddesdale remembers



LANGHOLM and surrounding villages fell silent on Sunday during wreath laying ceremonies at their various War Memorials

Full story: Pages 4 & 5

NEWS

Full page of Letters to the Editor



OUR letters this week cover road safety, wind farms, flooding and climate and TV in Scotland

Full story: Page 7

SPORT

New football sessions for youngsters



TWO new football sessions have started up in Langholm for youngsters in the area

Full story: Page 15

Overturned milk tanker causes A7 road closure

Driver injured in early morning accident in the Ewes valley

AN OVERTURNED milk tanker resulted in a road closure on the A7 last week leading to the cancellation of bus services in the area.

Police said there was one man within the tanker when it crashed who was later taken to hospital in Carlisle with a serious leg injury.

The incident happened near Mossypaul at around 3.15am on Friday with police from both sides of the border attending the scene.

The road traffic unit, ambulance, and the fire services of Longtown and Langholm were also in attendance.

Police arrived within 25 minutes of being made aware of what had happened.

This included officers from Dumfries & Galloway, and Lothian & Borders, V Division and J Division.

“We found the milk tanker on its side partially blocking the roadway,” said Community Policing Unit sergeant Scott McDowall.

“The tanker contained about 28,000 litres of milk

which leaked into the nearby burn/river and as a result the Scottish Environment Protection Agency were contacted and made aware and advised control room they would send someone out to assess the area.

“One male occupant was within the vehicle when it crashed. He sustained a fairly serious leg injury and was conveyed to hospital in Carlisle.”

The road was closed at 8am in order to complete a recovery of the vehicle and remained closed due to the ‘difficulty’ of recovery and the ‘location’ until around 11am.

Suspended

Consequently, Borders Buses announced all of its services between Carlisle and Hawick would be suspended for the rest of the day while the vehicle was recovered.

“As this closure is out with our control, we have taken the hard decision

to suspend all remaining X95 services between Hawick and Carlisle for the remainder of today,” a spokeswoman said.

“This announcement will provide customers within the affected areas an understanding on the situation we are in and allow customers to make alternative arrangements where possible.”

Buses resumed normal operation the following day, on the Saturday.

Warning

Longtown Fire Station had been also at the scene on the morning of the incident.

In light of the crash, they warned other motorists to remember to be careful.

“Longtown were mobilised north of Langholm to an overturned milk tanker on the A7 to support our SFRS colleagues from Langholm in making safe,” a spokesman said.

“At this time of year, just be extra careful on the slippery conditions caused by rain and leaves.”



A7 road closure last Friday was due to an overturned milk tanker
Picture by Longtown Fire Station

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Deaths

ALBURY, Steve

Steve Albury, West Street, Langholm, passed away peacefully on 13th November 2021, after a short illness, surrounded by his family, in Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary. He was a much-loved father, grandfather, brother and partner and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Private funeral.

HARKNESS, Diane (née Porteous)

Alnwick previously of Langholm.

Peacefully at home on the 7th November 2021, aged 68 years. Diane beloved wife of Philip, much loved Mum of Sheonagh and Craig, and devoted Grandma of Yvie, Hayden and Harrison. A service will take place at Borders Crematorium, Melrose on Tuesday 23rd November at 12 noon. No flowers by request please donations in lieu to Hospicecare, Alnwick and Macmillan Nurses

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Thanksgiving Service

A Thanksgiving Service for Bob McLure

will be held in
Langholm Parish Church
on Saturday 20th November at 2pm
Please wear colour
Retiring offering in aid of
Langholm Parish Church
Organ Repair Fund

Church Notices

CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

Liddesdale Church welcomes you to Worship on Sunday mornings at 10am
Canonbie Church at 11:30am

Worshippers will be required to adhere to Covid restrictions. Online service goes live each Sun 11am

If you are seeking pastoral support or wish to arrange a wedding or baptism please contact Rev Morag Crossan on 07861 736071 or email mcrossan@churchofscotland.org.uk

LANGHOLM, ESKDALEMUIR, EWES & WESTERKIRK PARISH CHURCHES

Church Services Sunday 21st November
Langholm 10am
Sunday Club meet at Masonic 10am
Communion at Ewes 2.30pm

Contact us for transport 0744 885 8818.

Social Distancing will be observed. Please wear masks.
Preacher: the Minister.
Tel: 013873 80859.
Mobile: 07543 179469

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sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk

Wright choice

Local family branches out



The Wright family, left to right Tia, Tara, Steve and George look forward to their new venture

By Sharon Tolson

A PARTNERSHIP turned into the taking over of a business for one man in Canonbie.

When Steve Wright, owner of SW Timbers, who make sheds and fencing, was asked by Ian Carson who ran Canonbie Sawmill if he would like to go into partnership with him, it turned into him taking over the business.

Canonbie Sawmill are on hand for any number of needs - fence posts, strainer posts, fence rails, planks, boards, gates, sleepers and after Ian retired at the end of October, the business was passed on to Steve.

He took up the opportunity to pick up the reigns completely at the already established business and is hoping to take it in an as-yet-unannounced new direction.

He said he has been flat out since taking over at the end of October, with his customers, mainly farmers



Cut logs are an important part of the job at Canonbie Sawmill

looking for fence posts.

In addition, he sees fencing contractors and customers looking for logs cut to order.

SW Timbers started in 2015 and have been especially busy during the past six and a half years.

Now with taking over Canonbie Sawmill alongside his wife, Tara, who recently left her job as a home carer, there are plans to make the venture successful.

Tara said she is looking forward to dealing with customers direct on the phone and taking orders, leaving Steve to get on

with sourcing wood and cutting to order.

Son, George is also joining the family business and soon daughter Tia will also get on board.

Local man, Rab Hall will continue to work with Steve and the family wish Ian Carson the very best for his retirement.

Locals and customers further afield can find the sawmill, which has locally sourced timber, in Byrebumfoot.

There are free local deliveries, for Langholm, Newcastleton, Longtown and a small fee for those further afield.

Lane closures at Skippers Bridge

MAINTENANCE and upgrade works will see two weeks of lane closures on the A7 beginning Monday.

Transport Scotland's operating company BEAR Scotland will be at the north end of Skippers Bridge, which carries the A7 over the River Esk south of Langholm between 8am and 6pm Monday-Friday while work is being carried out.

This includes repointing defective areas of the A7 Skippers Wall masonry, cutting the vegetation above the wall and installing timber fencing for the safety of personnel on future maintenance activities.

One lane of the A7 before and

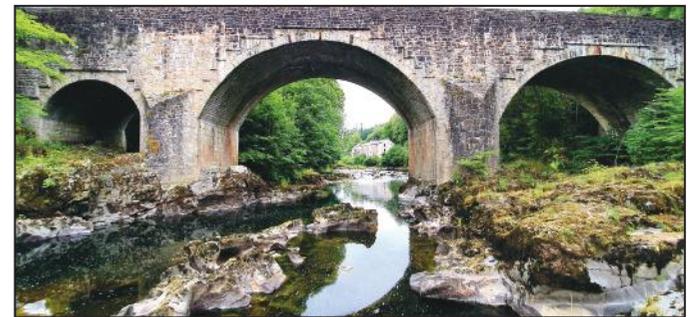
after Skippers Wall will be closed during these works, with traffic regulated by temporary traffic lights.

BEAR Scotland's south east network manager, Chris Tracey said: "This lane closure is essential to allow us to maintain and upgrade the A7 Skippers Wall.

"We have scheduled the works during daylight hours to enhance the safety of road users and BEAR personnel.

"We have planned the works to minimise disruption, however if you do need to use this route during this period our advice is to plan ahead and allow extra time for your journey."

Consultation has been carried



There will be two weeks of lane closures on the A7 at Skippers Bridge

out with emergency services and relevant stakeholders to share information about the project in advance.

The work will conclude on the afternoon of Friday 3 December.

• Real time journey information is available from Traffic Scotland on www.trafficscotland.org, twitter at @trafficscotland or the mobile site my.trafficscotland.org.

Fast progress with jags in face of increasing cases

Region ploughs on with roll-out of boosters and flu vaccinations

FAST progress is being made on the Covid booster and flu jags in Dumfries & Galloway.

It comes as concern grows over another substantial increase in the region's Covid numbers recently.

At the beginning of November, there was a total of 697 new Covid-19 cases.

This week saw a further 116 new people contract Covid, making a total of 835 which was an increase of 18.6% compared to the previous seven days and a further increase from the beginning of the month.

Numbers of people identified as close contacts of positive cases had also increased.

Director of Public Health Valerie White said: "There is a very real and growing concern over the increasing numbers of

Covid cases we're seeing within Dumfries & Galloway.

"Very fortunately, vaccinations are helping to prevent some of the worst impacts on people's health.

"However, a large and rising number of Covid cases brings with it the potential for an increased impact on services, upon staffing and on our communities, including the ability of businesses to function."

She asked people to remember to wear a face covering in indoor public spaces and to meet outdoors or in a well-ventilated space where possible to help prevent Covid from spreading, and taking up the chance of regular testing.

"Most importantly, do please get vaccinated," she added.

"If you are eligible for a booster, please get one.



"If you are unfortunate enough to contract the virus at a time now when there is an increased chance in the region of that happening, you hopefully will be helped to avoid experiencing its worst effects."

Work is now taking place to begin offering Covid booster and flu vaccinations to people aged 60-69 in the region.

Data from this week, showed a total of 42,040 booster jags

had been provided to people aged 50 and over, representing 56.7% of that population.

Flu vaccine uptake was described as 'excellent', with recent data showing 25,123 doses provided to people aged 70 and over, at 88.5%.

Immunisation co-ordinator for Dumfries & Galloway, Dr Nigel Calvert said: "It really is very important that everyone eligible to receive their Covid booster jag and their flu vaccination gives real thought to taking up the opportunity.

"This is especially important when cases of Covid-19 are on the rise within the region, increasing the chances that you could be exposed to this virus.

"We've seen the fantastic difference the vaccine programme has made in really reducing the worst effects of the coron-

avirus."

He urged people to get the best protection against Covid-19, and the flu, and take the opportunity to have their vaccinations.

Vaccinations for people aged 60-69 are on track for completion at the start of December.

At that point work will take place to vaccinate the only remaining groups – those aged 50-59, unpaid carers, and people aged 16-plus who are a household contact of someone who is immune suppressed.

A national online portal for those people in these remaining groups to register for their vaccinations will go live shortly.

• Full details on opportunities to be vaccinated can be found by visiting the website www.nhs.uk/vaccines/.

IN BRIEF

Covid in Canonbie

CANONBIE School was closed this week due to Covid.

Parents reported a number of cases in the classes.

The school is expected to reopen this morning.

Macmillan fundraiser

MACMILLAN Cancer Support have confirmed the total amount raised from the Gilnockie Tower Coffee Morning in September.

The total amount raised was £1,550.35, which includes all the day's donations plus those donations handed in and made online.

The organisers thanked all those involved in the fundraising event.

They would also like to confirm that all money received, by whatever means was donated direct to Macmillan Cancer Support and that no percentage of the amount raised was withheld to cover any expenses.

Ewes SWI

EWES SWI's November meeting was held in Ewes Hall.

Nancy McLure presided and she welcomed Amanda Crossan as the meeting's speaker.

She outlined the highs and lows of combining running a business with family life.

After this, she judged the competitions - two butterfly cakes won by Susie Grant, Cathy Jamieson second, and Anne Hannah third.

In the favourite table mat competition Nancy McLure came first, Marjorie Pringle second, and Anne Hannah third.

The evening ended with a raffle.

Reid & Taylor

FURTHER to the article 'Former Mill Demolition' published on 4 November, the E&L would like to clarify that the application submitted by The Stevenson Trust to D&G planning is for the partial demolition of the roof area damaged by fire a number of years ago and not the demolition of the entire mill.

Newcastleton will benefit from its share of £1.34m government funding

NEWCASTLETON and District Community Trust has secured funding from the UK government's Community Renewal Fund.

Borders projects will benefit from £1.34m. of the Fund, which is a £220m. pot of money designed to support communities to pilot new ideas and approaches to better support people in need.

Newcastleton and District Community Trust will be given £90,739 for a feasibility study to develop an area of land purchased.

The study will encourage inclusive growth and will investigate potential uses such as accommodation, leisure activities, renewables and forest and land management.

They are just one of eight projects in the Borders that will receive funding, however, they have said they will wait to receive confirmation of the funding details before they will comment.

Others to benefit include the Borders College, the Berwickshire Housing programme, the Scottish Borders Community Development Company, and the Southern Uplands Partnership.

In addition, the Scottish

Borders will receive £187,272 to develop the electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

A total of 14 applications were initially identified by Scottish Borders Council and submitted to the UK government for their consideration.

There remains one submitted bid which is still pending a decision.

Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk MP John Lamont said congratulated everyone, including residents, who were involved in the application.

"It is vital that the government support rural areas like this to help level up the country," he said.

"They are a very successful group who are making real changes to the area.

"This £90,000 will help identify new ways for the community to move forward and use their community land most effectively."

Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire MSP, Rachael Hamilton MSP, added: "The UK government's Community Renewal Fund is a wonderful example of supporting community projects with direct funding.

"The land at Holm Hill has major potential to grow



Newcastleton will benefit from new government funding

Newcastleton and surrounding communities and they have been helped on their way by the chancellor.

"This is a perfect example of the UK government continuing to step up to support rural communities that often feel they are left behind."

The money distributed will pave the way for the introduction of a UK Shared Prosperity Fund which will replace similar

funding that was issued through the European Union.

The projects that have been granted funding are required to deliver their projects by the end of June.

All of the successful applicants will be supported by SBC throughout the delivery of their projects to help maximise their impact and ensure they are delivered within the stated timeframe.

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Eskdale & Liddesdale pay

District's War Memorials are well attended for this year's Remembrance services

LANGHOLM fell silent on Sunday during a short wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial in Buccleuch Park.

This was preceded with a service of remembrance conducted by the Reverend Robert Pickles in the Kirk.

The morning started as the Pipe Band led a small parade from the Buccleuch Centre to the Kirk.

Parade commander was Mark Nordon and the standard carried aloft by Colin Tedham.

During the service inside the church, Rev Pickles said he was grateful to be able to provide a service for Remembrance Sunday.

"When we come to remember the world was there is nothing quite like it," he said.

"The nearest we have come

to the experience of those who went through those two wars, is through Covid in the last 18 months.

"People try to forget about the loss, and this has been a terrible time in our nation's history, but we have stuck together through this and today is about remembering those who gave their lives during the wars so that we might live."

A short wreath laying followed the service, with wreaths laid by Rory Gilles Dep Lord Lt on behalf of the queen, who herself missed the Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph in London due to a sprained back.

Gordon Stewart laid a wreath on behalf of the armed services.

Dumfries & Galloway council were represented by Derek Crichton, director of communities and John Galloway on behalf of the community council.

Other wreaths were laid by the Fire Service, Billy Scott of Scots Guards, Langholm and Canonbie Schools Cluster, Langholm Church, Probus Club, Rotary Club, Pie Club, Castle Craigs Club, 107 Lodge Eskdale Kilwinning, Langholm Town Band, Social Club, and Aoiffion McVittie-Brangan laid a small posy of flowers.

The lament was played by pipe major Craig Irving and The Last Post and Reveille by Nicole Weatherstone.

The minister gave a closing

homily before the parade reformed on Caroline Street and returned to the Buccleuch Centre and were dismissed.

Light refreshments were taken in the social club, where chairman David Patterson gave a vote of thanks to various individuals and groups for their assistance in ensuring that Remembrance Sunday was marked in a manner befitting the occasion.

A bowl of soup, made and donated by Sandra Graham, and a pie and pint donated by the Social Club were then gratefully taken by those participating in the event served up by Kate Quirk, Kate Turk, Christine Johnstone, Avril Grieve and Bar Steward Ian Patterson.



The Remembrance Day procession crosses Buccleuch Square
Picture by Gavin Graham



Gordon Stewart lays a wreath on behalf of the armed services
Picture by Alan Weatherstone



Pipe Major Craig Irving leads the parade into Buccleuch Park
Picture by Alan Weatherstone

CANONBIE

A SMALL gathering of the community of Canonbie gathered at the War Memorial after the church service to pay respects to those who fought and died in the two world wars.

Chris Jagger led the service, Catherine Lithgow read a poem by Isabel Mary Milne Home

and Kate Smith read the roll of honour.

Wreaths were laid by Jack Smith on behalf of the British Legion, Peter Wotherstpoon on behalf of the Canonbie community council and Carol Wilson on behalf of Canonbie Community Council.

The Canonbie Guides, Brownies and Rangers also laid a wreath.



Carol Wilson lays a wreath on behalf of Canonbie community council
Picture by Sharon Tolson



Canonbie Brownies attended the service of remembrance
Picture by Sharon Tolson

CLAYGATE



Residents of Claygate pay their respects
Picture by Sharon Tolson

ESKDALEMUIR



Chris Hutchings and Nick Jennings pay their respects at Eskdalemuir
Picture by May Reid



A small group attended the wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial in Eskdalemuir
Picture by Nick Jennings

Remembrance Day tributes



Rev Robert Pickles leads the remembrance service in Langholm Parish Church
Picture by Danielle Kenneally



Respects are paid at Langholm's War Memorial
Picture by Danielle Kenneally



Nicole Weatherstone plays The Last Post and Reveille and Craig Irving plays the Lament
Picture by Alan Weatherstone



Aoifion McVittie-Brangan of Langholm lays a posy at the memorial
Picture by Alan Weatherstone

NEWCASTLETON

REMEMBRANCE Sunday in Newcastleton saw a large crowd gather to greet the parade after the church service.

The parade marched to the memorial behind the British Legion standard bearers Gary and Greg Cuthbert – both of whom are retiring after 36 years of service.

At the memorial, the service was led by Reverend Morag Crossan and the roll of honour was read out by Keith Brough, with the bugle played by Kayleigh Park and the pipes played by David Jeffrey.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Legion by Robert Robson, the fire brigade by Robbie Turnbull, and the community council by George Turnbull.

Some of the primary school pupils also laid poppies, along with their previously laid decorated stones around the memorial.



Greg and Gary Cuthbert with the flags
Picture by George White



Keith Brough and Rev Morag Crossan
Picture by George White

WESTERKIRK



Respects are paid at the Westerkirk War Memorial
Picture by Andrew Johnstone



Clare Johnstone of Bentpath lays a wreath at the Westerkirk War Memorial
Picture by Andrew Johnstone



Robert Robson lays a wreath at the Newcastleton War Memorial
Picture by George White

Farming on the Border

In association with

C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES

Severe lack of female butchers

FEWER than 15 female butchers are active across Scotland, Quality Meat Scotland has revealed.

In answer to a recent question to the Scottish government from Borders MSP Rachael Hamilton, Quality Meat Scotland estimated the number of female butchers in Scotland to be between 15 and 20.

They are now working to establish a more accurate figure by surveying all independent butchers in Scotland.

Alongside other stakeholders, QMS are encouraging careers in the butchery sector as it struggles with staffing shortages.

Scottish abattoirs have suffered particularly badly from labour shortages in recent months, however, the UK government has stepped in to provide emergency visas for butchers from overseas to provide a short-term solution to the problem.

Ms Hamilton has previously advocated for more female entrants in to predominantly male industries such as butchery.

Rachael, who is MSP for

Ettrick, Roxburgh & Berwickshire, said: "It is no surprise to hear that there are so few female butchers in the country.

"The Scottish government must do more to encourage young women to consider careers in traditional trades like butchery.

Barriers

"Barriers for young women considering these careers should be addressed with much greater urgency."

She said she was pleased the UK government had stepped in to provide some short-term relief for the industry, but it was now down to the Scottish government to come up with a long-term solution.

"I understand that traditional trade industries might not be for all women, however, women should be encouraged to consider opportunities that exist for them like those available in the butchery industry, amongst others," she added.

"Likewise, these industries should remain open to taking on young women and understand the skills they have to offer."

New controls on storage of slurry

IMPROVED controls on the storage and application of slurry and digestate on farms could lead to a reduction of up to 70% of the harmful ammonia that is released.

Amendments have been made to the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 to improve controls slurry and digestate storage to reduce leakage, and more targeted spreading to maximise the nutrient benefit and reduce emissions.

Agriculture accounts for around 90% of ammonia emissions and spreading slurry using a splash plate can lose around 30% of the available nitrogen as ammonia gas in just the first three hours.

A key element of the regulations is the phasing out of broadcast spreading of slurries by splash plates and the introduction of low-emission, precision spreading equipment.



Mairi McAllan MSP

The changes are being made following a 12-week public consultation and engagement with the agricultural sector and the National Farmers Union of Scotland.

The changes will be phased in, with some farms having up to five years to comply.

Minister for environment and land reform, Mairi McAllan

said: "While slurry and digestate are important nutrients for use on our farms, they can also be damaging to our natural environment if not used properly, causing harmful emissions into our air and water.

"By using low emission, precision equipment, we can reduce the ammonia emissions by up to 70%, protecting our vital water environment and reducing the agricultural impact on climate change."

1.6 billion gallons

The total quantity of slurry produced in Scotland is estimated at 1.67 billion gallons per annum.

A single 10 m3 tanker of slurry can have an equivalent fertiliser value of between £30 to £50.

Better use of the nutrients in slurry/manure/digestate can reduce fertiliser bills.

It will also make an important contribution to the commitments

on reducing air pollutant emissions from agricultural activity, which are set out in the new air quality strategy published earlier this year.

"We understand that farms will not be able to introduce these changes overnight," added Mairi.

Alterations

"We have engaged with and listened to the concerns of farmers and where possible have made alterations that would allow us to meet the aims of the regulations while reducing the impact on businesses.

"We will continue to work with the NFUS and our farming communities to ensure a continued thriving agricultural sector, while meeting our obligations to achieve net zero."

The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 will come into force from 1 January 2022.

Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 8,769 sheep comprising of 4,360 prime lambs and 4,409 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown last Thursday.

A larger show of cast cows forward to a competitive ring of buyers, with a large proportion of the sale being hill cows. The sale topped at £1,130 for Limousin cows from BE Davidson, Bellfield, Longtown, who sold others at £1,028 and British Blues at £958. Angus cows to £855 from A Reid & Co., Glendearg, Eskdalemuir. Top price per kilo of 165p for a Limousin from Bellfield, who had others at 139p and British Blues at 135p. Angus cows to 124p from Glendearg and Luining cows to 120p from John Higgs Farms, Arkleton.

A larger entry and a fine show of 4,360 prime lambs were forward and easily maintained last week's high rates of return.

A fantastic show of lambs consigned from Caithness, topping the sale both ppk and top price per head making the trip down to Longtown worthwhile, as buyers fought over the quality stock on offer.

Heavy lambs sold to £170 for Texel lambs from C Ryrie, East Kirk, Caithness with Beltex lambs selling to £169 consigned by D Budge, Brae Edge, Caithness.

The best grading export lambs sold to a right trade topping price per kilo at 346p achieved for quality Beltex

lambs from both G & W Halliday, Crawthat, Lockerbie and MA & J Thompson, High Hall, Wigton. 411 lambs and 63 pens of lambs sold beyond 300ppk.

Heavy Mules sold well topping at £158 for a pen of super heavies consigned by M/s W & A Foster, The Nook.

Lightweight lambs (32-37kg) were again short of requirements and easily cashed with more required.

All classes of well fed and properly finished prime lambs are keenly sought after on a weekly basis to satisfy an ever-growing customer base here at Longtown.

An overall sale average of 278.7p (SQQ 280.1p) was achieved.

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO):

Beltex 346p Crawthat & High Hall, 345p Greenburn, 338p Breckon Hill, 334p, 328p Gallowberry, 326p Crawthat, 324p Leanach, 322p Galleywreay, 321p Thornton Tower, 320p Camphill.

Charollais 336p Hallburn.

Dutch Texel 315p, 300p, 298p, 295p Burn House.

Texel 307p Lingey Field & Kimmeter Green, 305p Raggettsyke, 304p Brokenheugh & East Kirk, 302p Fenton, 301p Hemplands, 300p Cleughbrae, Mains of Machermore & Crumhaugh-hill, 299p Nunwick, 298p Cambeckhill & Shield Green.

Suffolk 295p Tarrasfoot & Thornton Tower, 293p Cardewlees, 291p High

Cattadale, 290p Thornton Tower, 289p Skelfhill, 287p Westernhopeburn.

Herdwick 283p Ashness, 264p Longrow Cottage.

Cheviot Mule 282p Raggettsyke, 266p Kirk House, 262p Whins & Falnash, 261p Southdene Lodge & Skelfhill.

Cheviot 280p, 276p Drumyeonmore, 273p Galleywreay, 271p Grindon Hill, 268p Courstein, 265p Raeburnhead & Skelfhill.

Lleyn 280p, 266p Cleongart.

Dutch Spotted 278p Brae Edge.

Mule 277p Burn House, 275p Grindon Hill, 273p, 271p Arnicle, 270p Burnfoot, Cleughbrae & Greenburn.

Blackface 272p Peela Hill, 270p, 266p Chapelhope, 264p Burnfoot, 253p Pendicle, 253p, 251p Clonrae.

North Country Cheviot 270p North Synton, 268p Gospel Hall.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD):

Texel £170 East Kirk, £168 High Mossthorn, £168, £167 The Nook, £164 Brookfield & Cleughbrae, £161 Langholm £160 Cleughbrae, £159, £158 Oldfield, £158 East Kirk.

Beltex £169 Brae Edge, £165 Kilnford Croft, £160 Brookfield, £159 Leanach, £157 Cambeckhill, £156 Crawthat, £155 Galleywreay, £153 Ridsdale, £152 Willimoteswick, £150 Brookfield & Fenton.

Suffolk £158 Shield Green, £156 Skelfhill, £153 Morley Hill, £152 Tone Hall, £151 Batey Shield, £148 Scarmclate & Tarrasfoot, £147 Fenton,

£146 Tarrasfoot, £145 Midtown.

Mule £158 The Nook, £138 Cleughbrae, £133 High House, £128 The Nook, £125 Cleughbrae.

Cheviot Mule £158 Raggettsyke.

North Country Cheviot £157 Langholm.

Zwartble £156 Cleughbrae.

Dutch Spotted £150 Brae Edge.

Dutch Texel £142, £141 Burn House.

Charollais £139 Archerbeck, £129 Leaona Villa.

Cheviot £137 Courstein, £131 Earlside.

Blackface £117 Peela Hill, £113 Skelfhill, £111 Burnfoot.

A similar show of 4,409 ewes were forward, all classes met a fiery trade with an increased ring of purchasers. Best bred Texel ewes sold to a top of £216 from R Harris, Auchengool Cottage, Dundrennan and from M Buchan, Torrax, Angus.

Light ewes sold to £114 for Cheviots from G Jackson, Blackburn, Newcastleton. Blackie ewes topped at £104 for a hefty pen of Hexham bred blackies consigned by M/s Ballantyne, Cowburnrigg, Hexham.

Mules proved very good to cash with a penful of huge mules consigned by M/s Robson, Yatesfield, Hexham with 4 further penfuls of ewes breaking £120 and countless pens breaching £110.

Heavy North Country Cheviot ewes were in big demand topping at £139 for a pen of hefty girls consigned by M/s P Hedley, Swinside, with count-

less pens exceeding £124.

Rams again sold to blistering rates topping at £228 for an unliftable Suffolk ram consigned from Beckfoot.

HEAVY EWES:

Texel £216 Auchengool Cottage & Torrax, £210 Beckfoot, £208, £204 Torrax, £200 Crumhaughhill, Pendicle & Ridsdale, £198 North Synton, Kirkhouse, Ridsdale, Rigfoot & Swinside Towfoot, £195 Torrax.

Beltex £216 Kilnford Croft, £182 Torrax.

Charollais £165 High Trewhitt, £152 Pendicle.

Suffolk £143 Rigfoot, £142 Pendicle, £139 Nether Stenries, £134 Beckfoot, £130 Torrax.

North Country Cheviot £139, £128 Swinside Townfoot, £127 Blackpark, £126 North Synton, £125 Tofts of Tain.

Bluefaced Leicester £130 Baggarah, £128 Ridsdale, £122 Newbiggin.

Cheviot Mule £126 Springwells, £120 Ridsdale.

Mule £125 Yatesfield & Nether Stenries, £120 Tone Hall & Ridsdale, £119 Pendicle & Morley Hill, £118 Pendicle, £117 Nether Stenries, £116 Hallburn.

LIGHT EWES:

Cheviot £114 Blackburn, £105 Leanach, £103 Springwells, £98, £96 Millriggs, £95 Berryfell, £94 Main Street & Hillside, £93 North Shortcleugh, £92 Ridsdale.

Blackface £104 Cowburnrigg, £101

Ridsdale, £100 Yatesfield, £98 Cowburnrigg, £95 High Cattadale, £94 Westernhopeburn.

Romney £97 Tundergarth Mains.

Lleyn £92 Tundergarth Mains, £90 Steel Farm.

Herdwick £84 Pendicle.

Swaledale £79 High Parkfoot, £78 Westernhopeburn, £77 Round Meadows.

RAMS:

Suffolk £228 Beckfoot, £170 West Shaftoe.

Texel £195 Linnhead, £192 Earlside, £190 West Shaftoe, £180 Torrax & Oxnam Estate.

North Country Cheviot £192 Ridsdale, £175 Oldfield.

Bluefaced Leicester £188 Morley Hill, £150 Baggarah.

Beltex £182 Kilnford Croft, £158 Yatesfield.

Border Leicester £168 Earlside.

Cheviot £162 Ridsdale, £144 Boreland, £132 Lurgan & Falnash, £130 Tushielaw.

Lleyn £162 Ridsdale, £150 Steel Farm.

Rouge £150 Beckfoot.

Swaledale £130 The Chestnuts.

AVERAGES:

Lambs Light to 336.0p (275.3p), standard to 346.0p (280.1p), medium to 346.0p (280.4p), heavy to 322.0p (277.5p), and overweight to 294.0p (269.9p).

Ewes Light to £114.00 (£62.22), and heavy to £216.00 (£104.49).

Rams £228.00 (£115.83).

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

Road Safety Week

This is Road Safety Week – 15-21 November.

It should be obvious to everyone that reduced speeds in urban areas are fundamental to road safety.

It is now increasingly understood that 20mph speed limits make cities, towns and villages more liveable enabling more active travel and providing more equality in access to transport, better air quality, better health and significantly fewer casualties.

It is good news that the 20mph trials taking place in the Scottish Borders could become permanent in the Borders council settlements, including the trunk road stretches.

Recently the Scottish government has pledged in its Scotland's Road Safety Framework to make 20mph the norm in Scottish places by 2025.

The Welsh government is developing its plan to set a national 20mph limit for urban and village roads by 2023.

This year the World Health Organization's Global Road Safety Week focused solely on 20mph and 30km/h urban limits. All over the world, activists, communities, politicians, road safety professionals and NGOs like

Brake, the UK Road Safety charity, were calling for these life-enhancing and preserving limits. And the UN has also endorsed 20mph limits in its 'Decade of Action for Road Safety' global plan where it makes the statement: 'In urban areas where there is a typical, predictable mix of road users (cars, cyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians), a maximum speed limit of 30 km/h (20 mph) should be established, unless strong evidence exists to support higher limits'.

COP26

In light of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow there is recent research which shows that a 20mph limit can reduce climate-harming CO2 and people-harming NOx by more than 25% compared to 30mph. With transport representing 27% of the total carbon emissions in the UK then reducing it by a quarter is a substantive measure that can be easily taken to reduce climate warming.

What is now understood is the consequences of the stop/start nature of urban traffic, the acceleration and braking and the increase in emissions this creates in our streets. Although the auto industry is fully aware of the impact of acceleration and deceleration on vehicle emissions, it does not publish the results. Basic physics means that 2.25 times more energy is required to reach 30mph than 20mph. When this is repeated where we slow down at junctions, crossings, congestion

points and other hazards, acceleration becomes the dominant factor in overall journey emissions.

Blah, blah

The 20's Plenty (and Love 30 in km/h) movement is therefore calling on the UK governments to end the 'blah, blah' on 20mph limits whereby it asks for local authorities to set 20mph limits where the national 30mph limit is wrong, yet still treats 20mph as an isolated exception needing additional signage, justification and red tape. Already local and national authorities representing 28 million people in the UK have declared the national 30mph limit as no longer fit for purpose for most of their urban and village streets and have replaced it with 20mph limits. A 20mph default speed limit is one of the most cost-effective interventions to reduce casualties, reduce emissions, reduce noise, create better places to live. All our communities need a default 20mph and this year we have more reasons than ever to make it happen. Let's make it the year that all UK governments accept that the national 30mph urban limit set in 1934 is no longer fit to meet the needs of 21st century mobility

Bill Telfer
Caroline Street
Langholm

Lack of Scottish TV

A healthy functioning democracy depends on voters having access to information and news from more than one source. Television is one, if not the major provider of such information and especially of news.

Sadly, those of us who live in the south of Scotland are very limited in the TV news we can access about our own country, having only a choice between Border TV based in England and BBC Scotland, which is London-dominated and not the most impartial of broadcasters when it comes to Scotland.

I have little interest in news from Carlisle or Cumbria in general, yet my so-called 'local'

news is dominated by items from these areas. I am much more interested in what happens in the rest of Scotland - where I was born, where I live and where most of my family and friends reside.

I know some lucky people can view STV SCOTTISH Television via the internet or satellite, but surely it is time this channel – again, SCOTTISH TV – was available on terrestrial signals for the whole of Scotland.

Fiona Lessels
Beattock
Moffat

Two years not long enough for D&G

With reference to the comments from Dumfries & Galloway council regarding Faw Side Wind Farm in your edition dated 11 November Dumfries & Galloway – the council have had TWO years to comment on the submission from Community Wind Power to erect 47 turbines in Ewes and Teviotdale valleys.

Borders council formally objected to this scheme last year. Councillors are elected and

represent our local communities and I feel Dumfries & Galloway council have let the people of Eskdale down on this very important matter which will have a profound impact on the hills and valleys surrounding Langholm.

Anne Elliot
Burnfoot of Ewes
Langholm

Dire predictions

The recent warning from the met office, published in last week's paper, must have panicked all the riverside residents into accepting the new walls.

In fact, the predictions were far more dire than some people will realise. The far from surprising predictions of the future weather are visible everywhere. The bridges washed away in Annan, the floods all over England. The continued inundation of Whitesands, Hawick and Newcastleton, not to mention the continent and other parts of the world. Then there are the droughts, like last year, even here.

But back to the Met Office figures. 70 mm/hr of rain. When last month's 'near flood' was just distanced individual, hours, of 7mm of rain each. Just think



what their dire prediction of 80mm/hr might do; I see trees being washed off the hills in abundance, but luckily only in places like Honister, which regularly sets new national records for the highest rainfall. I imagine their residents repainting their walls up to the ceiling with waterproof paint and having waterproof furniture downstairs and delicate stuff, including Elsan toilets permanently plumbed upstairs – for ease of emptying when the rain stops for a month or two.

Residents in Langholm, who appreciate Ronnie Tait's permanent activities of cleaning all the local screens and water

courses, will be hoping that he will rework all these old, well-designed protections, to meet the new tenfold volumes of water that WILL fall upon us unless real eco-protection schemes for flood protection AND PREVENTION are imagined. Pray for a realistic Glasgow Conference result before it is too late. 1C temperature rise since 1911 has just brought us up to our well-designed flood protection. More than three or four degrees rise must be curtailed at all costs - PLEASE.

Michael Taudevin
Brewery Cottage

the Buccleuch Centre
LANGHOLM

CHRISTMAS FAVRE

More than 20 stalls including:




*Wax Melts, Christmas Gifts,
Delicious CastleView Catering's Festive Foods
Paintings, Bags, Cards, Hampers,
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Coffee Shop Open
Homemade Mince Pies & Mulled Wine

Free Admission



A Story of hope and community capturing hearts

By the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

The ambitious stage two of the biggest ever community buyout in the South of Scotland is now underway. Its aim is to double the size of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve. This follows an historic buyout of 5,200 acres of Langholm Moor earlier this year raising £3.8m. in just six months.

Since the second campaign launched, the volume of public donations has been incredible, with support coming in from all around the world. Our story of hope and community here in Langholm is once again capturing hearts and minds, with the ambition to create a national nature reserve under community ownership. It's such an exciting opportunity and there are so many reasons which make this second buy-out so crucial for both people and nature.

'Restoring our Natural World' - John Halliday

As we approach the tipping point in the climate and biodiversity crisis, sustainable land management for nature conservation and restoration is crucial. The creation of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve will allow our community to be directly involved in projects which will make a real difference.

We now have a unique opportunity to double the size of the reserve. This will allow continuity of management on the adjoining land and secure future habitat and species management over a much larger area. Vital habitat restoration projects will have a greater impact.

The inclusion of more extensive deep peat-land higher up the valley will make the primary management objectives of carbon capture and increased biodiversity more attainable. By extending the reserve, threatened species populations will have a greater chance of survival.

What do black grouse, hen harrier, merlin, lapwing, curlew, cuckoo, skylark and whinchat have in common? They are all on the red list of threatened species, the highest conservation priority, needing urgent action to avoid extinction. Breeding populations have declined dramatically both nationally and locally over the last 40 years or so. Fortunately,

all are still with us, albeit in depleted numbers, along the full length of the Tarras Valley. When I started birdwatching as a boy in the 1960's, curlews, locally known as 'whaups', were ubiquitous in the fields and hills around Langholm. Now only a few pairs remain. Changes in land use, including the spread of forestry, farming methods and predation of eggs and chicks have all taken their toll. Imagine our hills without the haunting call of curlews in spring.

Community ownership of the adjoining land area higher up the valley will allow not only continuity and security but greater control and flexibility of management for biodiversity. This may be more difficult to achieve in private ownership. Although the land is presently protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, there is no guarantee that this designation will remain in future. SSSI's are reviewed periodically and should the designated features be in unfavourable condition, the site could be de-notified. Consequently, a change of land use, for example afforestation, on the neighbouring ground cannot be ruled out.

Under community ownership, the Tarras valley will be managed for carbon capture, biodiversity and people, all for the benefit of future generations, regardless of SSSI status.



Curlew

Picture by Laurie Campbell



Stage two of the largest community buyout in the South of Scotland is now underway - its aim is to double the size of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve



Canoeing on the Tarras



Above and left:

The Tarras Valley Nature Reserve is a great draw for nature-lovers from near and far

Picture by Danny Wilson



'Cultural Connections to Our Land' - Mairi Telford Jammeh

The Tarras Valley looks like a relatively empty place with only a few houses at first glance, and yet it is steeped in history, memories and culture. For centuries, the area has been peopled by local folk and others from further afield, enjoyed by many as a wild space on our doorstep.

From the Romans to the Reivers, so many through history have left their mark on this land and in our heritage. We read in our history books that the Border Reivers knew Tarras Moss well and often retreated there to hide out both their families and their cattle. The Reivers knew how to cross the moss which would have been very boggy in those days, where others were unable to follow. In one story they were thought to be besieged on the moss but ran rings around their captors.

The Tarras Valley has probably been farmed for a few hundred years. People are intrinsic to the Tarras, calling it home, farming, shepherd-

ing, cutting peat and growing up in the valley, they all speak fondly about this land.

The Tarras Valley has inspired poets and artists including Langholm's own Hugh MacDiarmid who published an early poem about Tarras in his own name - Christopher Grieve. Amongst the artists who have painted views of Tarras are Thomas Henry Gibb and Edith Lawrence as well as more local artists. There are also legends about Tarras including the famous ghostly 'White Lady'.

Generations of Langholm people and families have visited the 'back of Tarras' and enjoyed the simple pleasures of paddling, making dams, swimming, canoeing, guddling, played rounders and having barbecues in the middle of this beautiful and unique piece of nature.

People have also enjoyed it as a place to ride on the Castle Craigs day stopping at Cronksbank before heading along to Broomholmshiels or on the Common Riding

day itself, riding along the hill to the monument and down into Langholm.

In the 20th century the Tarras Valley became widely known for its bird life and Langholm's Tom Irving, was a local pioneer for his in-depth knowledge and promotion of the area. Tom inspired others and some of these people are still directly involved in conservation work and the monitoring of the birds of prey in the area.

As a Langholmite myself, whose family regularly visited the Tarras Valley when I was young, I have a strong affinity for the valley and I know many other people here do too. My family have lived in Eskdale for a few hundred years as far as I know and with Armstrong ancestors. I have no doubt we have a family connection to Border Reivers who sometimes survived because of being able to take refuge in Tarras Moss. I believe it is an important part of our heritage.

Having been involved in the purchase of the lower Tarras Valley I support the proposal to try to buy the upper part of this valley. I am concerned by the creeping forestry plantations in our area and feel a duty to work towards ensuring that this is avoided in Tarras. Being under community ownership helps to safeguard this land and its rich cultural heritage for the future.

To find out more about the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve and the second stage buyout campaign, visit www.langholminitiative.co.uk.



The 'back of Tarras' has long been popular for simple pleasures like picnics, swimming and bird-watching



Councillor's comments

An update from our regular columnist councillor Archie Dryburgh



Archie receives his MBE at Dumfries Festival of Remembrance

On 6 November I was Master of Ceremonies at the Dumfries Festival of Remembrance at the beautiful Crichton Church which was sponsored by Dumfries Tattoo, The Veterans Garden and Dumfries and Maxwelltown Branch Royal British Legion Scotland.

It was a very moving and poignant festival at the end of which I received the MBE from Lord Lieutenant Fiona Armstrong. I was honoured to receive this and most people would recognise my work with the armed forces community, including veterans and cadet forces, but I also received it for my work as a councillor, which is sometimes missed.

I could not do my work without constituents' support and information. I am regularly contacted about individual issues and this work takes place without advertisement and rightly so, but I am pleased to say that most, but not

all, of the work I do for individual members of the community and families are usually resolved to one degree or another.

I want to thank those that have supported me during my time as a councillor here in the Esk Valley. I continue to do what I have always said and that is my best for you, regardless whether you voted for me or not.

Flooding work

As yet there is no final proposal from the flood prevention team at Dumfries & Galloway council in regard to Langholm. There have been three community consultation engagements over the last three years and also meetings with elected representatives, and while I believe there is a need for a flood prevention scheme in Langholm, I will wait to see what proposals come out and then make my presentations.

Over the course of three weekends, I was part of the team which collected a fantastic £1,505 for Poppy Scotland at the newly named



Councillor Archie Dryburgh with Lord Lieutenant Fiona Armstrong and Colin Smyth MSP

Caledonia Park, the formerly Gretna Gateway.

Congratulations

Finally, I'd like to put forward my

congratulations to the Eskdale Foundation for being shortlisted in the SURF awards for the renovation to the former police station. Well done to all

involved in the renovations and work that it entailed.

• Read Archie's next column on 16 December.

Free bus travel for under 22s

ALL under 22s resident in Scotland will benefit from free bus travel from next year.

School pupils, students and social media influencers joined the first minister Nicola Sturgeon at Glasgow Caledonian University to mark COP26's Youth and Empowerment Day on board a new, Scottish-built electric bus as she confirmed the scheme.

The change implements a commitment agreed with the Scottish Green Party and means around 930,000 young people across Scotland will benefit from free bus travel from 31 January 2022.

The first minister said they are committed to giving young people the very best chances to succeed in life.

"The extension of free bus travel to all under 22s will improve access to education, leisure, and work, while supporting the adoption of sustainable travel behaviours early in their lives," she said.

"COP26 must be a turning point for the world, and action must be taken if we are to 'keep 1.5 alive', and Governments across the world must act to support this.

"Adopting more sustainable travel behaviour is vital if we are to reach our world-leading goal of reducing the number of kilometres travelled by car by 20% by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2045."

New research commissioned by Transport Scotland shows that almost two-thirds - 61% - of young Scots agree that access to public transport will play a central role in the fight against climate change.

Transport Scotland research showed 70% of young people indicate they would use public transport more frequently if it was free.

The scheme will be delivered by the Scottish government in partnership with the Improvement Service, National Entitlement Card programme office, Young Scot, local authorities and bus operators to help Scotland reach its net zero targets by 2045.

The Scottish government has committed to removing the majority of fossil fuelled buses from public transport by 2023.

A bus decarbonisation taskforce has been convened which brings bus operators, the supply chain, energy companies and financiers together to co-design a pathway to a fully zero-emission bus fleet.

Transport Scotland has made £50 million available to the Scottish zero emission bus challenge fund, to further support the Scottish bus fleet to transition to zero emission.

• Free travel for residents of Scotland aged 5-21 will be accessed by the National Entitlement Card or Young Scot NEC from 31 January 2022. Information on the application process for existing cardholders and new users will be available on the Transport Scotland website in due course. Children aged 0-4 already travel for free on commercial bus service.

• Read more on the final outcomes of the COP26 summit on page 11.



Scotland's under 22s will get free bus travel from next year

Scottish News...



COP26 agreement described as 'disappointing' by first minister



Scotland's first minister Nicola Sturgeon with Lazarus Chakwera, the president of Malawi

THE 'watered down' COP26 agreement is a disappointment but the summit made progress on some important issues, Scotland's first minister has said.

The draft deal calls for stronger carbon cutting targets by the end of 2022, more help for vulnerable nations for them to cope with the impacts of global warming, as well as an expectation that countries should submit long-term strategies for reaching net-zero by the end of next year.

However, despite India and China, two of the world's top carbon emitters, being put under pressure to end coal use, the pair ensured a last-minute change in wording to the agreement to 'phase down' rather than 'phase out' coal.

The COP26 agreement deal was signed at the COP26 summit in Glasgow – it is the first to submit a plan to reduce coal.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon called it a start.

Start

"The Glasgow Climate Pact does not contain everything that every country wanted and there is understandable disappointment that key issues were watered down in the final hours, but there can be no doubt that the Glasgow summit has made progress on some important issues," she said.

"The importance of capping temperature increases at 1.5 degrees is no longer questioned and the need for countries to come back next year with higher contributions to tackling emissions may just be enough to keep 1.5 alive."

Scientists advise that keeping within a 1.5C temperature increase, a threshold that they warned would bring catastrophic and irreversible effects of climate change if not

observed, requires global emissions to be cut by 45% by 2030 and to zero overall by mid-century.

2030

The world is currently not on target for this and the deal urges countries to 'revisit and strengthen' the targets for cutting emissions by 2030, aligning this with the Paris Agreement goal of below 2C or 1.5C by the end of 2022.

"Outside of the formal negotiations, states, regions and countries like Scotland - as well as cities like Glasgow - have boosted our collective ambition to reach net zero by 2050 and earlier where possible," added the first minister.

"Scotland has led the way with commitments to make sure women and young people are central to our efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

"While there has been much positive progress, there is no escaping the fact that COP26 has not delivered as much as global south countries, activists and campaigners rightly demanded and I firmly believe that the leaders of the rich developed countries must go further.

Commitment

At the conference, the first minister confirmed the Scottish government would increase its fund for climate justice by a further 50% on top of the previous commitment to double the fund.

Legislation has also been laid that will see Scotland ban some of the most environmentally damaging single-use plastic items, such as plastic cutlery, straws, food containers, cups and other beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene - with the ban coming into effect on 1 June 2022.



Your South of Scotland engagement tour

South of Scotland Enterprise is visiting 24 villages and towns across the region between November 2021 and March 2022 as part of its first ever engagement tour.

The sessions are open to everyone in the South to meet SOSE's Chair, Professor Russel Griggs OBE, and Chief Executive Jane Morrison-Ross and give their views on what they think the priorities should be for our local economy.

All venues will be COVID-safe, with two virtual events available for anyone unable to attend an in-person event.

Sign up and come talk to us

Registration is required for each event - visit www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/engagementsessions

Or phone 0300 304 8888 if you require assistance booking your place.



www.southofscotlandenterprise.com



Memories & Milestones

We continue our serialisation of Tommy Beattie's memoirs

Going to work

...continued

One very wet day whilst crossing the fields and fences my foot slipped on the bottom wire and my left hand was pushed along the barbed wire.

What a mess my hand was in. The scar is still 2 ½ inches long after all these years.

I really required the services of a doctor but we were only half way round our journey and not near a phone box.

Mrs Mabon and her daughter of Old Hopesrigg, dressed my wound as best they could but the blood came through the bandage all day. By night time the dressing was scarlet and the hand very sore.

We finished our journey and headed for home. When I arrived home my mother nearly fainted when she saw the state the bandage was in. She was sure I had lost a finger!

The very worst places were all in Eskdalemuir – Raeburnfoot, Mid Raeburn and Raeburnside.

I had to carry bolster cases laden with groceries, bakery etc., plus pillow cases as well. Two of these places were about half a mile away. To reach them I had to cross a wooden swing bridge which was a bit frightening when full flood water rushed underneath.

To reach the bridge I had to wade in water up to the top of my wellingtons. There were steps up to the bridge so the whole journey was anything but pleasant.

Dick delivered the first one and I did the two farthest away. On dark wintry nights it taught me not to be afraid in the dark.

Later on in my journey through life I found this invaluable as you will find out.

It is hard to believe these people were not told to come and get their goods. There was only one other van travelled there so some arrangement could have been made. I was too young to argue about such matters. The only time I did one delivery across that bridge was the day I injured my hand.

Crossing the bridge carrying all those items plus a torch was no joke, even without flood water beneath it.

Waiting for Dick to come back took about an hour. An hour of boredom and cold. No car heaters in those days, or demisters nor heated windcreens. In short no comfort. The pedals were protruding from large holes in the floor. We always had our trousers tucked into our socks and wore wellington boots. Collar and tie was not the dress. Polo neck sweaters were better.

Windscreen

Because of the ice on the windscreen we used to cut a large potato in half and rub the windscreen with it to clear the ice for a while. No de-icer cans invented at this time.

At one time Dick took ill and a relief driver was found. He was no relief to me because he would only drive and had nothing to do with packing or delivery of goods. I had to pack everything into the van, orders the lot. Don't forget my age was 15 at the time, too young for so much responsibility. I forgot the order for an old lady's bread and we had nothing left. She was rough on me, unfairly I

thought, with so much to do and she made no allowance for that.

I was fed up, tired and weary but carried on 'til Dick came back to work. Many a day I was on the verge of tears. The money had to be correct as well as taking orders for the next run up there. Not a penny extra for my effort either.

Easton's

Strange how your personal map is planned for you as I said before. Jimmy Elliot of Easton's Grocers shop came to me and asked me if I was happy working at the Co-op. I said I was not at all happy. "Come along to our shop sometime, Adam and I want to talk to you." (Adam Tuthope was his partner.) I duly went along but not showing too much interest. I was waiting on the doorstep next day 9am. I started a week later.

By the way, I often wonder about this, the Co-op never had another van boy. I was first and last. Do you think I was so good as to be irreplaceable or something else?

Starting at Eastons was great. No skinnies to deliver. Start at nine o'clock. Half day Thursday. I still delivered goods but I had a delivery bike.

I had to work hard because they sold cattle and poultry feeds. All this was mixed on the second floor up in the warehouse. Bags of bran were 16 stone in weight. I could move but not lift such a weight. Some days we would not finish until about six o'clock but that was nothing after working the hours I did before.

(...to be continued)

Times Past

100 years: The end of the world

After years of war, we are now promised still more trouble – the end of the world is said to be approaching; meanwhile however, the man in the street is not worrying. Perhaps he can remember the many occasions when the prophets have tried to make his flesh creep with similar bogies. The appearance of comets has often been thought to foretell the speedy dissolution of this world. The story of the comet spread great alarm throughout Europe in 1832 and many persons refrained from undertaking or concluding any business during that year in consequence solely of their apprehension that the terrible comet would dash us and our world to atoms. The reason why October 13 has been a favourite day for prophesying the end of the world is that is it the day which the famous mathematician divine Dr Whiston, in 1736, said the world would be destroyed. Crowds of people assembled in the big open spaces of London to see the 'beginning of the end' but nothing happened.

75 years: Canonbie WRI

The monthly meeting of Canonbie WRI took place in the Hall on 7 November. Lady Milne Home presided over a large company of members. She introduced Mr J Milne Home of Carlesgill and Mr McPherson of Langholm. Mr Milne Home spoke of the reasons for and aims of the Dumfries and Galloway Development Association. Mr McPherson told how the Association worked by means of different panels. Both talks were most interesting and greatly appreciated by everyone present. The company accorded a very hearty vote of thanks to both these gentlemen. The evening then continued as a Halloween meeting, with a song from Miss B Irving, a quiz by Miss R Short in the form of 'Radio Forfeits' and some old fashioned dancing by all the members. To put the proper touch to the evening there were 'chappit tatties' with threepennies, which were partaken of by all members with a teaspoon. This happy meeting was closed by the singing of the National Anthem.

50 years: Langholm darts player in New Zealand team

A Langholm man who emigrated to New Zealand with his wife and family some years ago has been picked to play for New Zealand against Australia. He is Mr Ronnie Scott, son of Mr W Scott, 35 Braehead, Langholm. News of his being picked for the national team was contained in a letter sent by Ronnie to his father last week enclosing a newspaper cutting of himself and the three other members of the Napier Returned Servicemen's Association team receiving the shield won by them when they beat all opposition in the fours to take the New Zealand RSA title. Ronnie himself won through to the quarter -finals in the singles championship. In addition to being an expert darts player, Ronnie has become a real golf fanatic in which field of sport he is doing well with lots of prizes to his credit. This season he won the Championship of his own Club out of a membership of over 300 players. The international match against Australia will be played in the New Year.

25 years: More awards for local blooms

Two commendation certificates were presented by the Bank of Scotland to local bloom organisers. The presentation at Langholm Town Hall was made by Langholm Business Banking Manager Willie Mitchell on behalf of the Bank of Scotland who sponsor the beautiful Scotland in Bloom competition. Canonbie Community Council Chairman Jackie Beswick received one on behalf of her village and another went to Langholm representatives Grace Brown, Mary Carruthers, Margaret Pool and Jimmy and Nancy Barnfather.



Grace Brown, Willie Mitchell, Mary Carruthers, Margaret Pool, Jimmy and Nancy Barnfather with their certificate presented by the Bank of Scotland

Correction

The E&L Advertiser would like to apologise to Arthur Irving of Canonbie for the incorrect assumption that Ann Irving was the composer of the poem that featured on last week's Nostalgia page. The author was in fact, Isabel Mary Milne Home, who lived in Irvine House in Canonbie. She was killed on active service eighty years ago, on 19 August 1941.



William Easton with James Elliot and Adam Tuthope outside his shop with James Anderson on right outside his during the Coronation of George V in 1910 - courtesy of Langholm Archive

The E&L Gallery



Autumn in Upper Tarras Valley: Photo by Gavin Graham

Camera: iPhone SE

ENTERTAINMENT

Doug Allan in the Heart of Hawick

AWARD-WINNING natural history photographer, documentary filmmaker, diver, author and public speaker, Doug Allan, will be heading to the Heart of Hawick in just over a week's time.

He will be looking back over his successes and setbacks during 35 years of natural history film making on 29 November.

Doug is touring Scottish theatres this autumn with his latest show 'It's a wrap', sharing his extraordinary filming challenges and successes.

Part retrospective, the show is also Doug's perspective on climate change and its impacts on the world's wild places.

"There are big days when animals behave spectacularly right in front of your lens and other quieter times when a deeper understanding reveals itself, a new insight into the environment and what's alive there," said Doug.

"I'll be talking about these moments of truth and how they're the biggest privilege of a wildlife cameraperson."

This comes from a man spoken about by Sir David Attenborough as 'Wildlife cameramen don't come much more special than Doug'.

"I've always balanced optimism with reality but the latest world climate report lays bare the need for radical, urgent action," continued Doug.

"There are solutions, and I want to talk about them, they're all challenging, some are scary and depend on us making deep changes to how we live.

"The planet's at a crossroads and we're at the wheel - the next few years are going to be exciting."

In his 35 years of filming, he's been involved with more than 65 films, free-lancing for the BBC, Discovery, National Geographic and others.

He was principal cameraman on many prestigious award-winning programmes, making over 25 trips to the Antarctic and more than 30 across the Arctic, filming for series, including Frozen Planet, Ocean Giants, Life, Planet Earth, and The Blue Planet.

Doug speaks with passion and authority

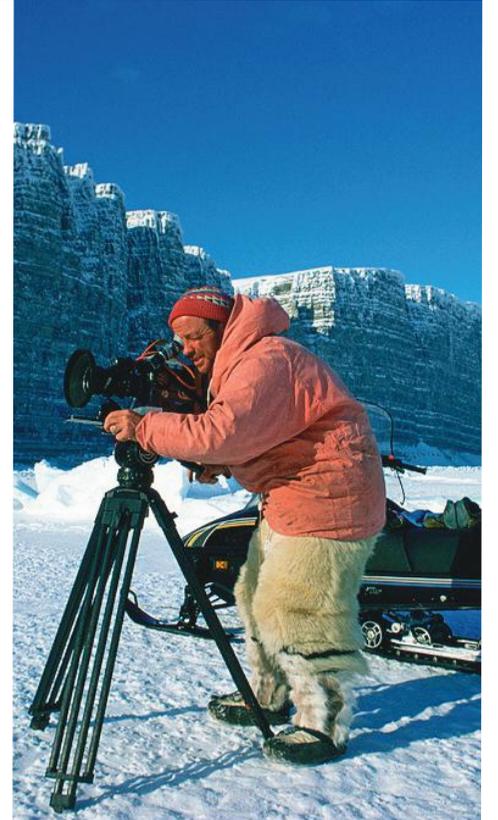
about the challenges of plastics and climate change.

His topside and underwater filming - from the ice-covered polar seas to tropical coral reefs - combined with his scientific credentials as a marine biologist, have given Doug unparalleled first-hand experience and a unique long-term perspective on issues which are now impacting the environment.

Among his many accolades, Doug has photographic awards, which include eight Emmys, five BAFTAs and five Wildscreen Pandas, and he has twice won the underwater category in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

He also has three Honorary Doctorates in recognition of his camerawork and an Honorary Fellow of the prestigious Royal Photographic Society and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographic Society.

• **To book tickets for Doug Allan at the Heart of Hawick on 29 November, visit <https://bit.ly/3Ds5N8W>.**



The intrepid photographer Doug Allan

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The company secretary, Muckle Toon Media,
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Good turnout for two new football sessions



Girl's only football

TWO new football sessions have started up in Langholm for youngsters in the area.

Not only has Langholm Legion football club teamed up with the Xcel Project to offer boys the chance to enjoy the sport, but sessions are also available for girls to play girl's only football, thanks to Calum Graham of Active Schools and Community Sport.

Langholm Legion juniors football started at the beginning of this month, as did the girl's football sessions and both are going well.

The girl's only football sessions are for P5 and older and has so far, seen 32 young girls register their interest.

The sport has become ever more popular in Langholm Academy, Langholm Primary and Canonbie Primary Schools with girls also regularly playing it away from school in their own time.

It meant following a number of requests, a dedicated girls only football session was created.

Calum who is part funded by Dumfries & Galloway council and sportscotland runs the sessions.

He said: "During Covid-19 more of my time was spent supporting schools with the

delivery of physical education, physical activity and also extracurricular sport and it became evident that more and more girls wanted to play football. It also became clear that the girls enjoyed and benefited from playing together and got more touches of the ball.

"Then came the requests from many of the girls and parents for girl's football.

"There have been 32 girls aged P5 and over registered so far which is a fantastic response."

Dedicated

Should the level of interest be maintained, the longer-term aim would be to create a dedicated girl's section of Langholm Legion Juniors.

"Some of the girls travel to Annan and Dumfries to play and it would be nice to think they could have that opportunity in Langholm," added Calum.

"Some of the senior girls from the secondary school have also offered to help and should it still be going strong next year we can look to try and take some of the girls to watch the Scotland Senior Women team play at Hampden next year with a World Cup Qualifier against Spain one of the matches scheduled for April."

A former sports leader who has played for Celtic Women, Rangers Women and the Scotland Under-21 team and who now helps with coaching the Tranmere Rovers Women's team has already offered to pay a visit after the football season is over to do a coaching session.

Similarly, the Langholm Legion juniors football sessions have had a great take-up with over 50 registrations.

Their first session saw nearly 40 youngsters turn up to play. The Xcel Project's Duncan Elliott, said: "From the huge grins on the boys' faces by the end of the night, they all seemed to have enjoyed it.

"We've got kids from Canonbie and from Langholm, and a lot of interest and it's good to see friendships formed before they head to Langholm Academy.

"Some have joined just to have a good time, and that is what we want most but we would love to also see them improve too and perhaps in future they'll be able to join the Langholm Legion - that's the idea."

Langholm Legion player, Davie Borthwick is one of the coaches and brains behind the idea.

"There was a recognition in

the senior team that there were no players in the pipeline for the future of the club, so we wanted to set this up to ensure there would be," he said.

"I have two boys who wanted to get involved in the sport but felt there was nothing on and this meant that there was something they could join."

Coaching

There are several players who are involved in the coaching sessions of the three age groups - P4-P7, S1-3, and S4-S6 - and it means the youngsters can develop their skills in dribbling, passing, and other techniques.

They are undecided whether there will be a team formed to enter a league or tournament as yet, as they see how it goes.

For now, they will run during term time on Thursdays between 6.15pm and 7.15pm

The girl's only football sessions will also run on Thursdays between 4.45pm and 5.45pm. Both are on the 3G pitch.

• To register any interest in the free girl's only football sessions for P5 and older, visit <https://bit.ly/3oqECFA>. And for the boy's sessions for P4 up to S6, which cost £2 per session, visit <https://bit.ly/3c2EM04>.



Langholm Legion juniors football with the Xcel project



LRFC field second team for first time in at least 11 years

Rugby

Annan 2nd XV 12-12 Langholm 2nd XV

By Kenneth Pool

A LANGHOLM second XV took to the rugby field for the first time in at least 11 years when they played Annan seconds at Violetbank on Saturday.

With enough players currently available at the club to form a second team, a match had been on the cards for a few weeks and all credit to Annan Rugby Club for arranging the fixture.

Both teams had a sprinkling of first XV players in their side to help out during the match.

Although it was bright and sunny, rain the previous day had left the pitch set and heavy and this tested both teams as the match progressed.

Played in three twenty-minute

sections, Langholm started well and had a lot of possession and made some goods runs to put pressure on Annan. They were unlucky not to score after 10 minutes when the forwards got over the line but the ball was deemed to have been held up.

More pressure from the visitors reputed in the ball being moved to Adam Roe who drove over to score the first try. Nathan Smith missed the difficult conversion.

Annan took the ball back into the Langholm 22, but they were turned over and Langholm built up a good attack, moving the ball to the backs and then to the forwards which resulted in Fraser Mitchell scoring a good try near the posts. This time Smith was on target with the conversion and Langholm led 12-0 at the end of the first twenty minutes.

The second twenty was much



LRFC 2nd XV

more balanced.

A kick and chase by Jamie Gormley almost resulted in another try but Annan were getting more possession and were using their backs to pressure the visitors' line. Langholm's defence was holding up well with some good tackles being made against the home side. Although both sides tried their best to get some points on

the board there was no scoring in the second 20-minute period.

Toll

As the third period progressed, the soft ground seemed to be taking its toll on the visitors and Annan began to turn the screw. They scored a good try and secured the conversion.

They threw everything into

attack and although Langholm did their best to defend, a second try was scored. This time the conversion was missed.

With the score at 12-12, Langholm did everything they could to win the game. Jack Pool made a good break down the wing but was bundled into touch and then it was Annan's turn to try and snatch the winning score. Again, the attack

was stopped and with the ball going dead the referee blew for full time.

A draw was the probably the right result as both teams played with great spirit and determination and the match was a credit to all involved.

The seconds are now looking forward to a rematch at Milntown in the not-too-distant future.

Matt receives call-up

Football



A BIG congratulations goes to Langholm Academy student Matt Hall who has received a football call-up.

The S3 pupil lives in Canonbie and has been selected for the under-15 regional squad to represent the Dumfries & Galloway Schools Football Association after attending recent trials.

The first fixture was due to be in the Scottish Schools' Cup against Glasgow.

Martin's win

Horseracing

LANGHOLM'S Martin Tedham saw his horse Zabeel Champion take the win at Leicester on Monday.

Jointly owned by Wasdell Properties Ltd, the four-year-old colt beat the favourite Lydford in the seven-horse race in a topsy turvy race of challengers to the post.

Jockey Jonjo O'Neill made sure he took the win in the final 110yds of the one-mile seven-and-a-half-furlong eight hurdle race.

Elsewhere it was another week of mid-placed and bottom three finishes for Iain Jardine and James Ewart trained horses.

The only highlights were two third-place finishes for Iain's Pearl Warrior at Market Rasen and his Kavanaghs Cross at Cheltenham.

He has a number of races scheduled for next week at Wolverhampton and Ayr.

James has three so far at Hexham, Newcastle, and Haydock.

Martin has one horse, Sky Pirate, scheduled for Saturday's race at Ascot.

Lochside pairs



Ian and Matt Hall of Canonbie win the Tam Laurie Cup presented by Gina Laurie

Carpet Bowling

By Luke Tolson

ON Saturday 20 bowlers from Langholm carpet bowling club travelled to Dumfries for the open pairs tournament held at Lochside Labour Club.

Out of the 10 pairs, two of them managed to proceed to the quarter finals - Jake and Corey Park, and Roy Park and Luke Tolson.

Roy and Luke managed to proceed to the semi-final but

unfortunately Jake and Corey were beaten.

In the semi-final Luke and Roy came up against Ian and Matt Hall from Canonbie and were beaten by one shot.

It saw Ian and Matt go on to win the competition, beating Ali Sloan and Sparky in the final.

The club were very pleased with the efforts of everyone who entered the tournament, especially their youngest members Zara and Ava who did extremely well on the day.

E&L SPORT

