



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL AT THE E&L

Series 2 No. 8434 Established May 1848 Thursday December 23, 2021 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Communities have pulled together despite the setbacks

Better days are coming, so let's all look forward to some good times in 2022



Rapunzel, Rapunzel let doon yer hair

Centre Stage Theatre Community Theatre chalked up another success last week with their lively and colourful production of **RAPUNZEL** directed by Langholm's Glen Cavers and starring young and old. See pages 8 and 9 for some great photos.

As 2021 draws to a close we reflect on what has been another challenging year in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

But one thing remains in that the community of Eskdale has pulled together and supported each other through tough times. We are fortunate to have proactive group of volunteers organising events throughout the year.

This year was the 400th anniversary of the signing of the charter which saw Langholm become a Burgh. A series of information boards were produced and displayed in the high street shops and businesses telling stories of notable events over the 400 years.

We also managed to celebrate our traditions and have a paired down Common Riding with this year's Semi-Jubilee Cornet, David McVittie carrying the flag to mark the boundaries.

Langholm featured on the big screen when The One Show showcased the town's first ever ChilliFest in October. Three years in the making, the day saw a chilli market featuring over 180 plants, children's activities, including a merry-go round, and

stalls of all kinds – pies, honey, and crafts, not to mention a celebrity cook-off with Tony Singh and Langholm's own Jilly McCord, as well as an intense chilli-eating contest.

Bonfire

The Langholm Regeneration Group organised a fantastic Bonfire in November which drew spectators from the wider community. The light shows and fireworks were truly spectacular.

We remembered the fallen of the two World Wars during Armistice Day with events carried out throughout the community.

The Christmas Lights Committee have worked tirelessly all year raising funds and organising this year's Switch On on December 2nd.

The Love Local Langholm Producers Market was born and gave us a monthly market in and around the high street attracting local independent artisans and crafters and some from further afield. This has proved to be a

resounding success and gives life to the Market Place and attracts visitors to the town and benefits the high street shops and cafes. With a break in January, the Market will continue into the New Year.

This year's Muckle Toon Panto has been a much-needed tonic for us all. It's brought a smile to many faces, young and old and takes us into Christmas where the current restrictions enable us to get together with family and friends and to remember what's important in life.

Who knows what the year ahead brings?

We must focus on the good and be there for each other in these strange and unsettling times.



www.latimersoflangholm.co.uk

Latimers of Langholm

FURNITURE SALE

NOW ON

Thursday 23rd 8:30-5.30pm | Christmas Eve – 8:30-4.30pm | CLOSED Christmas Day, 26th & 27th
28th - 30th 8:30-5.30pm | 31st – 8:30-4.30pm | CLOSED New Year's Day & 2nd Jan | 3rd Jan 11am-3pm

GREAT SAVINGS ON SOFAS • CHAIRS • RECLINERS • LIFT & RISE CHAIRS • DIVANS • BEDROOM AND DINING FURNITURE

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Festive festivities

A glimpse of some Christmas celebrations

Deaths

MILLAR, Kenneth

Peacefully on the 11 December at the Cumberland Infirmary, Kenneth aged 84 years. Devoted husband of Doreen, father, father-in-law grandad and friend to many. Private funeral service, interment to be held at Canonbie Cemetery at 12pm, noon, on Thursday 30 December, all friends are respectfully invited. All enquiries to Nicholson's Funeral Directors 01228 791098.

TEDHAM, Sadie

Peacefully on 19 December, surrounded by her family, in Dumfries Infirmary, Sadie Tedham, Holmwood Drive, Langholm, dear wife of the late Albie, a much loved mother, mother-in-law, sister, granny, great-granny and great-great-granny. Funeral will take place at Langholm Cemetery on Thursday 30 December at 2pm all friends respectfully invited, family flowers only, donations if so desired to British Heart Foundation.

Thanks for Sympathy

IRVING, Arthur

The family of the late Arthur Irving would like to express their sincere thanks to friends and family for their kind expressions of sympathy following their sad loss. Thanks also to Rev. Morag Crossan and all who attended the service and so kindly gave donations in Arthur's memory.

Funeral Services

Funeral Directors

Undertaker & Monumental Service
New Memorials supplied
Additional Inscriptions and Cleaning

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

David W. Erskine

Briery Bank, Ewes, Langholm
Tel: 013873 81251 or 07710 906257

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

For a Personal Service
Hedley and Turnbull

013873 75404 / 013873 75532 / 0789 655 7941

J. & A. Hodgson

Independent Family Funeral Directors
134 High Street, Annan

A Caring Family Firm
Caring for your family
Private Rest Room

For 24 hour caring personal service
Tel. 01461 205920

Society of Allied & Independent Funeral Directors Member
Golden Charter Pre-Paid Funeral Plans available on request

Church Notices



CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

Liddesdale and Canonbie Churches welcome you to Worship on Sunday morning at 10am and 11.30 respectively.

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

If you are seeking pastoral support or wish to arrange a wedding or baptism please contact Rev Morag Crossan on 07861736071 or email mcrossan@churchofscotland.org.uk



LANGHOLM, ESKDALEMUIR, EWES & WESTERKIRK PARISH CHURCHES

CHURCH SERVICES
Christmas Eve
Christingle Service
Langholm 3pm
Carol Service
Ewes 6pm
Watchnight Service
Langholm 11.30pm

Sunday 26th December
Langholm 10am

Contact us for transport
07448 858818.

Social Distancing will be observed. Please wear masks. Preacher: the Minister. Tel: 013873 80859. Mobile. 07448 858818. Charity no. SCO11946



Westerkirk Guild enjoyed a happy outing to The Station at Kirkpatrick Fleming for their Christmas lunch



Langholm Town Band gather round the massive Christmas tree to play carols last weekend

Picture by Brian Hinchcliffe



The Social Club's children's Christmas party - nearly 50 children attended for a fun filled afternoon with party games. It was organised by Rachel Graham and Fiona Patterson

Picture by Kirsty Graham

X95 bus campaign to be aired in parliament

Border Buses warns that reduced service may become permanent

SCOTTISH parliament is to hear the plight of borderers on their X95 Borders Bus campaign.

South Scotland MSP Colin Smyth has raised cuts to the X95 bus service in the Scottish parliament.

Prior to the pandemic, the Borders Buses' X95 service, which runs from Edinburgh to Carlisle was hourly.

When Covid restrictions were introduced, the service was cut to every two hours and there are no late evening buses - and operator, Borders Buses has made a number of people aware that the reduced frequency will become permanent.

Speaking in a debate on rural buses in the Scottish parliament last week, Colin Smyth said: "The X95 bus run by Borders Buses connects rural communities between Edinburgh and Carlisle, in Midlothian, the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway.

"During the pandemic, its frequency was cut from hourly to every two hours, but, as we moved out of lockdown, it was not reinstated to hourly.

"The lack of frequency simply means that the bus is no longer an option for those who want to use it to commute to their work."

He said he understood the difficulties facing the operator - those previously reported in the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser - but, felt funding should ensure an appropriate return.

"I know that there are challenges with the backlog in processing driving licences at the DVLA, and there is a lack of tests to ensure that, when bus companies decide to increase services, they have the drivers to do so," Colin continued.

"I have written to the UK secretary of state for transport on the issue, however, there has also been a failure of the



The X95 picks up passengers at Carlisle Station

Scottish government to secure proper guarantees from bus firms in return for the more than £330m. of taxpayer support that was given to the sector during the pandemic.

Conditionality

"We need better conditionality to maintain services in return for that support."

Speaking after the debate, the

local MSP added: "Everyone understands why companies reduced services when Covid hit, especially given the potential health impact on both passengers and drivers.

"It may also be some time before passenger numbers rise back to even close to pre-pandemic levels, but we will never get people back on our buses if we take those buses

away.

"The X95 is a crucial service that covers many communities across the south of Scotland and the lack of frequency simply means it's just not an option anymore for people who want to use the bus."

Retired Langholm nurse, Mary Johnstone spearheaded the local campaign, starting a petition which called for the full previous timetable to be reintroduced - more than 400 people signed it.

While an online petition started by Canonbie resident, Anita Baptist, also saw more than 100 people sign up to ask for the service to go back to its pre-Covid level of service.

The campaign is backed by Dumfriesshire MP David Mundell and constituency MSP Oliver Mundell, who have in recent months, raised constituents' concerns about the length of time the X95 services have been operating at a curtailed level.

IN BRIEF

Christmas winners

After a hard-fought contest, Langholm Christmas Lights Committee were finally able to come up with a winner for their "Most Christmassy Street" competition.

And the winner is.....

ESKDAILL STREET.

well done to the residents! The committee would like to give a big thank-you to all the streets and areas in the town for taking part.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS

Christmas raffle prizes: Thanks to everyone who contributed towards our raffle. It is a great help to us!

1st prize £50 cash

K. Hutchinson- Townhead Bakery.

2nd prize - Drinks hamper

L. Smith - Truly Scrumptious

3rd prize - Food hamper

Owen Brown

4th prize - Cosmetics hamper

Susan Redpath

5th prize - Hair Dryer

Olly the dog c/o Janie Hotson

6th prize - Cool bag

Jean Ellwood

Call for better support network in D&G

A CALL to free up bed space in hospitals has been met with criticism by one local family member who says the 'under pressure' Dumfries & Galloway health and social care system needs to put support networks in place first.

Langholm resident, Kirsty McHugh's father, who has Alzheimer's and mobility problems, is currently in the Langholm community hospital, after stints in the hospital in Dumfries and living with Kirsty herself.

She said while she understood the pressures faced by the health and social care system resulting in the request for families and loved ones to facilitate speedy discharges of inpatients, it was not always possible.

"I naively assumed the care package in Dumfries would follow him to Langholm, but I had to put in a new referral for him living in Langholm," she said.

"It meant that no care agencies would come out to Langholm, the other problem

was applying for direct payment to find carers, I got little support doing this though and it took four months to secure two ladies for only eight hours of 17.5 hours allocated to me by social services.

"The rest of the time I juggled my family while looking after my father who was rapidly deteriorating during this time, but I became increasingly anxious that this was during the summer and come September I would start a new job and full-time university."

Difficulties

She said it was extremely difficult to get her dad any carers at this point and it was something she said that could be linked to the size of Langholm as a town and the lack of carers available.

Her father got Covid in the September and needed to return to Dumfries and the hospital there where he needed 90 days of Covid-free days before he could leave, which was at the beginning of this month.

Kirsty said the policies in place meant that the hospital was just as much to blame for bed blocking.

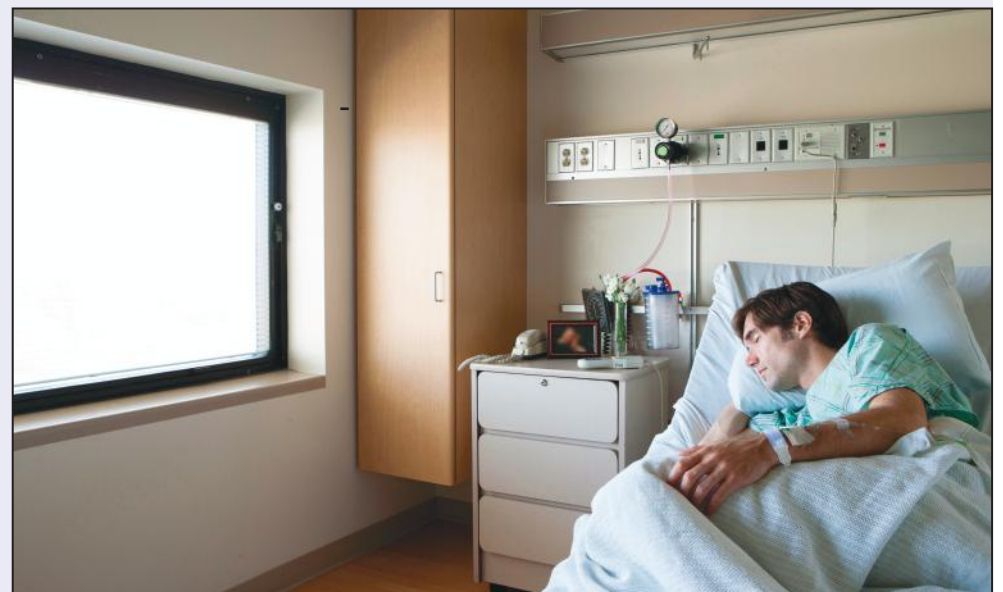
"Everybody in society needs simply 10 days of no Covid, but my dad and elderly people cannot go into residential or community care before they return a negative Covid result despite it just being antibodies rather than Covid itself," she said.

"The problem is that these impact on the beds available and I would if I could but it's just not always possible and I want people to know the other side of things."

Health and Social Care Partnership chief officer and chief operating officer of NHS Dumfries & Galloway, Julie White described their staffing issues as an 'unprecedented situation'.

She said their fundamental issue was that they only had finite staffing resources available to meet the needs of the volume of people who genuinely required their help and support.

However, they were currently recruiting more staff



The freeing-up of bed space in D&G hospitals has been criticised

to support them.

For Kirsty though, the suggestion to help both families, loved ones, and the social care system, would be to take another look at the policies, and to build and inform families of the support networks in the areas of inpatients that could be discharged from hospital, before they are.

Book your eyetest today

Personal care and attention from your first appointment with us.

Spectacles and Contact Lenses to suit all budgets

ERIC HAGAN
OPTICIANS

www.erichaganopticians.co.uk

Longtown
Tel: 01228 791664

Brampton
Tel: 016977 42703

Letters to the Editor



Have your say on the issues affecting our area. You can write to us at Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser, 54 High St, Langholm DG13 0JH or email your comments to sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk

Senseless vandalism

The Christmas Lights Committee spent £1,200 on new lights for the Suspension Bridge. Last weekend a resident from Caroline Street came to my door and reported that a lot of bulbs were missing. I went along to see for myself and noticed that 16 bulbs needed to be replaced.

Then last Sunday I noticed a further six were missing. I contacted the electrician, John White Electrical and he suggested the lights be switched off for safety measures. I want to reiterate that these lights were installed for the people of Langholm to enjoy over the festive period with funds raised by them, it's very sad that this has happened and now local people can't enjoy them. I will be contacting the police to let them know about the incident.

Betty Harkness
Chair of Langholm
Christmas Lights
Committee
David Street

In search of OS maps

I am very interested in borrowing copies of the old Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Maps (2½ inches to 1 mile) covering Eskdalemuir, Boreland, Newton Wamphray and Moffat.

These are in connection with an old Right of way from Eskdalemuir via Garwald-waterfoot, Dryfe and Laverhay to Moffat. If anyone can assist, please contact me via email. rmstanbrook@gmail.com

Richard Stanbrook
"Howden"
18 Drove Road
Langholm
DG13 0JW



Old cottages in Newton Wamphray

Massive donation to Tarras Valley Reserve

Anonymous donor takes funding over the quarter-way mark

AN ANONYMOUS half a million pounds donation and crowdfunder success has seen the historic community buyout of land on the Tarras Valley to the quarter-way mark.

Christmas has come early for the community's bid to double the size of the new nature reserve in Dumfries & Galloway, thanks to an anonymous private donation £500,000 and public crowdfunder donations surging past £50,000.

It means the buyout has reached the quarter-way mark in a race against time to purchase 5,300 acres of Langholm Moor from Buccleuch by raising £2.2m. before next May.

Success in the campaign, led by the Langholm Initiative charity, would expand the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve to 10,500 acres – boosting plans for tackling the nature and climate emergencies, and supporting community regeneration through nature-based tourism.

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve's estate manager, Jenny Barlow said they were grateful to everyone who had donated and

supported them so far.

"Reaching the quarter-way mark towards our £2.2m target after just six weeks is a wonderful milestone for the community, and it really feels like Christmas has come early," she said.

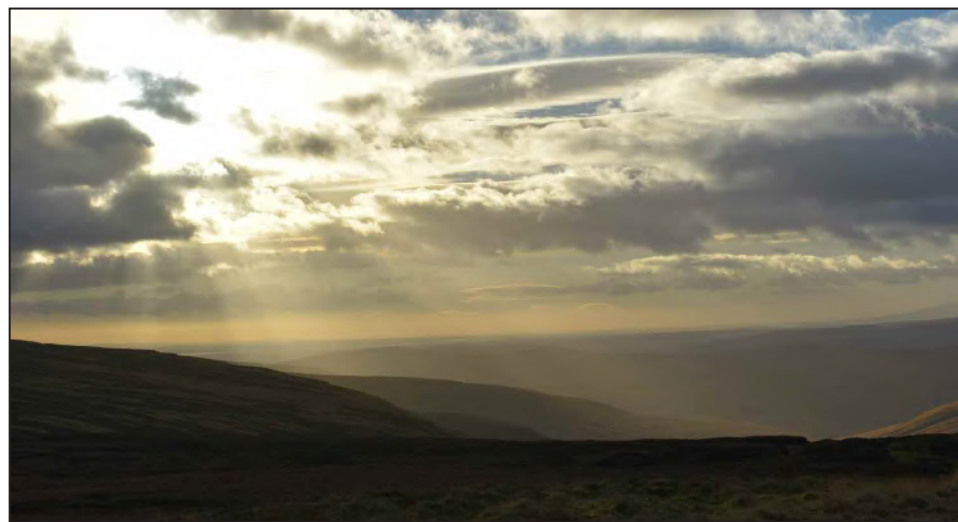
"It's put the wind in our sails as we approach the end of the year.

"But we have a long way to go, and we urgently need support from major funders – Buccleuch's offer of keeping the land off the open market is time limited, so we need to raise the total funds by next May, or the chance of purchasing this dramatic, culturally important land will be lost forever."

If the land goes on the open market, its price is thought to likely surge beyond the community's reach.

There are fears it may then be bought by corporate investment firms, which are land banking in Scotland.

As well as urging people to donate to the crowdfunder, the community is seeking major funders to support what is the second stage of the South of Scotland's



Tarras Valley Nature Reserve has received an anonymous donation of £500,000

Picture by Kevin Cumming

biggest community buyout.

Applications are being made to grant-funding bodies.

The buyout's first phase ended in success, following an ambitious fundraising campaign supported by thousands of people worldwide. In October 2020, the Langholm Initiative and Buccleuch reached an agreement of £3.8m. for 5,200 acres of land and six residential

properties.

This led to the creation of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

Globally important peatlands and ancient woods are being restored, native woodlands established, and a haven ensured for wildlife including short-eared owls and much-persecuted hen harriers – all while generating social and economic opportunities for local people.

Leading charities that have supported the buyout include Borders Forest Trust, John Muir Trust, Rewilding Britain, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Trees for Life, and the Woodland Trust.

• To support the appeal, visit langholminitiative.org.uk.

New home for Langholm's jeweller

A NEW home has been found for Lisa Rothwell-Young's jewellery on Henry Street as she opens up her first street-side studio-shop for customers.

Lisa said her new space, which showcases the jewellery she handmakes, was the ideal location for her to create an area that locals and visitors could drop by and see what she had both to offer and to create for them.

"I am inspired by the environment and there is a story and a meaning behind everything," she said.

"I'm all about sustainability and ethics and I wanted somewhere that people can come and see what I'm about, somewhere that is comfortable and inspiring."

This includes a comfy place to sit on the plush emerald green velvet sofa where people can detail what they are looking for.

Her brand began in the early 2000s when she wanted to create jewellery that had an ethos and lasted a lot longer than fashion jewellery.

Initially, she did fayres, including wedding fayres, then in 2013, she was in charge of the Cut the Mustard gallery on the High Street, however, she had wanted to take on her own work more as it expanded, rather than focusing on others.



This saw her close the gallery in 2017, where the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser is now situated, and take a space in Ashleybank House.

All her items are made from recycled or fair-trade metals, and her gemstones are all fairly traded making her one of the UK's fewest jewellers who works with sustainable and ethical metals and gemstones.

"My business went from strength to strength and I decided to take up the opportunity to have a space where I could call my own and redesign to my own tastes," said Lisa.

"It's been really nice to get this place open and for people to come in and have a chat and I can listen to them.

"I work closely with my customers and to be able to sit down and talk



about the pros and cons of ethical materials, say mining issues of gemstones over supporting workers in developing countries."

She said she had received a lot of positive feedback and was now available for people to either book in appointments to see her or was open on Thursdays for people to drop in between 12.30pm and 4.30pm.

Have a harmonious 2022

Politicians from across the region send us their Christmas greetings

LOCAL councillors, MSPs and MPs have all sent their Christmas greetings to the residents of Eskdale and Liddesdale.

Among those to get in touch with the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser were Annandale East and Eskdale ward councillors Archie Dryburgh and Ronnie Tait, MPs David Mundell and John Lamont, and South Scotland MSPs Emma Harper and Colin Smyth.

Archie wished all his constituents in the Esk Valley a very safe and merry Christmas and a happy and harmonious new year for 2022.

While Ronnie touched on the events of the past few months in his well wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a less stressful New Year.

"After another truly traumatic year we seem to be again entering into uncertain times with this new Omicron variant," he said.

"I ask people to be as responsible over Christmas and New Year as they have

been over the last year.

"I would like to thank all individuals and organisations in the ward who have worked tirelessly to keep people safe and ensure that all the vulnerable were helped over the last year – much appreciated."

MP for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale, David Mundell said it was hard not to reflect on the events and challenges of the past year, from the global pandemic to extreme weather. However, the difficult times had brought out the best in individuals, communities and organisations across the constituency.

"It remains a privilege to represent Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale and, making the most of technology to observe Covid rules, I've retained contact with constituents throughout, assisting them with diverse issues," he said.

"Democracy needs MPs to be accessible and I look forward to meeting more constituents face-to-face again in 2022 and look forward to when



John Lamont MP Christmas 2021

our traditional events, like Langholm Common Riding, can get back to normal.

"A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all at the Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser and its readers locally and in different parts of the world."

As the year comes to a close, South Scotland MSP Colin Smyth advised people to get their vaccinations and remember others who are often overlooked during the festive period.

"For nearly two years, our lives have been affected by

this terrible virus and as the year ends, our thoughts are with everyone who has lost a loved one to Covid-19," he said.

"For many workers such as our NHS staff, carers, emergency services, armed forces, local farmers and many more, Christmas is not a holiday - we owe them, and all our key workers, a huge debt of gratitude.

"Christmas can also be tough for people who live on their own – reach out to give support to those most in need."

He added he hoped all readers would have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year with 2022.

MP for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk, John Lamont said significant progress had been made with vaccinations since the pandemic hit.

"Despite this, there are once again challenging times ahead that we must navigate together and this will be tough for communities across Liddesdale," he said.

"But I know that, if need be, the community spirit that carried us through the last two years will once again show its strength.

"For those who are celebrating, I wish you all a happy, joyous and safe Christmas-time, and a prosperous New Year."

South Scotland MSP Emma Harper wished everyone Slàinte Mhath and highlighted the positives of 2021.

Despite the serious health and economic challenges, she said much had also been achieved – the introduction of the anti-poverty Scottish Child Payment of £20, a law change to make it easier for victims of sexual violence to report, as well as legislation to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

"As we proceed to 2022, I ask constituents to continue the levels of kindness and care for others which we have seen this year," she said. "I continue to be here to provide advice and support to constituents."

Q&A on climate change



MP David Mundell visits Canonbie school

CLIMATE change and the recent United Nations COP26 Conference have been a hot topic at Canonbie Primary School.

Local MP and former Scottish secretary David Mundell, who was a delegate at the major international event hosted by the UK government in Glasgow last month, visited the school as a guest speaker.

During his afternoon there, David spoke separately to younger and older pupils on the subject.

He also chaired lively question and

answer sessions.

He said afterwards: "I was impressed by the pupils' depth of knowledge on the subject and their searching questions.

"Their interest in the issue is clear and understandable as they are from a generation which will be most affected by some of the decisions currently being made."

Pupils at Canonbie have been studying the subject and are also focusing on what individuals can do to reduce the impact on climate.

Happy New Year!

NEW YEAR BABIES

If you would like your baby's first New Year to be featured in the E&L Advertiser on Thursday 13th January, 2022 then please follow the steps below.....

Bring a photo of your son or daughter, born in the last 12 months, into the E&L Office, 54 High Street, Langholm (we re-open on Wednesday 5th January) or email: sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk for a form to provide your details.

£8, payable by card, cheque or cash ■ All photos will be returned

Deadline for booking is 5pm on Monday 5th January 2022

Farming on the Border

In association with

C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



Right of access

AN ACCESS code review has seen a flurry of support from Scotland's farmers and crofters.

Access has been an unprecedented issue for NFU Scotland members over the past two years as the number of people walking in the countryside surged because of the Covid pandemic.

Many of those taking access in the country since March 2020 were new or previously infrequent visitors.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code, approved 17 years ago, sets out the rights of responsible access and provides practical guidance for both landowners and the public on how to ensure safe and responsible enjoyment of the countryside.

In November, NFU Scotland asked its members to share their views on the code and how it operates for farmers and crofters in its current form, and it had a fantastic response.

The results of the survey highlighted that Scotland's farmers and crofters consider that the SOAC is no longer effective for

landowners, and that a review is required to offer modernised guidance that fits the scale and type of access that is now taking place.

NFU Scotland's Vice President Robin Traquair said: "Our members have made it clear in their response to our survey that the SOAC is no longer fit for purpose and needs to be updated.

"The code has not been formally reviewed for 17 years since it was first approved by Scottish parliament in 2004 and the past couple of years of increased access have shown that more needs to be done to protect Scottish farmers and crofters' ability to safely produce the high quality, sustainable food and drink expected by consumers.

"The Scottish countryside is a beautiful working environment, and to protect it for all who want to enjoy it NFU Scotland have been discussing the issues with Edward Mountain MSP, who is engaging with a range of stakeholders and seeking a review of the Access Code to bring it up to date."

'Flockdown' measures

NEW 'flockdown' measures have been introduced to protect against bird flu.

South Scotland MSP Emma Harper has been raising awareness of the new measures from the Scottish government's chief veterinary officer, in light of the bird Flu outbreak.

She has urged bird keepers to review the biosecurity of their housed birds and to comply with the new 'flockdown measures'.

The new bird housing measures, which came into force last week, mean that it is now a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK, regardless of flock size, to keep their birds indoors and to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of, and eradicate, bird Flu.

Wild birds migrating to the UK from mainland Europe during the winter months can carry the disease and this can lead to cases in poultry and other captive birds.

Cases have been identified across Dumfries & Galloway



NFU Scotland's vice president Robin Traquair

and has therefore encouraged extra vigilance.

While Scottish public health advice remains that the risk to human health from bird flu is very low and that food standards bodies advise that it poses a very low food safety risk for Scottish consumers, rules remain in place to protect people.

"Over the last 18 months we have all had to comply with continuing and ever-changing lockdown restrictions and now it is time for our bird keepers, regardless of flock size, to

ensure their birds are doing the same," she said.

"Although the Scottish government's public health advice is that there is a very low risk to the public and to our food supply chain of avian flu, I am encouraging all bird keepers across Dumfries & Galloway to follow the flockdown protective measures which are in place for avian flu, particularly given that we have had a number of cases across the region."

Swift action has been taken by the joint Chief Veterinary

Officers of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England to limit the spread of bird flu and introduce the legal requirement.

In addition, keepers must continue taking extra precautions to keep their flocks safe.

This includes regularly cleaning and disinfecting equipment, clothing and vehicles when entering or exiting sites and limiting access to non-essential workers or visitors.

"I have been contacted by a constituent who used to work in animal disease management," continued Emma.

"My constituent expressed the importance of people not touching or trying to manage sick or dead birds.

"I agree and therefore want to encourage everyone to report any sick or dead birds to the national avian flu hotline on 03459 33 55 77."

• For more information on the measures, visit <https://www.gov.scot/publications/avian-influenza-outbreaks/>.

SOLWAY AGRICULTURE LIMITED

Glasgow Road Lockerbie Dumfriesshire DG11 2SE

Tel. Lockerbie (01576) 204124

Fax. Lockerbie (01576) 203806

Beet Pulp Pellets
Barley Grains
NB Grains Wheat Grains
Rolled Barley
Wheatfeed Rapemeal
Hi Pro Soya etc.

Can be mixed to your requirements

Collect or deliver ex Laurmar, Heathall Ind. Est., Dumfries

Bekina Wellingtons
Waterproof Leggings & Jackets Boiler Suits etc

FOR ALL LAMBING REQUIREMENTS
lamb colostrum, lambs milk bottles, teats, lammacs castration rings and pliers marking sprays etc.

Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 10,941 sheep comprising of 6,099 prime lambs and 4,842 cast ewes and rams at their weekly sale at Longtown last Thursday.

A smaller show of cast cows sold to the usual high rates to a top of 124p per kilo for Luig from Arkleton, Limousins to 120p from Potholm.

A larger entry of 6,099 prime lambs were forward to the usual competitive ring of purchasers ensuring all classes sold well.

Lightweight lambs (31-37kg) sold to a huge enquiry with all classes being sharper again on the week.

Texel lambs topped this section and the sale, selling to 372ppk consigned from Paradise Farm, Co Durham.

Blackface lambs sold to the dearest trade of the season topping at 300ppk consigned by Easter Ale Moor Farm.

Cheviot lambs sold to a big trade topping at 306ppk consigned by M/s Douglas, Catslackburn with their run of 298 cheviot lambs levelled at £119.50 per head, 41kg and 291ppk.

Again, best bred heavies proved the flavor of the day with countless pens of oversized lambs making £160-plus and selling beyond 300ppk, whilst commercial heavies proved slightly harder to cash.

Topping the sale per head of £176 for Beltex lambs shown by Robin Vevers, Burnfoot Hill.

Commercial export lambs sold to an increased enquiry ensuring last week's

high rates of return were easily maintained trading between 285-295ppk.

An overall sale average of 280.2p (SQQ 283.7p) was achieved.

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO):

Texel 372p Paradise, 353p Black House, 341.5p Kirk House, 340p, 338.5p Paradise.

Beltex 371.4p Thornthwaite Close, 346p High Hall, 341.5p Thornthwaite Close, 339p Upper Auchenlay, 337p Paradise.

Dutch Texel 321.6p, 321.4p Burn House.

Hill Cheviot 306p Catslackburn, 302.8p Paradise, 300p Sorbie, 296p, 295p Catslackburn.

Charollais 300p Ryehills, 296p Drumlane 293.5p Sunnyvale, 291p Campion Close.

Blackface 300p Easter Ale Moor, 297p Sonoma, 293p Sorbie, 289p Catslackburn, 284.7p Low Eals.

Suffolk 299p Donerentin, 294.1p, 292.6p Parkhill, 292p Sunnyvale, £289 Barnsallie.

Mule 295.7p Upper Hindhope, 285p Moss Edge, 283.8p Arnicle, 280p Longrigg and Todsyehead, 274p Grindon Hill and Blackhope.

North Country Cheviot 291p, 258p Allanshaws.

Herdwick 289p, 268.4p Longrow, 261.1p Whinneyknowe.

Leicester 280p Westernhopeburn, 254.3p Wanwood Hill, 252p Allanshaws.

Cheviot Mule 275.6p Grindon Hill, 271.2p Bog House, 270.3p Brookside, 270p Skelfhill.

Dutch Spotted 273p Wardrew.

Half Bred 265p, 256p High Moat.

Zwartbles 260p Todsyehead.

Swaledale 258p Westernhopeburn, 249p Peasemyres.

Jacob 241p The Green.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD):

Beltex £176 Burnfoot Hill, £166 High Hall, £161 Mid Banks, £160 Burnfoot Hill, £158 High Hall.

Texel £174 Kirkton, £170 Roxburgh Mains, £166 Tercrosset and Allanshaws, £163 Guards Mill, £162 Roxburgh Mains and Mid Banks.

Hill Cheviot £162 Burnfoot Hill, £134 Garvilland, £132 Kirkton, £131 Catslackburn and Upper Hindhope, £130 Skelfhill.

Suffolk £161 Brae Edge, £157, £156 Guards Mill, £148 Shield Farm, £145 West Newlands.

Half Bred £159 High Moat.

Leicester £155 Whiteside, £138 Wanwood Hill, £133.50 Allanshaws, £133 Westernhopeburn.

North Country Cheviot £152, £131.50 Allanshaws.

Charollais £148 Drumlane, £139 Tinnis Hall, £136 Campion Close, £135 Sunnyvale.

Dutch Spotted £142 Wardrew.

Cheviot Mule £141 Bog House, £125.50 Allanshaws, £119 Skelfhill.

Dutch Texel £135, £123.50, £123 Burn House.

Mule £130.50, £127 Blackhope, £126.50 Bog House, £125.50 Hallburn and Kilkeddan, £125 Nunsclough.

Zwartbles £130 Todsyehead.

Blackface £128 Kirkland, £121.50

Finland, £120.50 Cowburnrigg, £120 Peela Hill and Easter Ale Moor, £119 Finland.

Herdwick £113, £107 Longrow.

Dorset £104 Brae Edge.

Swaledale £98 Westernhopeburn, £87 Peasemyres.

Jacob £89 The Green.

A similar, large show of 4,842 ewes were forward with all classes holding firm, replicating last week's extreme rates of return. Heavy ewes and strong hill ewes in serious demand.

Texel ewes were in short supply and many more are required for next week. Topping this section were a pair of fantastic pure-bred ewes realising £230 consigned by M/s Peterkin, Barnyards, Hill ewes to £115 for Blackface ewes consigned Peela Hill and Ralphshield.

Heavy Mule ewes sold to £132 from M/s Patrick, Ralphshield Farm, Cambo, Morpeth. Plenty of pens of heavy Mules sailing past £120 and more can be sold to vendor advantage.

Cheviot Mules once again topped at £142 consigned by Beckfoot Farming.

Rams sold to a dearer trade once again for an increased entry. Topping at £205 for Texels from Drumlane.

AVERAGES:

Lambs: Light to 310.0p (241.0p), standard to 372.0p (292.0p), medium to 371.4p (281.1p), heavy to 346.0p (271.5p), and overweight to 302.0p (265.0p).

Ewes: Light to £115.00 (£67.41), and heavy to £230.00 (£115.11).

Rams: £205.00 (£134.69).

Labour of love will make a real Royal pad for Chris

A UNIQUE opportunity to transform a former High Street bank into a home is the task that has been grabbed with both hands – holding tools – by one of Langholm's newcomers.

Chris Wyatt moved to the town in March after living in Cambridgeshire for 30-plus years.

He has taken on the momentous task of renovating the 19th century National Bank of Scotland listed building that was the former Royal Bank of Scotland.

Chris has bought the ground level floor of the building, which has three floors in total, and plans to make use of the space to create three bedrooms where the staff room, store room and stationary store were and all will have ensuite bathrooms.

A kitchen, dining, and lounge area with a mezzanine will take the place of the banking hall, the book room will become a larder, and there will also be a number of storage areas and an accessible bathroom.

His aim is to keep as much of the original features of the building as possible and he is using

the materials that are already there for any renovations that he makes.

His front door will be the grand entrance that still has 'The National Bank of Scotland 1864' etched into the stonework with columns at either side.



Inside he also has the ceiling rose, wood panelling, and remaining safes and vault on proud display.

While although he now has grand plans for the building, it had not been his initial plan to move to Langholm.

He said the decision to move

here was the result of a fallen through house purchase in the Isle of Lewis.

"I was buying a house on Lewis as a cash buyer and despite this after 18 months there was still no end in sight and so I gave up, but then I saw this on an auction site and I liked the look of the bank," he said. "I didn't even know where Langholm was."

He said he even bought the place blind.

"It's a big place Langholm and the people here are really friendly and I've decided I'll be staying, so it's been a great buy, I've even joined the brass band," he said.

"There's a sense of community here and I'm proud to be a part of it."

Chris plays the tuba has joined the Langholm Town Band now at various events, including the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain.

This will be in between doing the work in his new home himself.

As a professional DIY-er - he is a bathroom fitter by trade

and has friends who will help with the job - he is the perfect man for the job.

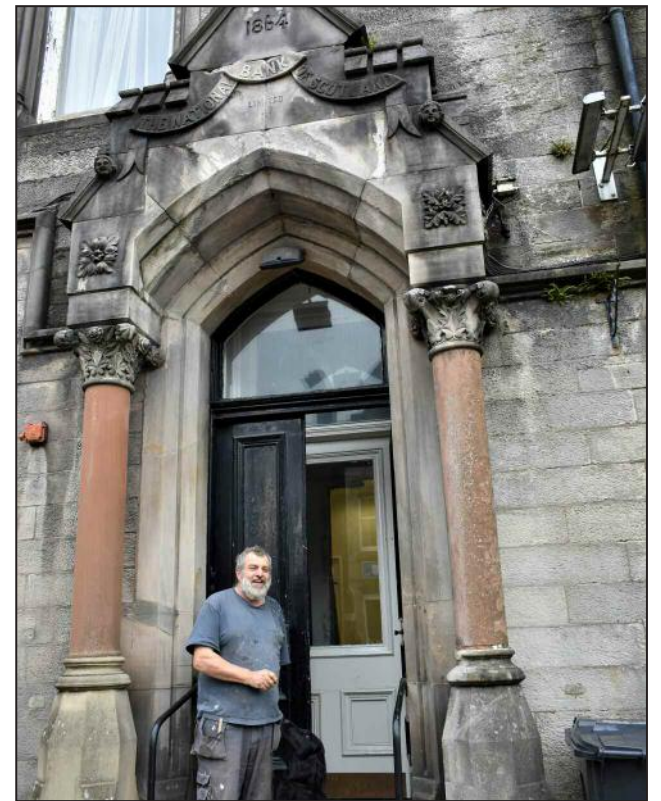
His fiancé, Reet, also works in textiles, so she will be helping too.

"I plan to work on it every week for five and a half days, with half a day to tidy up and Sunday will be my day off," said Chris.

"Right now, the bedroom is my sanctuary as it'll take me until around the end of Easter to finish it to the point where I'll just be decorating but I think it'll look amazing once it is completed.

"There's a lot to work around as a listed building, like the windows can't be replaced but there are some shutters which I'll restore and I'll use plenty of insulation, so by the time it's finished it'll be well done."

He added that he had been saddened to see that the building had not been respected as it should have been but his hope was that he would have an extraordinary home with a backstory as part of the town's fabric.



Chris Wyatt has taken on the mighty task of turning the old Royal Bank of Scotland building into a luxury home

The Brandon McPHEE Experience

the **Buccleuch Centre**
LANGHOLM

Friday 18 February
7.30pm
BOX OFFICE
013873 81196
Book Online
www.buccleuchcentre.com

Muckle Toon Panto helps us let our hair down

Centre Stage's production of Rapunzel brings some much-needed light and delight to the dark days of winter

SINCE 2007, Langholm has presented a Christmas Pantomime and as the years progressed, Centre Stage's Muckle Toon Pantomime has become a major event in Langholm's social calendar.

Attracting audiences, consistently of around 1,000 over the week, from near and far, the Langholm event has been favourably compared to some of the bigger productions in places like Carlisle, Glasgow and Edinburgh - some people have said it is 'even better'.

The panto is a great example of community involvement, with the youngsters being given the chance to take their first steps into the performing arts and the adults rallying round to help in any way they can

from set building to make-up to costumes.

Glen Cavers, director of Rapunzel said: "The cast and crew worked exceptionally hard under difficult circumstances to deliver another excellent production.

"A big thank you must also go to our audiences who came out and supported us.

"Without them, the show would not be possible and we hope we helped brighten their Christmas."

Audience member Jane McCarthy said: "It is such a treat to see the Langholm panto every year.

"Professionally produced and hilariously acted - more power to their elbow."

Roll-on the 2022 production.



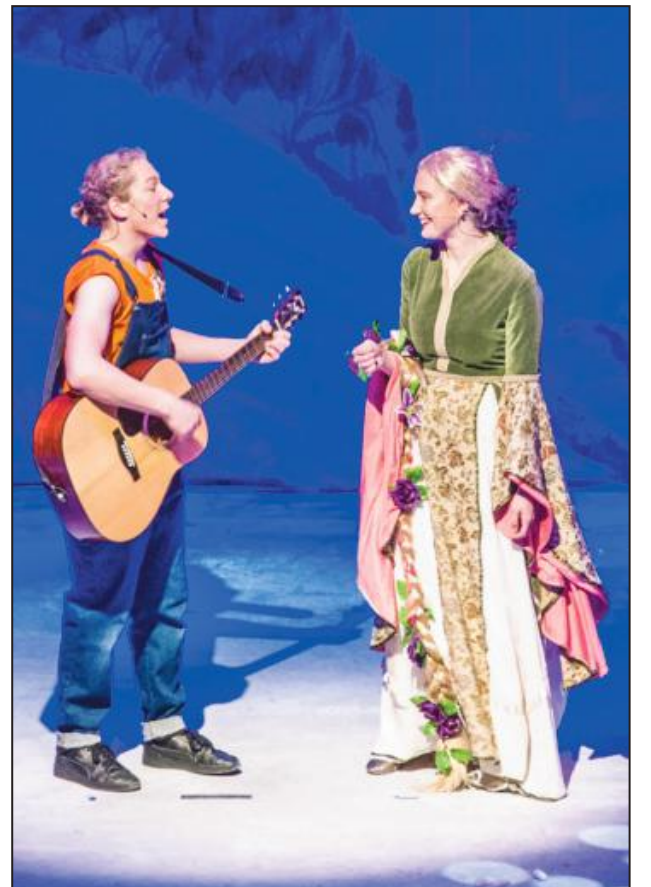
Top: Glen Jamieson as Captain of the Guard Hazel Jeffrey as the King and Katrina Kenny as the Queen
Middle: Maya Crossan-Brown as Fairy Pixel, Hannah Jeffrey as Fairy Moonbeam, Kayla Smith as Fairy Blossom
Bottom: Jane Edmond as Gothel, the evil step-mother and Josh Calvert as the evil chancellor, Wormblood



There is certainly nothing like this dame! Dame Dotty Dingle Bottom Veteran Les Murray brings his own inimitable style to the classic panto role.



Top: Angus McCall as Gilda, leader of the Fairies with his helpers, confront Gothel
Middle: Some panto first-timers in their roles as fairies
Bottom: Youngsters in the chorus take their much-deserved bow



Top: Ann Barber in the title role of Rapunzel
Bottom: Seth Brown as Danny serenades Ann Barber as Rapunzel



Top: Nambly, Prince of Fluffytown-Rainbowland - Finn McVittie
Bottom: Seth Brown as Danny and Ashleigh Calvert as his sister Annie

Christmas Greetings

Festive finds at Fern Ceramics

A new studio and one-stop shop at Hagg-on-Esk

A CHRISTMAS gallery featuring local natural crafters' handmade work has been a one-stop shop along the A7 for many for gifts.

Jackie Zehnder transformed her Fern Ceramics studio into a gallery especially for Christmas and has had so many requests to fill the space that she has had to be selective in what could be shown.

She said it had been a great success and is thinking about keeping some of the work in the space.

"It's the Christmas period and I thought it'd be nice to invite lots of local crafters to use the space and embrace the work they do as well," she said.

"I think people think because it's on the A7 it's a great opportunity where people do just stop by to see what's here and it means they can get a taste of the creativity that is here in the area."

On offer are items from Rose's Wardrobe hand-sewn gifts, Ann Smith's felted crea-

tions, and the Pod Candle Co. candles, plus so many more, all in a space kitted out with a warming log burner.

Not only that but there is the offer of a mulled non-alcoholic wine and a mince pie for visitors to purchase and sit in front of the fire to enjoy.

"I transformed it overnight really from my studio to a gallery," said Jackie.

"If people want their work to remain longer, they can, and for anyone who wants to drop-by, as long as the sign's outside or I've put an advert in the paper, I'll be here."

Her studio, which is located at Hagg-on-Esk along the A-road, was only opened to visitors in September, but she has since branched out to taking part in the Love Langholm Local market, with more exciting plans next year.

She asked people to keep an eye out for news in the new year.

A selection of items available from Fern Ceramics



PEARL MITCHELL
wishes you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year

JIMMY & JUNE WILSON
Lockerbie
would like to wish all family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

LANGHOLM DAY CENTRE
would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year. Grateful thanks for all your support, it's very much appreciated.

FERN CERAMICS
sends Christmas greetings to all customers with hope for good health during the new year of 2022. Thank you for your support.

KATE TURK
Rowanburn
Wishes all friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2022

ANGELA & NANCY
Would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year

MARGARET SANDERSON
Bentpath
would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

JANET NICHOL
Henry Street
Wishes all her family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2022.

SADIE BELL
Annan Court Care Home
Wishes all family and friends Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2022

Scottish News...



Omicron variant prompts reintroduction of measures

It is 'crucial' that everyone follows the guidance to prevent transmission

UPDATED Covid guidance continues to be followed in Scotland as the country battles to tackle the new Omicron variant during the festive period.

From last Friday, businesses were legally required to take reasonable measures to minimise transmission of coronavirus.

It included ensuring masks are worn in all businesses, and retail and hospitality businesses should consider reasonable measures to reduce crowding and manage queues.

Workplace testing has also been extended and businesses with more than 10 employees are encouraged to sign up to receive free lateral flow test kits to ensure staff are able to test regularly.

The guidance will support businesses to put in place a range of public health measures that will help keep people safe, including enabling home working for those who are able to work from home – something

that is key to breaking chains of transmission.

Economy secretary Kate Forbes said it was crucial that everyone followed the guidance to support businesses to keep their premises safe and prevent transmission.

"All of these layers of protection will help to limit the spread of Omicron, especially as we approach the festive period," she said.

"I am also making a plea to be considerate to staff who are doing their best during this challenging period.

"In addition to guidance, we know that businesses need financial support now and we are working to get funding out to businesses as soon as we can but the Treasury must also step up and provide urgent funding beyond what we are able to provide."

To help mitigate further economic harm as a result of this vital public health guidance, a £100m. financial support pack-



age for eligible businesses has also been established.

It sees £66m. for hospitality, £20m. for the culture sector, £8m. for food and drink supply chain businesses including wholesalers, £3m. for the wedding sector, and £3m. for the worst affected businesses in the tourism sector, including international inbound tour operators.

Another £100m. is being set

aside for self-isolation support grants.

First minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "The support we're providing is significant – but we know it won't fully compensate for the impact of Omicron.

"Business now needs the type and scale of financial support that was available earlier in the pandemic and that can only come from the UK government – which has borrowing powers

that the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments do not.

"The best way to support business sustainably, is to get the virus back under control, so please get your boosters and stay at home as much as possible just now."

The updates are seen as especially important as the government ramps up the booster vaccinations.

A request for additional military personnel was approved just last week to accelerate its roll-out.

With the emergence of the Omicron variant, all those aged 18 and over are being offered a booster jab by the end of the year with everyone aged 18-59 currently invited to book an appointment via the online portal or attend a drop-in clinic.

An additional 100 military vaccinators have joined the existing 100 staff, along with 15 nurses and six support staff currently assisting with the pro-

gramme which will remain in place until 28 February.

For residents visiting hospitals and care homes, the request is to take an LFD test before every visit under new guidelines.

Adult care homes and hospitals at this time continue to support visits for residents and patients, however, new recommendations ask that no more than two households meet with a resident at any one time inside the care home.

Residents are also asked to avoid larger gatherings when visiting friends and family out of the care home.

Hospital visits continue to be prioritised, with appropriate precautions and protections – an LFD test ahead of visiting, and for no more than two people to visit a patient at any one time.

• **For more information, including booking a vaccination, visit <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>.**

Fund to tackle mental health inequalities

A NEW fund looking to tackle mental health inequalities in Dumfries & Galloway has gone live.

There is £750,000 to be distributed in the south of Scotland to local third sector organisations and voluntary groups from the communities mental health and wellbeing fund.

The fund aims to support adult community-based initiatives to help address the impact of distress and mental ill health caused by social isolation and loneliness, as well as addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Provided by the Scottish government, the fund is part of a wider £15m. programme for Covid-19 recovery, aimed at adult-focused community-based initiatives.

Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway is working with an established local partnership to help distribute the funds in the region through a scoring panel.

Their chief executive officer, Norma Austin Hart said: "The pandemic has exacerbated existing mental health inequalities and has had a dispro-

portionate impact on the mental wellbeing of a range of groups in society.

"The fund will help address the needs of a range of vulnerable groups locally, while supporting our grass roots community groups and organisations to deliver required services that will give people the chance to connect, build trusted relationships, and revitalise communities."

Third Sector Interfaces are delivering the fund locally across Scotland, with TSDG having formed a steering group to develop priorities and guidance that reflect the needs of the respective areas.

Julie White, chief officer of Dumfries & Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership, said: "The fund has the potential to make a real difference in addressing the challenge of mental health inequalities.

"The third sector is fundamental to the work of the Health and Social Care Partnership, and we know that community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations within Dumfries & Galloway have got the insights, the relationships and reach to help ensure that

this funding can have a real impact in taking forward work addressing the impact and distress of ill health caused by social isolation and loneliness."

It is hoped it will be a recurring fund next year and applications are sought to address a number of needs.

These include recovery from addiction, social isolation and loneliness, suicide prevention, dementia community supports, access to physical activity, as well as diet and nutrition.

Dumfries & Galloway Advocacy Service chief executive, Pamela Deans said the money would help people within the community who have mental health issues, and support them to have their voices heard.

"It will help them to be able to access the services they require to improve their mental health and wellbeing and have a positive impact on their lives and help them move forward," she said.

• **For more details about the fund and how to apply, visit www.tsdg.org.uk/cmhwf/.**



Norma Austin Hart is chief executive officer of Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway

Arwen redesigns gardens

Our gardening expert, Helen Knowles, lost some favourite trees during the storm but remains optimistic for 2022



I'm sure that I'm not the only person to have recently had their garden 'redesigned' by Storm Arwen and I'm not happy with the result of Arwens' efforts. To say that the woodland garden has been transformed is something of an understatement as the ancient and massive beech tree that was the centrepiece of it all and provided deep, cool shade during the summer is now reduced to a heap of brash and logs - I still don't know how Michael slept through the noise of that one coming down. In the process of being uprooted it managed to bring down a neighbouring and equally aged Scots Pine which didn't cast anything like as much shade as the beech but was a beautiful tree and a real feature in the garden.

To lose them both is truly sad and they have left extensive damage with a few particularly special shrubs joining the casualty list. Rather than dwell on the losses, upsetting though they are, it's best to view this all as an opportunity to do something different, to make the most of the extra light that will now be allowed in to this area of the garden and to plant new trees and shrubs to replace those that have been lost. In some ways it couldn't have happened at a better time of year as most of the perennials and bulbs

are dormant so suffered very little damage. Shrubs that have been a bit battered can be pruned back now and will produce new growth in the spring, some will take a few years to fully recover but they will keep growing and that is one of the most wonderful things about gardening.

It wasn't just the larger trees that were uprooted by the storm, a number of established Rhododendrons have been dislodged. These are very shallow rooting plants and it's the very thing that makes Rhods so easy to transplant that can also cause

them problems when exposed to severe gales. They will re-establish but literally just need a bit of support while they do so. Some stout stakes and ties to hold the plant steady while the roots regrow are all that is required. I usually stake plants on the side that the prevailing winds come from but we seem to be getting strong winds from all directions so I'm now going for stakes on the south west and north side of the plant and will add more if required. With all this staking and tying to do if you should run short of tree ties then bike inner tubes or tights make good alternatives, both of them being soft enough to avoid damaging the trunk of the shrub or tree and with enough stretch to flex rather than snap.

Fire

Between clearing up storm damage, setting fire to my potting shed, not intentionally I should point out, and making wreaths I haven't had much time to do any actual gardening which is a real shame. The December days are short and there have been too many other things to do in the limited hours of daylight but with one of the most important dates in the calendar this week that will begin to change for the better. I am of course referring to the winter solstice and it's wonderful to think that the days will now begin to lengthen, even if it is just by the tiniest of margins, and it'll be time to start planning what to grow for the new



One of the Christmas wreaths made at Tinnisburn

season.

Browsing through seed catalogues last winter I discovered the Brussels sprouts variety 'Red Bull' and thought it was time I had another go at growing them in the hope of some homegrown veggies to go with our Christmas dinner. It's probably a good thing I was growing them in the veg tunnel as unless they were very well-staked, I doubt that the plants would have survived their encounter with Arwen. It's also a good thing the polytunnel was well constructed too - thank you Michael - as it's still intact and its contents safe. As with so many of my veggies there is room for improvement and while the Brussels sprouts I've grown are not the largest - I've seen bigger grapes - they are home grown and will taste delicious...I hope. Slightly more successful

was the festive centrepiece that I made for our dinner table last year so I'll be doing it again as it's wonderful to have some fresh seasonal decorations.

Pagan

Bringing greenery into the house for use as decoration over the festive period goes back to the Pagan winter celebration of Yule when holly, ivy and mistletoe were used, along with other evergreens and is a fantastic idea as during these short days when most of us don't get outside enough, bringing a little bit of the garden indoors is a good way to enjoy the glorious evergreens that brighten up our winters. Using a floral foam ring as a base is a very easy way to make up a centrepiece but a container of damp sand works just as well - it holds the stems in place

and contains enough moisture to keep the greenery looking fresh. There is plenty of material for me to choose from this year and includes Norway spruce, Scots pine, holly, ivy flowers and larch cones. Mahonia x media 'Charity' is just coming into bloom so I'm tempted to try and use some of the highly perfumed sprays of flowers along with some winter jasmine too. Sadly, there are no berries this time, the birds tucked into them very early this year and the tree cotoneaster (cotoneaster frigidus) that produces beautiful red berries was flattened by the Scots pine but a few sprays of red skimmia buds will add a splash of colour instead.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and all the very best for 2022.



Rhododendron orbiculare



Firewood for evermore



Michael beside one of the uprooted trees in the garden at Tinnisburn

The E&L Gallery



A winter's glow on Easton's Walk by David McVittie

Camera: iphone 12

ENTERTAINMENT

A Viennese delight

SCOTLAND'S National Orchestra is set to return to Langholm with their hugely popular Viennese Gala night in January.

It would not be New Year at the Buccleuch Centre without the music of Vienna's most famous son Johann Strauss and his friends.

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra will be looking to whirl their guests away to a world of elegant waltzes, playful polkas, and good old-fashioned operetta romance on Sunday 9 January as they play some of the world's greatest compositions.

The RSNO is one of Europe's leading orchestras with a rich history stretching back over 125 years.

It is also one of Scotland's leading cultural institutions, with a variety of orchestral work that is almost unparalleled amongst its British peers.

Many renowned conductors have contributed to its success, including George Szell, Sir John Barbirolli, Walter Susskind, Sir Alexander Gibson, Neeme Järvi, Walter Weller, Alexander Lazarev and Stéphane

Denève.

Information about The Buccleuch Centre's soloist and conductor on the night is due to be announced.

Currently, the orchestra's artistic team is led by Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who was appointed RSNO music director in 2018, having previously held the position of principal guest conductor.

Hong Kong-born conductor Elim Chan succeeds Søndergård as principal guest conductor.

Concerts, by the RSNO, have been performed across Scotland, including in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Perth and Inverness.

They also appear regularly at the Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms, and have made recent tours to the USA, China and Europe.

• **The Buccleuch Centre's Viennese Gala is still set to take place on Sunday 9 January between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. To book tickets, visit www.buccleuchcentre.com**



Memories & Milestones

We continue our serialisation of Tommy Beattie's memoirs

Teddies local worthies

(...continued)

ANOTHER who came every day for a shave was Major Bell, another textile manufacturer and Provost. He came for a shave but always shaved himself.

He borrowed a cut-throat razor, stood looking into the large mirror above the coal fire, and shaved. He had a most peculiar skin because every hair on his face seemed to sit on a small hill, rough and difficult to shave but he scraped away until blood oozed from his face. He never showed any sign of pain but it must have been sore. We had sticks of balm, styptic pencils, which he used with gay abandon.

I once cut myself with a razor and held the stick up against my skin. I nearly went through the ceiling but the Provost never batted an eyelid.

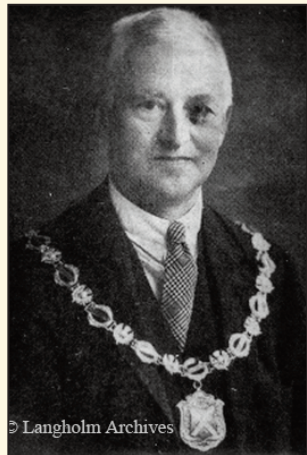
Wattie Glendinning the grocer was a droll customer and once put a small squib in the fire-place to great effect. A joker too you see. (The fire was out at the time – ashes everywhere.)

Jock Irving or Jock "Irn" as he was usually greeted, was a crofter in his spare time, but a mill worker as a profession. He could tell a good story and was one of the regulars at Teddy's.

When I think of the number of men in that shop who were spectators, most of the time, we could have been selling drink and made more money than we did as barbers.

One man who was generous to me was Major McGeorge, the solicitor. He was the man I was sent to see after I had agreed to work in the shop. Every time there was a concert in Langholm, Jimmy McGeorge

used to come into the shop and give me 2/6. He used to say "Here Tommy enjoy yourself, go to the concert and get a fish supper and lemonade before you go home." That was a lot of money. I could do as he said and still have change left over. During the war he always insisted I visit his office before



Major Edward J Bell, Provost was a daily visitor to Teddy's Barbers shop

going back to my unit. On his desk would be 20 cigarettes as a gift. What a kind man he was. He too was a regular visitor in the evenings to hear the "crack" that word of joy spells fear today!

Jack Corrie from the Eskdale Hotel was another who came in more to listen than tell stories. I mention Jack as a spectator but, one other man came with him.

Had Jack not come in, this very special visitor to Langholm would never have looked at us. Benny Lynch World Bantam weight champion.

He stayed at the Eskdale to "dry out" they said. He had become an alcoholic and had his title to defend so he was brought here, in secret, to train for that fight.

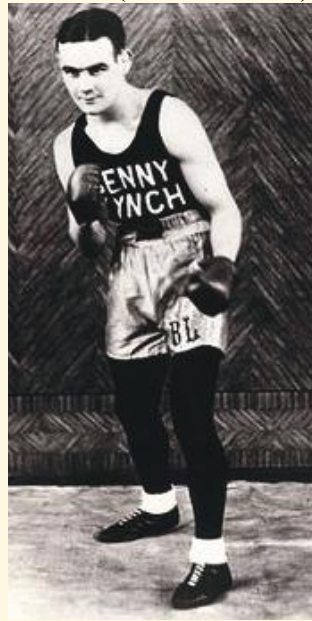
When I say in secret that was feasible then. No TV and radio was far away, there was no station in Carlisle as there is now.

Benny Lynch had the broadest shoulders I ever saw on a little man. They nearly filled the doorway. One of his training stunts was to run up the Kirk Wynd to the Monument with half a bag of cement tied to his back. That was nearly half his own weight.

How often he stopped on the way up I can't tell because no-one went with him, to my knowledge.

Jack Corrie used to box two rounds every morning with him. He was coming along fine in his training when a local builder took him to the Cross Keys for dinner and that was it. He was back on the drink and not in a fit state to make a successful defence of the title.

(...to be continued)



Benny Lynch
World Bantam Weight Champion
Pictures courtesy of Langholm Archive

Times Past

100 years: Carol service

Notwithstanding the inclement weather on Saturday night, a very large congregation turned out to the carol service in the Parish Church. Those who braved the elements were amply rewarded, as the service turned out to be highly successful. The Rev R.H Kerr presided. The choir, which has been trained by Mr Crapper to a high state of excellence, sang the carols in such an efficient and highly finished manner that the Rev Kerr asked that two carols should be repeated. This compliment was well deserved, and greatly pleased the congregation. The special anthem was a very fine one by Stainer, 'It came upon the midnight clear', the beautiful bass solo being expressively sung by Mr W S Malcolm. Mr Crapper presided at the organ with rare skill and judgement, and gave a brilliant rendering of Guilman's 'Grand Chorus in D'.

75 years: Accident - A pedestrian's narrow escape

William Beattie, Brewery Brae, Langholm, had a narrow escape from serious injury whilst walking down the High Street last Friday evening. The incident occurred about five o'clock when Mr Beattie was just passing along the pavement at the Town Hall corner beside the fountain. When rounding the corner his jacket was caught by a projecting hook of a motor lorry belonging to the LNER Company, driven by John Dalton, which was proceeding in the same direction. Quite unaware of any mishap the driver drove on, dragging the unfortunate pedestrian at the side of the vehicle. Fortunately Mr Beattie's precarious position was noticed by Mr Etherington, the town Bandmaster, who happened to be passing at the time, and he immediately whistled and gesticulated to the driver, who immediately pulled up, but not before Mr Beattie had been dragged to nearly the library buildings. Fortunately, no bones were broken, but Mr Beattie sustained extensive bruises and abrasions to the right arm, shoulder and knee.

50 years: Langholm's senior citizens entertained by the Legion

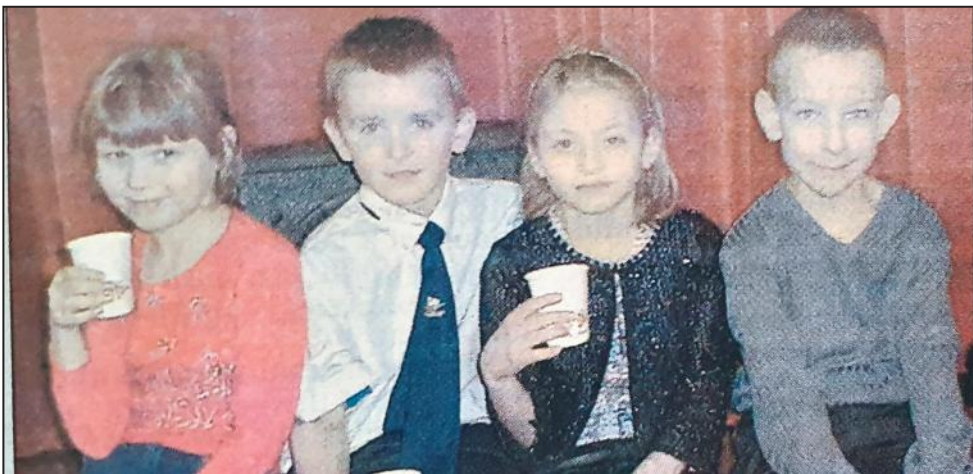
Over two hundred of Langholm's senior citizens were once again entertained to a Christmas Treat by the Langholm branch of the Royal British Legion in the Buccleuch Hall on Saturday afternoon. The guests also included several inmates of the County Council Home at Notwen, Kirkpatrick Flemming, and a cordial welcome was extended to all by Mr Cowing, Wauchope Place, President of the Branch, who also acted as compere for the concert which followed an excellent tea served by members of the Ladies Section of the Branch. The entertainment programme was a comprehensive one and included instrumental items by Penny Liggins and A Duff (accordions), A Tedham (violin), Peggy Irving and David Greenlaw, Ian Rodger and David Edgar who also sang duets with Mrs Young. Musical selections were also given by Mr A Tedham's Dance Band, and by a selection by Langholm Town Band conducted by bandsman David Young, who also led the company in the community singing of several well-known Christmas hymns and carols. The accompaniments were played by Mary Barker, Eskdail Street, and votes of thanks were accorded on the call of John Elliot, Buccleuch Terrace. All the guests received a Christmas gift as they left the hall.

25 years: Real Christmas spirit at Copshaw parade

Three floats were led by Santa on his sleigh through Newcastleton on Sunday. It seemed the whole village turned out to either take part in the parade or simply watch. The tiny tots from the mother and toddler group were dressed as Christmas parcels, while the Spar shop took the Yellow Brick Road and staged their own Wizard of Oz, complete with wizard, tin man, lion and scarecrow and, of course, Dorothy. chairman of the community council, Hazel White waved her magic wand and created a coach fit for a princess, complete with mice (all humans), Cinderella and the ugly sisters to represent the Liddesdale Hotel. The Brownies all donned crowns and robes to take on the mantles of kings. In the Square villagers gathered around the Christmas tree and huge illuminated crib to join in singing carols and songs with music provided by the Legion. In the early evening dark the event ended with prayers from the minister, the Rev Alan Reid. The event had been arranged fairly speedily, but everyone agreed it had been an excellent community affair and, says every one of the organisers, everyone departed saying 'same time, same place, next year'.



The Brownies at Copshaw Christmas parade in 1996



Enjoying a refreshment at Langholm Primary School Christmas party in 1991 are Katie Smart, Kieran Johnstone, Sophie Cuttridge and Adam Roe

E&L CLASSIFIEDS

The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser
54 High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH
013873 80012 • sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk

PLUMBING & HEATING



COMMISSIONING
▪
SERVICING
▪
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

6 Riverside Park
Canonbie
DG14 0UY
t. 013873 71773
m. 07801 658561

CHIMNEY SWEEP

MARK FRASER
CHIMNEY SWEEP

Chimneys and
Stove Flues swept.

Wood Burning
Stoves Serviced.

t. 01228 791617
m. 07810 023819

SCRAP METAL

CUMBRIA METALS
FARM SCRAP
URGENTLY
WANTED

Wire • Tin
Machinery • Lorries
Cars • Vans
and all other scrap metal
Big or small
we remove it all
Registered Dealer
Call Patrick: 07979 877391

BLINDS

DATS BLINDS

3 Blinds for £120
(70 x 50)

Your local manufacturer of top quality blinds
FAST EFFICIENT SERVICE

Special Offers on Conservatory Blinds | **Perfect fit blinds ideal for tilt & turn windows**

Vertical • Venetian • Roller • Roman • Blackout
Wooden Venetians • Pleated • Velux • Fly Screens

For a free, no obligation survey and
to view our extensive range, call
01461 20 48 42 or
01461 20 61 48
or text your name and contact number to
077 382 192 88
www.datsblinds.co.uk

TO LET

OFFICES-STUDIOS-WORKSHOPS-STORAGE
TO LET - LANGHOLM

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

for further information, please contact
Gillian McCartney, Ashley Bank House, Langholm DG13 0AN
Tel: 013873 81066 | email: gillian@ashleybank.co.uk

ELECTRICIAN



David White
ELECTRICAL

All aspects of Testing | Rewiring
Renewables | All aspects of Electrical Work | LED Lighting

Ring office for an excellent service on
01461 337303
On time, on budget and extremely professional

AUTO SERVICES



BORDER AUTO SERVICES

LIDDESDALE GARAGE • NEWCASTLETON
A VILLAGE GARAGE OFFERING A 21st CENTURY SERVICE!

MOT Tests Body Repairs inc Insurance Work
Servicing / Repairs • Quotations available
We can carry out services
without affecting manufacturers' warranties.
Tyres • Exhausts • Batteries
Diagnostics • Air Conditioning.

Bert Leishman Phone: 013873 75341 email: robert.leishm@btinternet.com

TAILORING SERVICES

TOP STITCHES OF LONGTOWN

Sewing Repairs and Tailoring Alterations
Ironing (Annan only) and Stain Removal
Jeans • Leather Jackets • Curtains • Zips • Dresses • Skirts
PROFESSIONAL LEATHER JACKET REPAIRS • WEDDING DRESS ALTERATIONS
1 HOUR SERVICE AVAILABLE AT NO EXTRA COST
Phone: 07928 295110

ANNAN | **LONGTOWN**
137 High Street, Annan DG12 6EB | 54 English Street, Longtown CA6 5SD

CELEBRANT SERVICES

Loving Choice Ceremonies
Independent Celebrant Services

Bespoke and creative events that
capture special memories
Funeral, Memorial and
celebration of life ceremonies
Baby naming ceremonies
Weddings and vow renewals

Call Jenny 07807 520499
for a free, no obligation consultation




ROOFING SERVICES



28 Bank Street
Galashiels TD1 1EN
for a free quote or advice
Phone: 01896 888664
web: mccullochroofing.co.uk


ALL ROOFING WORK UNDERTAKEN
Slating • Tiling • Flat Roofs
UPVC Windows and Doors
UPVC Facias and Guttering

HEADSTONES & MEMORIALS



James Rae & Sons
Headstones and Memorials

- Headstones
- Memorials
- Children's Memorials
- Desks and Vases
- Memorial Design
- Memorial Restoration



11a George Street • Annan
01461 202083 • www.jraeandsonshdstones.co.uk

ADVERTISING in the E&L ADVERTISER

013873 80012

sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

Post Office | **LANGHOLM TOWN HALL (inside)** | **Post Office**

WEDNESDAYS 10am - 3.30pm
FRIDAYS 9am - 2pm
Access through rear door

ROYAL BANK MOBILE VAN
Day Centre car park
Thursdays
11:45am - 12:25pm




E&L JOBS

advertise in the E & L Advertiser
you'll be surprised
how little it costs

COMPLAINTS

ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE ADVERTISER
COMPLAINTS

To make a complaint about anything in The Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser, please visit the office on Langholm High Street and speak to the community editor Danielle Kenneally. Alternatively, please contact the company secretary by email: secretary@eladvertiser.co.uk. Or by writing to:
The company secretary, Muckle Toon Media, Ashley Bank House, Langholm DG13 0AN



Bowlers on the carpet for a busy weekend

Carpet Bowling

By Luke Tolson

ON SATURDAY, Langholm carpet bowlers held their annual triples tournament for the J&S Hotson cup, sponsored by Kevan Hotson.

There was a good entry of 32 and the cup was highly contested for.

The winners were - Jan Oliver, Gina Laurie and Lee Beaully from Dumfries, who beat Graham Campbell, Les Adamson and Wullie Mair from Kirkton in the final.

Beaten semi-finalists were - Kevin Jack, Andy Graham and Mick Currie from Moffat, and David and Rachael Orchiston and Declan Donaldson of Tarbolton.

Thanks go to Kacey and Zara who did an excellent job of selling raffle tickets, the tournament organisers, bar staff, The Goodfellow's for catering, board layers and folk who travelled to the tournament and of course Kevan Hotson our sponsor. Without these people we can't have tournaments like these!



Winners and runners up in the J&S Hotson Cup held on Saturday



AND ON Saturday night, Langholm carpet bowling club held a junior singles competition. The tournament was well attended with 28 entries from a variety of young lads and lassies who are keen to bowl.

The winner was Matt Hall who beat Ryan Wood in the final.

The beaten semi-finalists were Kerr Gordon and Layton Foster.

Thanks go to the sponsors Ian, Paul, Neil, Wull, Jim and Roy.

Photos are: bottom right - winner, Matt Hall

Bottom left - Runner-up, Ryan, with one of the sponsors - Roy Park.

ON Thursday night Langholm social club bowlers hosted a friendly against the Benty.

It was a close match and scores were 58-42 to the home side.

Thanks to Tracey Goodfellow for providing a supper and members look forward to traveling to the Benty Hall in the new year.

Here's hoping for rugby!



Rugby

There has only been one 1st XV match played since 23rd October so everybody at the Langholm RFC is hoping that the next scheduled match at Milntown on January 8th will go ahead as planned.

Chairman Kenneth Pool said: "With such a long lay off due to weather issues and no fixtures during the Autumn internationals, we are very keen to get things up and running again. We will have to see what the Scottish government has to say though."

Curling club honours winners

Sport Nostalgia Curling

From the E&L December 27, 2001

MEMBERS and friends of the Eskdale Curling Club enjoyed a pre-Christmas dinner and presentation of trophies in the Cross Keys Hotel at Canonbie.

After a lovely meal, president Robbie Trussler welcomed everyone and explained that normally the presentations were made at the annual social in May but because of foot and mouth, the social had to be cancelled.

Not all competitions had been completed, but he called on ex-secretary and honorary member Jean Graham to present the prizes available.

Robbie presented Jean with a pointsettia and gave current secretary Christine Aitchison a gift in appreciation of her hard work throughout the year.

An in-house raffle draw and much blethering brought a very pleasant evening to an end.

Winners: Duncan Baddon Cup - Craig Nicholson, Linda Imrie, Drew Robertson, Bob Milne; Mixed Rinks - David Telfer, Norman Imrie, James Taylor; AJ Jeffrey Cup - John Taylor, Anne Vevers, Brian Stenhouse, Gary Dickman; Reid Cup - John Taylor, Norman Imrie, Willie Muir, Alan Maxwell; Eskdale Cup - Linda Imrie, Christine Aitchison, Grace Hind, Pam Copeland; Bonspiel - Brian Stenhouse, John Taylor, Willie Muir, Rachel Burnett; Points - Lorna Vevers.

The Pairs and Billy Middlemas Cup were not played for.



Trophy winners enjoyed the Eskdale Curling Club Christmas dinner and presentation night.



Three of the Eskdale Cup winners Pam Copeland, Christine Aitchison and Linda Imrie

E&L SPORT

There will be no E&L Advertiser published on 30th December or 6th January

WE'RE TAKING A CHRISTMAS BREAK... NEXT EDITION 13th JAN

Office closed 23rd Dec - 5th Jan

Any stories or advertising required, please contact Sharon Tolson on sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk

Many thanks to all our readers, advertisers, contributors and volunteers for your continued support

Have a great Christmas and let's look forward to 2022!

