

# Play Park makes progress



PHASE ONE OF BUCCLEUCH PARK DEVELOPMENT HAS STARTED: PAGE 3

# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

NEWS

### Janet takes over Art Corner Gallery



It's the end of an era at a popular Langholm art gallery – but it is business as usual as Janet Carson from Canonbie takes over Art Corner Gallery from Phil Gunn

Full story: Page 2

NEWS

### Full page of Letters to the Editor



Reports on functions and meetings, opinions and points of view on the hot topics of the week. Get involved, tell us your opinion, send us a letter.

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SPORT

### LRFC keeps it in the family



There can't be many rugby matches where a father and son not only play on the pitch together but also both score. That's exactly what happened in the match between Langholm and Inverleith.

Full story: Page 16

# Locals take aim at Eskdalemuir marksmen

## Opponents claim elite rifle range could put lives at risk



FIRING LINE: Residents are opposed to high-velocity range.

By Nick Brownlee

Residents in remote Eskdalemuir have once again trained their sights on a high-velocity rifle range, which they claim is a potential danger to both them and visitors to the area.

The Ladshaw range, operated by Longtown-based Gardners Guns, is situated in 31,000 acres of woodland close to the hamlet of Craik. It is used by club members to fire large-calibre rifles with a range of over a mile.

However protesters point out that it is less than a mile from Craikhope Outdoor Centre, which hosts children and adults for outdoor activities and orienteering in the forest, and could also put walkers, cyclists and

horse-riders at risk.

Earlier this year, protests about a Gardners range at Clerkhill, close to the Samye Ling Buddhist Centre, led to worldwide headlines and a decision by the Scottish Government to deny a retrospective planning application.

### Austria

Both the Ladshaw and Clerkhill ranges are situated on Eskdalemuir Forestry land ultimately owned by Kronospan, a multinational wood-based panels manufacturer with headquarters in Austria.

At a public meeting in Hawick last week, organised by Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council, opponents of the Ladshaw site met to voice their concerns with representatives of Gardners, including

owner Mark Gardner who set up the business in 2005, and Chief Insp David Quinn of Police Scotland's explosives and firearms department.

Daniele Frielle, a community councillor, said: "The Ladshaw range is operated with no planning permission and no public consultation.

### Refute

"The Craikhope Outdoor Centre is next to the range, and with the range being unfenced, this is of great concern, and could cause the centre to cease business if no solution is found. "Several holiday businesses in the area raised concerns on the basis that their guests come to the area to walk and cycle and to enjoy the peace and quiet.

"The risk for walkers, cyclists and horse riders is that they could come across the range when exploring the countryside," Mrs Frielle added. "The first they would know about it is a warning sign on the gate if approaching along a forest road. Those entering through the forest may be unaware of the range until they have walked into it."

Gardners refute the claims, but because the matter is currently the subject of legal appeals they are unable to comment further.

However a spokeswoman told the Advertiser: "We are complying with all legislation, and Chief Insp. Quinn is more than happy with our safety and procedures."

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## The eagles have landed

Newcastleton resident Jim Higgins was convinced he'd seen a golden eagle soaring above his house. He even claimed one had tried to snatch his dog.

Now it's official – these majestic birds of prey are indeed back in Liddesdale, with high-tech satellite tagging confirming that golden eagles have been flying over the valley, most probably on their way to their hunting grounds in Northumberland.

FULL STORY & PICTURES,P5