

COMMUNITY COUNCIL AT WAR!

How it all kicked off at the battle of Benty Hall... **FULL STORY P5**



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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NEWS IN BRIEF

NEWS

Leila's a vintage virtuoso!



Dressmaker Leila Hallom hopes to make a stylish debut at the Kilngreen kiosk next month.

Full story: Page ?

NEWS

Concern over goat cull rumours



There are concerns over rumours of unnecessary goat culling on our Estates and moorland.

SPORT

Party time in the Park



Langholm RFC played host to a big party at Milntown, organised by the club's Youth Rugby section.

Full story: Page 15

New owners for town's 20-year Erskine eyesore

But clamour grows to tear down derelict, 'dangerous' High Street kirk

By Nick Brownlee

It's an eyesore that dominates the Langholm skyline, and most townsfolk would happily see it torn down.

But the fate of the Erskine Church lies ultimately with its owner – and now it has a new one.

This week the E&L can reveal that the dilapidated Victorian building on the High Street has been snapped up by a Shetland-based building company for just £30,000.

According to documents provided by the Scottish Land Registry, Baila Developments – which also has a registered office in Yorkshire – purchased the premises in March this year.

We have been unable to make contact with company directors Abdul Ghufar Razaq and Shaheed Saleem, who also own a varied portfolio of businesses in the north of England, including supermarkets and newsagents in Whitley Bay and Blyth.

But there are no records of any immediate redevelopment plans they might have for the decommissioned church, which means the scaffolding which has hidden the steeple for around 20 years is likely to remain for the foreseeable future.

"The council would take steps if the church building was regarded as a danger to the public, but as long as it is in private ownership what happens to the church is the



BLIGHT ON THE LANDSCAPE: The scaffolding-clad spire of Erskine Church has spoiled the townscape of Langholm for two decades

Photo: Margaret Hudson

responsibility of the owners," said Dumfries & Galloway councillor Denis Male.

"I know there is planning permission to develop four apartments, but that was granted a long time ago. I'll be looking into the matter further, because it's been an eyesore for too long."

A council spokesman said: "The primary responsibility for ensuring that buildings do not fall into a dangerous condition rests with the building owner.

"The powers given to local authorities by the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 do not diminish this responsibility but are merely a 'safety net' to be used in order to protect the public when it appears to a local authority that, for whatever reason, a building

owner has failed in their duty to fulfil this responsibility."

The Erskine Church, which dates back to 1867, has had a number of private owners since being decommissioned in the early 1990s. As early as 1995, however, councillors were preparing to serve a repairs notice on the property after surveys revealed patches of dry rot.

In August last year Dumfries and Galloway Council applied a Dangerous Building Notice to the property requiring remedial action to loose and dangerous masonry and slates, and to the deteriorated protective scaffolding surrounding the spire.

In October it was put up for auction for £31,000, but failed to attract a buyer.

> Turn to page 2



This colourful Jubilee-themed bike was the work of Jean and John Hogg of Charles Street. But last weekend's celebration provided an opportunity for everyone in Langholm to get a little creative in honour of the Queen's 70-year reign.

Find out how the Muckle Toon pulled out all the stops for Her Majesty by turning to our special Jubilee picture round-up on page 10.

Family Announcements

Deaths

WAUGH, Mary

Died peacefully on Monday 30th May aged 90
Wife of the late Robert, Mam to Liz, Mother in law to Pete, Granny to Lauren and Kayleigh, Dear Sister and Auntie.
Funeral service to be held in Liddesdale Parish Church on Friday 17th June at 12 noon

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Church Notices

CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

Liddesdale and Canonbie Churches welcome you to Sunday worship
10am Liddesdale and 11:30 Canonbie.

Rev Morag Crossan on 07861736071 or email mcrossan@churchofscotland.org.uk

LANGHOLM, ESKDALEMUIR, EWES & WESTERKIRK PARISH CHURCHES

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A celebration fit for a Queen

The parties are over and the bunting is packed away once again.

But the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend will live long in the memory – and especially here in Langholm, where young and old pulled out all the stops to make the once-in-a-lifetime event truly special.

From the beacon on Whita Hill and the lightshow at the Malcolm Monument, to the tea parties, sing-alongs, face painting and good cheer down in the town itself, this was a superb example of a community pulling together.

Our round-up inside captures just a small flavour of Jubilee 2022. The memories will be for ever.

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012

Editor Nick Brownlee, Features Editor Gilly Fraser

All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Support ferry workers - Smyth

Sacked P&O workers need the public's support more than ever, according to South of Scotland Labour MSP Colin Smyth.

The local MSP joined the latest blockade at the P&O Cairnryan terminal on Monday which was organised by the RMT union to protest the ferry firm's sacking of dozens of workers at the port.

The protest came as it was reported that the bid to create a green freeport at Cairnryan is to be dropped.

Dumfries and Galloway Council has decided P&O has no place in its plans and a report to councillors has advised the council to shelve its bid.

Mr Smyth, who is a member of the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Union (RMT), said: "The news that plans for a freeport at Cairnryan look set to be shelved is very disappointing and is another direct effect of the scandalous actions of P&O."

"While the council also cited other reasons for the bid to be shelved, it's clear that P&O's behaviour has played a major role."



FERRY: Sacked P&O workers need public's support

"Even if our governments have given up the fight, I know workers haven't. We must show P&O bosses that we won't let this go."

'It's dangerous and needs to be demolished'

The fate of the church has certainly provoked passionate debate among E&L readers this week.

"It should be demolished," said Mark Bell on our Facebook forum. "But a three-way traffic system on the A7 for six months would cost a fortune, never mind the cost of demolishing it."

Gavin Graham agreed that it was time the church came down. "It needs to be demolished, it has proved to be unattractive for future housing and eventually it's going to be dangerous so it needs to go. I hate seeing photos of Langholm with this eyesore in the background."

Denise Irving-Lang told us that her mum lives beside the church and often finds debris lying in the yard that has fallen off the building.

"Last time there was high winds the glass windows blew out," she said. "The entire

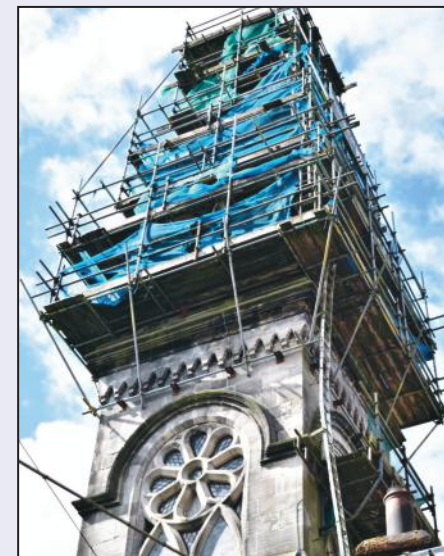
building is unsafe, not just the steeple. We have been trying to lobby D&G Council to find out what's happening with it but just keep getting fobbed off.

"I can't see how any of it could be salvaged in its current state," Denise added. "It's completely derelict. I'm more than happy to support any efforts to have it demolished and can provide pictures and written statements on the state of it evidenced by debris falling into the yard."

According to Vera Bethel, the church is simply "an eyesore". But not everyone is in favour of totally demolishing the building.

"I think it should stay," said Fiona Patterson. "But perhaps just remove the steeple, as it's unsafe and could collapse and hurt a passerby or one of the residents living near it, or it could damage property."

And Heather Bell said: "It would be a shame to demolish it, in my opinion. It's such a beautiful old building and has been there for a long time."



UGLY: The scaffolding has been up for 20 years

Leila's a vintage virtuoso!

Langholm dressmaker aims to be a pop-up success

If vintage clothes make you think of mothballs and third-hand cast-offs, then Leila Hallam is on a mission to make you think again.

And next month, the 67-year-old from Langholm aims to prove the fact with a display of her own, exquisitely crafted dresses based on designs from years gone by.

Leila is to become the first tenant at the new pop-up shop at Kilngreen when it officially opens during the Common Riding weekend in July. She's taken the kiosk for three days, and it is bound to become a magnet for anyone with a sense of style.

"There's something timeless about clothes from the 1920s, 30s and all the way up to the 1960s," she said. "Even designs which are over 100 years old now still have the wow-factor, and I just love to see people's faces when they see them."

Remarkably, Leila has never had a dressmaking lesson in her life. Indeed until she was 60, she worked as a PA for a business in North Yorkshire and only ever dabbled in the art.

"I guess it's just a gift," she says. "But being retired has given me the chance to really concentrate on it."



STYLISH: Leila Hallam is putting her collection of vintage clothing on display at the Kilngreen next month. Inset: Leila models one of her outfits

Leila and her husband Mark, a retired doctor, moved to Langholm in March of last year. And it wasn't long before she accepted her first made-to-measure commission.

"A lady asked if I could alter an evening dress" she says. "In-

stead she commissioned me to make two more dresses."

Handmade

Leila gets her patterns from a source in the USA, and the items in her growing handmade collection range from drop-

waisted silk dresses from the 1950s to glamorous silk opera coats from the 1920s.

They will all be on display during Common Riding weekend, and Leila hopes her pop-up venture will inspire more ladies to add a touch of style to

their attire.

"I'm really looking forward to it, and the kiosk is such a fantastic venue. I can't wait to welcome the people of Langholm and beyond with a glass of bubbly!"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Loganhead wind farm

The developers of a local wind farm are seeking to extend their planning consent for a further two years to enable them to erect eight turbines with a blade tip height of 135m across an area of commercial forestry and moorland at Loganhead.

Council planners approved the original application by Muirhall Energy in 2017. The renewables company has since submitted plans for one extra turbine, along with a request for greater tip heights of up to 200m, to the Scottish government's Energy Consents Unit and is awaiting a decision.



The development will extend across 359 hectares and sits just over two miles east of Langholm, nearly two miles south of Bentpath and seven miles south-east of Eskdalemuir.

The site will be accessed from the B709, using the entrance of Craig wind farm for abnormal loads. Another access off the B7068 to the south will be used by HGVs and construction traffic. There are 19 residential properties within three miles of the nearest proposed turbines.

Councillors are being recommended to approve the section 42 application, which requests an extension of planning consent from three to five years. The planned connection date for Loganhead wind farm to the national grid is 2025.

Play up and Play The Game



GIRLS AT HEARTS: Left to right Freya Elliot, Lauren Davidson, Isla Davidson, Mia Harvey and Summer Harvey



Active Schools and Community Sport in partnership with Heart of Midlothian Football Club are bringing their Play the Game Roadshow to Langholm this summer.

Play the Game is a new initiative created by Hearts, which has been developed to support the thousands of people involved in the grass-

roots game. It is inspired by street football of yesteryear, encouraging more play and game-centred activity within grassroots football.

The club's Community Coaching and Football Development team will be in Langholm from 10am - 3pm on July 11-12 with their Play the Game Roadshow for children aged 5-12 years

old and up to 14 years of age for girls.

The cost of the activity would normally be £35 for both days if booked before June 14 and £40 thereafter. However, with the support and funding from the Funders Forum in Langholm, an offer of a 50 per cent discount to every child in Langholm

and Canonbie Schools and a 75 percent for those that are in receipt of free school meals are available, if booked before the June 14.

Places are limited and anyone wishing to book and access the discounts available, please e-mail calum.graham@dumgal.gov.uk.

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Real concern over goat cull rumours

Reader fears animals may be shot under the radar

Persistent and disturbing rumours about wild goats being culled on the quiet has prompted a concerned resident to speak up and voice his concerns about the practise.

Reader Robert Harvey from Langholm says that for as long as he can remember feral goats have roamed freely on the hills of east Ewes and Tarras and on the Moffat hills where they are a tourist attraction.

But this week he contacted the E&L about several reports he's heard recently of local culling under the radar.

"Who authorised this and on what grounds?" asked the retired joiner, who spent 50 years of his life working for Buccleuch Estates.

"I know that goat numbers have been reduced on occasions in the past when their numbers got too great. Have they contacted the owners of Arkleton, Mosspeeble, Unthank, Burnfoot, Twistlehope, Hartsgarth and the Roan for their permission?"

There have been reports of estates offering hunting trips to kill wild goats for £1,000 a session, in the Highlands, the Borders, and Dumfries and Galloway – despite a recent public outcry



SPORT: Goat-hunting trips are being advertised on estates in the Highlands, the Borders, and in Dumfries and Galloway

over the practice and a current government review.

In 2018, the sport prompted widespread revulsion after Larysa Switlyk, an American TV host, put pictures on social media of two goats on Islay that she and a companion had killed.

Several years ago Buccleuch carried out a cull of the feral goats but a spokesman for the Estate said there had been none recently.

And Jenny Barlow, estate manager at the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, told the E&L: "There are no current plans

for any goat culls on the reserve."

As a young boy, Mr Harvey remembers living at Mosspeeble when his father was a shepherd there and seeing the wild goats on the hill roam into Tarras and Unthank.

"They used to shelter at the Cooms in the winter and would increase their numbers then," he told us.

Where land is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, there is an obligation on a landowner to ensure grazing pressure isn't too high.

A spokesperson for NatureScot said: "Feral goats are often regarded affectionately by the public and can have strong local cultural links. However, there is evidence feral goats are contributing to grazing pressures on a handful of protected nature conservation sites. They can also cause damage to agriculture, forestry and gardens. To prevent such damage, wildlife managers need to actively manage herds of feral goats to control their number."

Muirburn 'vital to Scottish land management'



HOT TOPIC: Muirburning continues to divide opinion

The importance of muirburning in the management of moorland has been underlined by the rural business organisation Scottish Land & Estates (SLE).

It comes following claims of a breach in regulations after the launch of an app by the RSPB, which allows members of the public to report incidents of burning.

The RSPB hopes to use the information gathered by the app to support their call to ban burning on peatland and to licence muirburn activities.

SLE's moorland director Tim Baynes said: "The controlled burning of heather, or muirburn, is a long-established land management tool that is supported by government and the fire and rescue service. It is vital in helping prevent wildfires which are the biggest threat to the uplands.

"Burning is regulated and well monitored and land managers are very clear about where and when they are permitted to burn.

"The reports given to RSPB cannot be taken as hard evi-

dence of any activity that breaches regulations.

"Even RSPB itself says only 1 in 5 fires may be on peat deeper than 50cm. Peat depths vary within small distances and only specific measurement on the ground can ascertain the actual depth.

The current Scottish guidance under the Muirburn Code is advisory and includes other criteria as well as peat depth. Any burning on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has to have the consent of NatureScot.

"Sadly, this is another occasion when highly questionable recording of information via the public on an app is presented as fact by those pursuing an agenda against grouse moor management," said Mr Baynes.

"Muirburn is a highly skilled practice and there is a massive effort made to ensure that it is carried out to the highest standards.

"There is also increasing evidence to show that well-managed muirburn does not harm carbon storage in peat and can actually enhance it," he said.

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 penny@eladvertiser.co.uk In the interests of space, the editor reserves the right to shorten letters where necessary

Thanks all round for Jubilee service

I would like to thank all those who attended the thanksgiving service for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Monday, May 30. £100 was collected at the service for Langholm Playcare.

I would also like to say thank you to Lauren McLean-Gill, Sarah Berker, Karen Vidler and Jamie Robison from Langholm Academy and Langholm Primary for their time and effort in helping with the service, and my colleagues on Langholm, Ewes and

Westerkirk Community Council for supporting the event.

A particular thank you must go to Margaret Sanderson for the assistance she gave me in organising the service as well as her financial contribution to the occasion.

My final thanks are to the pupils of Langholm Primary and Langholm Academy who participated in the event, as without their input the event would not have been possible. The pupils of Langholm Primary and Langholm Academy are a credit to their school, their families and the whole community.

Stuart Clement, JP,
Community Councillor

More on Charity shop

Just to follow on from last week's article on the charity shop, I would also like to highlight the work done recently on the outside of the shop, ie painting of the frontage, external door and the refurbishment of the sign.

This was part financed through the Town Centre Facelift Scheme facilitated in Langholm by SURF – money being provided from Dumfries & Galloway Council whereby they pay 50 percent of the final receipted invoices. The other 50 percent was paid by The

Eskdale Foundation who own the shop.

One must thank the Board of Trustees of The Eskdale Foundation especially the treasurer for applying and being successful in securing the grant

Ronnie Tait, vice chair,
The Eskdale Foundation

Male confirms manifesto

Here are some of the issues I believe need resolved and have passed on to political group leaders.

The first one is obviously the

state of our roads. After ongoing complaints in every community in my ward and a discussion with some staff we need a route and branch review of the whole way of working especially in the general road and pavement repairs. I also believe we need to up our Council Borrowing to sort things before they become totally unmanageable.

Street lighting and passenger transport through bus services are also concerns that have been raised with me.

Locally, the priorities are council support at Government and Borderlands Growth Deal on the rail extension from Gala to Carlisle coming through Eskdale. We must urgently

re-consider flood defence ideas on the river Esk and in Eaglesfield with proper involvement and discussion with the communities.

Other priorities are stopping heavy goods traffic using our small communities, such as Waterbeck, as rat runs and causing serious environmental damage to roads, road verges and even properties by the vibration. I would also like to see Hutton School re-opened for children coming from Eskdalemuir as well as Boreland.

Denis Male,
Independent councillor for
Annandale East & Eskdale Ward,
Dumfries and Galloway

The fur flies over 'Babycakes-gate'

NICK BROWNLEE reports from a bad-tempered community council meeting

There is no love lost between Mark Hodgson and Margaret Sanderson.

Then again, the same can be said of Mr Hodgson and the rest of his colleagues on the Langholm, Ewes & Westerkirk community council, judging by Monday's fractious monthly meeting in remote Bentpath.

While it would be an exaggeration to say that there was blood on the corrugated steel walls of the Benty Hall by the end, there were clearly scores to settle and the knives were out. And for those present to watch it unfold, the resulting stooshie made for compelling, if ultimately unedifying, drama.

Initially, all was serene as chair John Galloway ran through the agenda briskly and efficiently.

The police report told of deer carcasses being found in the woods and a couple of incidents of vandalism in Langholm.

Jamie Dent was invited to say a few words about his work with the Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group, Mandy Rae from Westerkirk raised the issue of unexplained road closures, and D&G councillors Denis Male and Archie Dryburgh gave an update on their recent activities.

Then, without warning, it all kicked off – although we really should have seen it coming.

A brooding, black-clad figure at the end of the council table – which at the weekend had groaned with Jubilee scones and sandwiches – Mr Hodgson had clearly arrived with an agenda of his own.



FURIOUS: Margaret Sanderson



CHAIRMAN: John Galloway



AGENDA Mark Hodgson

Then there was the presence of Ronnie Tait in the public seats. Historically, there is no love at all between Mr Tait and Mr Hodgson. Recently ousted from D&G council, Mr Tait sat silently, a silver-haired Banquo's Ghost, seemingly enjoying the proceedings immensely.

The catalyst was the controversy over draft minutes of last month's meeting, which had been pinned to the notice board in Wattie's Arch without official sanction. A few terse words were exchanged and a couple of fingers were pointed.

But this was nothing compared to the full-on barney which then erupted.

At its heart appeared to be the festering row which...well, like all festering rows, the details are shrouded in claim and counter-claim. To the untrained eye it seems to centre around a long-standing enmity between Messrs Hodgson and Tait; but

there is also the issue of an ongoing investigation into Mr Hodgson's conduct, relating, apparently, to a social media post in which he allegedly called Mrs Sanderson "Babycakes". Until now, Mrs Sanderson had kept her counsel. At the mention of the B-word, however, her anger boiled over. Not only was the word an inappropriate way to describe a fellow community councillor, she said, but according to her friends it had "explicit sexual connotations".

Mr Hodgson denied this – and in his defence, my copy of the urban dictionary defines Babycakes as American slang for "sweetheart". But even so. The damage had been done, and Mrs Sanderson was not pleased.

As the hostilities escalated, Cllr Dryburgh, an armed forces champion, quietly suggested that they would perhaps be better done in private. To no avail. Donning their tin hats, he and

joke to you, and I find your behaviour completely unacceptable and offensive."

Betty Harkness was even more scathing of her colleague: "You make a laughing stock of the community council," she told Mr Hodgson in no uncertain terms.

With that, order was restored, albeit grumpily. Cllr Male reported that the playground in Buccleuch Park was nearing completion, but fittingly the last word belonged to Grace Brown. Having watched the shenanigans patiently and silently from the other side of the council bench, she took the opportunity to pay tribute to the children of Langholm during the various Jubilee celebrations at the weekend.

"They were truly excellent," she said, adding meaningfully, "and their behaviour was truly outstanding."

The next meeting of LE&W community council is on July 4 at Langholm Town Hall.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lamont steps down

Borders MP John Lamont has stepped down from his role at the foreign office after voting against the Prime Minister in the vote of confidence on Monday night.

Mr Lamont said he made the very difficult decision to resign as parliamentary private secretary to foreign secretary Liz Truss after considerable thought and reflection and consulting widely with his constituents.

He said: "I've received thousands of emails and had countless conversations about the Prime Minister's performance over the last few weeks and months.

"The events in Downing Street during the lockdown were unacceptable. People across the country have been rightly deeply angered by what went on.

"Whilst I recognise that changes have been made in Downing Street, the unfortunate reality is that the government has become overwhelmed by these events, to the detriment of my constituents.

"The amazing work that this government is doing in Scotland and across the UK is increasingly being overshadowed.

"This has been an incredibly difficult decision. I know that many colleagues have been wrestling with their conscience and I respect that some MPs will have reached a different conclusion."

Doggy delight in Copshaw



By Gilly Fraser

Lovers of shaggy, affectionate, slightly goofy dogs would have been in their element in Newcastleton at the weekend when the village played host to a get-together of Old English sheepdogs and their owners.

Around 20 dogs ranging from puppies to elder

BOBTAILS: Around 20 Old English sheepdogs brought their owners to Newcastleton last weekend.

statesmen, and from as far afield as Edinburgh, Hexham and Carlisle, delighted onlookers with their antics as they posed for photos in the village square before heading to the riverside for a romp and a swim.

The E & L Gallery

Send us your photographs!

Every week we publish a reader's photo on our Gallery page. This can be taken on a phone or a camera. Submit your photos to the the email address below. Let us know what camera or phone you used.

Email them to alan@eladvertiser.co.uk or drop a printed copy into our office at 47A High Street, Langholm.

Photo by: Kenneth McLean

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Farming on the Border

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Swine flu checks

NFU Scotland has renewed its calls for more stringent border checks on imported pigmeat. It follows the discovery of a confirmed case of African Swine Fever on a domestic farm in Germany, near the French border. The disease is highly contagious and NFUS say it would devastate the Scottish pig herd. The union has already asked for the disease threat to be raised from moderate to high and they say this latest case strengthens their call. They also say Government plans to postpone proper border checks on food entering the UK from Europe until the end of 2023 are 'utter madness'.

NFU Scotland Pigs Working Group Chair, Jamie Wyllie said, "Border checks are absolutely crucial to our biosecurity, animal health and food safety and without them we are leaving ourselves at risk. The UK Government has kicked the can down the road and recently postponed introducing proper Border checks on goods entering the UK from the EU for a fourth time.

"Illegal imports of products of animal origin, also presents a risk and we welcome Scottish Government introducing sniffer dogs trained to detect illegal meat at some of Scotland's ports, airports and parcel hubs."

Jim's Scottish toms buck the import trend

Tomatoes grown in the UK have been enjoying a spell in the limelight thanks to British Tomato Fortnight, which ended this week.

Officially fruit, but regarded by most people as a vegetable, it's a favourite staple on British plates, found in salads, sauces and soups galore. Yet four out of five tomatoes eaten in the UK are imported.

Scotland has just one large-scale commercial tomato growing operation, based at Standhill Farm near Hawick, which also runs a herd of dairy cattle. Owner Jim Shanks decided to diversify after winning a prestigious Nuffield scholarship in 2009.

"I wanted to look at renewable energy from agriculture and visited several places in Sweden, Denmark and Germany which had biogas plants and glasshouses," he said. "The biogas plants produced electricity but also had by-products of heat and carbon dioxide and their glasshouses were able to make use of those. That's where the

idea for the tomatoes first came from, though I didn't initially think I would go this far."

By 'this far,' Jim means glasshouses covering approximately two and a half football pitches worth of land, producing up to 750 tons of tomatoes per year. The operation is fully sustainable, with water harvested from rainwater and the biogas plant powered mostly by methane and Co2 from slurry provided by the cows, along with a little bit of rye mixed in for good measure. Waste Co2 is fed to the tomato plants and the digestate end-product is spread back on the land.

Jim is a fifth-generation farmer and the Shanks family first moved to Standhill Farm in 1951. The tomatoes came into the mix in 2017, and Jim admits it wasn't all plain sailing.

"If I had known how many start-up businesses fail, I might not have built the glasshouse but the crucial thing was that I had done my homework, and got my figures right. The first year we had to work really hard



SUSTAINABLE: Waste Co2 is fed to the tomato plants and the digestate end-product is spread back on the land.

to make sure we had outlets for everything we produced, but we've been with Morrisons and Asda ever since and it hasn't been a problem."

Supermarkets

The majority of the tomato crop is grown to suit the requirements of those supermarkets.

"We started off growing a lot of speciality varieties, whereas now we mostly just do big tomatoes. They are easy to grow and

they give us our best margins. About 80% of the glasshouse is given over to classic rounds, we also have some baby plum sold on the vine and a tiny section of cherry tomatoes sold on the vine and an even smaller bit of baby plum picked loose."

The tomatoes have to meet very exacting and specific standards.

"They all have to meet the supermarkets' specs and if they don't, you won't make any money. One of the biggest problems

for us would be tomatoes that are too big. We get paid per fruit and the fruit has to be a minimum size, but there's no maximum size so if they're requiring five fruit with a minimum weight of 80grammes but you're giving them 120grammes, you've got a serious amount of giveaway."

The farm does supply a few local shops and Jim says they can generally find other homes for those tomatoes that don't make the supermarket grade.

The calendar in tomato world sees planting in January and harvest time running from April to November. Harvesting is all done by hand so a lot of extra labour is needed. Unlike other farms which struggle to find extra hands, Jim has no shortage of willing workers.

"We have a waiting list from January of people who want to come and pick the tomatoes, mostly local students from throughout the area and they do a really good job for us. I know available labour is an issue countrywide, but we have managed to buck the trend."

Around the marts

C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 3,591 sheep comprising of 1,173 prime hogs, 520 spring lambs and 1,898 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown on Thursday 2nd June 2022. A larger show of 520 prime lambs were forward, as more firms switch over onto spring lambs all classes of well finished lambs were keenly bid for. A large proportion of commercial Suffolk cross lambs were forward, resulting in an overall average 326.8p (SQQ 335.2p).

The sale topped at 367p for Suffolks from J & N Blaylock, Hallburn, Longtown with top per head of £180 for Beltex shown by R Johnston, Kimmeter Green, Annan.

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Suffolk 367p Hallburn, 357p, 355p Drumburn, 348p Knock.

Beltex 363p Shawhill, 350p Kimmeter Green.

Texel 359p Shawhill, 354p Kimmeter Green, 352p Burnside & Shawhill, 351p Knock

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

Beltex £180, £160 Kimmeter Green.

Suffolk £168 Drumburn, £160 Knock, £158 Merkland, £157, £156 Drumburn, £156 Guardsmill.

Texel £160 Kimmeter Green & Knock, £157 Corncockle, £156, £155 Knock.

Mule £150 Mouldyhill.

A very mixed show of 1,173 prime hogs were forward with a lot of final draw hogs included. Heavy and well fleshed hogs soild to exceptional demand with 50kg+ hogs regularly £160-£180 selling to a price per head of £188 for Beltex hogs from Ridsdale and for Texels shown by S Stoddart, Hillside, Wigton.

Texel hogs topped the price per kilo at 329p from JC Robinson, Blackleaze, Kirkby Thore. An overall sale average of 264.4ppk (SQQ 263.3ppk) was achieved.

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Texel 329p, 319p Blackleaze, 314p Stoneflatts, 313p Hillside,

311p Shield Farm, 310p Blackleaze.

Beltex 323p Hillside, 321p, 310p, 304p Ridsdale, 302p Home Rigg, 302p Ridsdale.

Hill Cheviot 321p, 319p Blackleaze, 306p The Land, 303p Weeds, 297p Pennyhill.

Cheviot Mule 300p Causey View.

Suffolk 292p Weeds, 286p Ridsdale, 284p Stoneraise, 280p Shield Farm & Broomhills.

Herdwick 292p Stoneraise.

Mule 288p Leithenhall, 287p Ridsdale, 271p Wydon Eals & Weeds Farm.

Blackface 271p Kirksteads, 266p Newhouse, 261p Satchells & Pasture House, 260p Culquhasen.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

Beltex £188 Ridsdale, £186 Smerral, £178 Hillside, £174, £172, £170 Ridsdale.

Texel £188 Hillside, £186 Ridsdale, £184 Smerral, £182 Ridsdale & Causey View, £180 Hillside.

Suffolk £180 Ridsdale, £176 Thornley, £175 Ridsdale.

Mule £170 Four O Boot, £164 Ridsdale.

Bluefaced Leicester £150 Culquhasen.

Hill Cheviot £141 Routin Lynn, £135, £134 Blackleaze, £134 Ridsdale.

A smaller show of 1,898 cast ewes and rams were forward, with all classes being dearer on the week With the festival of Qurbani being only four weeks away, vendors are advised to draw heavily in the month of June.

Heavy ewes sold to £268 for Texel ewes from AC Clark, Fineview, Glenluce.

Mule ewes sold to a top of £150 from R Johnston, Kimmeter Green, Annan.

Hill ewes topped at £135 for Cheviots from TJC Bradbury, Satchells, Lilliesleaf.

Rams topping at £260 for Texels from T Whiteford, Tercroset, Brampton.

HEAVY EWES

Texel £268 Fineview, £258 Howgillside, £250 Linnhead,

Knock & Leithenhall, £245 Fineview, £242 Marygate, £240 Orton Rigg.

Suffolk £193 Kimmeter Green, £188 Smerral, £184, £181 Knock, £179 Merkland.

Zwartble £188 Cleughbrae.

Charollais £180 Chaseside, £175 Heatherglen, £172 Townfoot, £170 Beckfoot.

Cheviot Mule £180, £178 Dashwell Green.

Bluefaced Leicester £160

Mouldyhill & Kirksteads, £150 Crindledykes.

North Country Cheviot £154 Maidencots, £147 Beckfoot, £146 Upper Lybster.

Mule £150 Kimmeter Green, £149 Milton Mains & Cleughbrae, £147 Moss Side, £145 Causey View & Leithenhall.

LIGHT EWES

Hill Cheviot £135 Satchells, £129 Catslackburn, £128 Morebattle Tofts, £126 Satchells.

Blackface £130, £121 Mouldyhill, £119 Drumreach, £114 Viewley & Cleughbrae, £110 Maidencots.

Easycare £114 Carterton.

Swaledale £112 The Flatt, £107 The Hagg, £102 Cleughbrae.

RAMS

Texel £260, £245, £230 Tercroset, £215 Culquhasen, £214 Grahams Farm.

Bleu du Maine £230 Four O Boot.

Bluefaced Leicester £215

Culquhasen.

Suffolk £212 Viewley.

Charollais £182 Beckfoot.

Averages:

Hoggs

Light to 306.0p (230.7p)

Standard to 305.0p (258.1p)

Medium to 329.0p (274.8p)

Heavy to 323.0p (272.9p)

Shearlings to 300.0p (228.6p)

Lambs

Light to 363.0p (341.5p)

Medium to 367.0p (333.8p)

Heavy to 357.0p (317.4p)

Overweight to 290.0p (268.5p)

Ewes

Light to £135.00 (£96.12)

Heavy to £268.00 (£146.14)

Rams to £260.00 (£153.24)

Stove company cooking on gas!

Overseas success fires workshop bid



BURNING AMBITION: James Clegg with Blue FireBob 1

By Penny Johnstone

A Copshaw company is hoping to get the green light to expand its operations which would see it double its production of niche woodburning stoves.

Firemaker's present workshop at Larriston Steadings is too restrictive, with limited space for equipment and the three staff it currently employs, meaning only a small number of products can be manufactured and sold at any one time.

Company boss James Clegg – who moved his business from Preston to a farm near Newcastle-ton 11 years ago – is seeking planning permission from Scottish Borders Council to turn an old hay barn down the road from his current base into a new commercial workshop for the design and manufacture of his woodburning stoves and also a living space.

"We are short of space and I'm very keen to buy some new machinery, and get into larger premises just 300 metres along the road," he said

"We became much busier during the pandemic – people were not going on holiday and spent money on their homes instead."

Around 85 percent of Firemak-

er's business is in the UK, but the firm is also attracting overseas customers from Europe, Australia and the US. The proposed expansion of the company, which also offers a bespoke service, will require an investment of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

"We are currently focusing on designing and hand making our rotating FireBob, which comes in three different sizes and hangs from the ceiling," said Mr Clegg. "Our biggest competitor is in France but their products are much more expensive."

At the site of current operations, there is limited space for delivery vehicles to turn and manoeuvre near the workshop. The company is having to make use of hard standing at neighbouring properties in order to load trucks and move equipment.

The new site would allow space for goods vehicles to come and go and no longer inconvenience neighbours.

Mr Clegg said his three employees live very close to his business and can walk to work. A successful move to larger premises would allow him to increase his workforce by one or two more staff.

A report on the proposed development is due to go before Borders planners.

Stop press: E&L newsroom up and running!

Following our move to the Langholm Alliance HQ at 47A High Street, the E&L's top production team of Alan Weatherstone and Alison Aston put the finishing touches to this week's issue. Don't forget you can contact us at any time on newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk



TEVIOT WF LTD ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

Notice is hereby given that Teviot WF Ltd, company registration number SC653266, with its Registered Office at Muirhall Farm, Auchengray, Carnwath, Lanark, South Lanarkshire, Scotland, ML11 8LL, has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a wind farm known as Teviot Wind Farm, located approximately 8 km to the south-west of Hawick in the Scottish Borders (Central Grid Reference NGT 344366 602906). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be over 50MW comprising up to 62 turbines and has been subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. Eight turbines will have tip heights of up to 180m, five will have tip heights of up to 200m, 38 turbines will have tip heights of up to 220m and 11 turbines will have tip heights of up to 240m. The indicative output capacity at this stage, based on a typical commercial wind turbine currently available, is in the region of 409MW. The Proposed Development also includes a solar array and two battery storage facilities along with associated ancillary development. An EIA Report has been produced to accompany the application for consent.

Teviot WF Ltd has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the EIA Report discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, is available for public inspection, free of charge on the application website <https://www.muirhallenergy.co.uk/teviot> or on the Scottish Government Energy Consents website at www.energyconsents.scot under application reference ECU00003249. It will also be available at our South of Scotland Office in Hawick at The Old Post Office, 6 North Bridge Street, Hawick, Scottish Borders, TD9 9QW.

Copies of the EIA Report may be obtained from Muirhall Energy (telephone: 01501 785 088 / email: Teviot@muirhallenergy.co.uk) at a charge of £500 per hard copy and £20 per USB stick. Copies of a short Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application may be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website at www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx; by email to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@gov.scot; or by post to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation. Please note that there may be a delay in the Energy Consents Unit receiving representations by post.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to representations@gov.scot will receive acknowledgement.

All representations should be received not later than 12/07/2022, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the developer will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following examination of the environmental information, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

General Data Protection Regulations

The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit processes consent applications and consultation representations under the Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. A privacy notice is published on the help page at www.energyconsents.scot. This explains how the Energy Consents Unit processes your personal information. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email Econsents_admin@gov.scot.

Medal machine Libby takes on two-wheeled challenge

Copshaw star heads for Commonwealth Games on her bike

By Gilly Fraser

When Paralympic athlete Libby Clegg decided to retire from competitive running, her career had seen her take Silver in the Beijing Olympics in 2008, Silver in London in 2012, two Golds in Rio in 2016 and Silver four years later in Tokyo.

She had also amassed four world medals, two European golds, and a Commonwealth title, not to mention the odd world record and countless personal bests along the way.

But even though she felt the time was right to hang up her running shoes, she had reckoned without her own deeply ingrained competitive spirit.

Now Libby, who grew up in Newcastle, has been named as part of Scotland's Commonwealth Squad – this time for paracycling.

"I gave up running as soon as Tokyo was finished," Libby says. "I knew my body wasn't able to continue to run. I'd

had a really long successful career, but I'd also had several injuries. I knew it was the right time.

"The impact of repetitive running on the track put a great deal of stress and pressure on my joints. Cycling is really low-impact and a lot of the rehabilitation exercises I had gone through were basically done on bikes anyway, so it made sense to see if I might be any good at cycling instead."

Libby has a rare condition called Stargard's Macular Dystrophy which means she has very little sight. When running, she was partnered with a guide, and now in the cycling events she will ride tandem-style with a pilot on the front, who looks after the steering and keeping the bike steady.

Building a solid relationship with the pilot can play a major role in a paracyclist's success. Libby hasn't yet been paired with a permanent partner but feels that has been to her advantage.



BORN WINNER: Copshaw's Libby Clegg is heading for Commonwealth glory



FIRST PLACE: Libby won two golds at the Rio Olympics

"At the moment I'm training with different pilots which is quite good really, because I get to know how different people operate and it lets me learn and get that bit more experience."

With the Commonwealth Games just a few weeks away, Libby is training for several hours a day, six days a week, with a combination of velodrome, turbo and gym sessions. She says cycling has its own demands on the body.

"I have to do more quad dominant exercises. My thighs are definitely a lot bigger than they were when I was running and I am using different muscles, but overall, there's less impact on my body."

In 2020, Libby made it to the final of the ITV show Dancing On Ice, partnered by skating professional Mark Hanretty.

For Newcastle folk it became essential Sunday night viewing, guaranteed to have family, friends and supporters glued to their seats, cheering

her on through all the intricate and daring routines, none of which made any concessions to Libby's lack of sight.

Now they're looking forward to seeing Libby take on yet another challenge, even though she says they might end up watching some bits through their fingers.

"They've all been really supportive and they're very excited about seeing me in a different sport. But I think they might be a bit nervous when they see how high the velodrome embankment is, and of course I'll be going a whole lot faster because a bike can definitely go faster than my legs."

Libby's first competitive ride will actually be at the Commonwealth Games, so she knows she's going right in at the deep end – but even though she'll be up against far more experienced competitors, she still intends to go for gold.

"Oh yes, I'll be giving it my best shot. One hundred percent!"

Ticking off the Western Isles one-by-one, part two

Walking columnist Gavin Graham takes us Vattersay in the Outer Hebrides



The more sheltered East Beach on the Isthmus on Vattersay

All photos by Gavin Graham

Two weeks ago we joined regular contributor Gavin Graham on his tour of Barra and Eriskay as part of his quest to visit as many of Scotland's islands as possible. This week it's the turn of the lovely Vattersay, the southernmost inhabited point of the Outer Hebrides.

Many of the islands are linked by causeway and from Barra, I crossed yet another one to reach the jewel in the crown of this particular visit – the very beautiful and spectacular island of Vattersay. It is composed of two rocky islands (north and south) linked by a sandy isthmus which has long white sandy beaches on either side.

It's also one end of the Hebridean Way which runs for nearly two hundred miles and ends up at the Butt of Lewis, having crossed ten islands and six causeways plus two ferry trips along the way. It offers separate routes for walkers and cyclists.

The Vattersay Community Café, which as its name suggests, is run entirely by the community, served up an excellent lunch, setting me up nicely for a walk along the West Beach, which was at the time being battered by strong winds and waves that would have been a real attraction for windsurfers.

Leaving the beach brought me to a fertile grassy plain known as the Machair, which was then a glorious sight, blanketed in primroses. Later in the year, it would be covered by many other wildflowers, providing an absolute paradise for insects and birds.

The weather changed yet again on leaving the Machair and heading onto the narrow coastal road, with a very heavy shower of rain guaranteeing a good soaking, since there were no trees around to offer shelter.

Then it was back across the causeway to the terminal at Barra for the best coffee and cake of the holiday before catching the ferry back to Eriskay. The sun was shining and countless gannets put on a much enjoyed diving display and there was also the opportunity to enjoy excellent views of several uninhabited islands along the way.

Back on dry land, and seventy minutes of driving on mostly single track roads, took me back to the holiday cottage on North Uist. There's a definite code of etiquette to driving these roads and you soon get used to the system whereby the first to reach the passing place pulls in to let cars coming from

the opposite direction have right of way.

Vattersay may have been top favourite on this trip, but each of the islands has its own attractions. This is also one of the best places in the UK to spot birds. On this journey, I saw a sea eagle and two short eared owls plus loads of other birds that are rare on the mainland. I was also lucky enough to spot a corncrake on an evening walk near a beach, a bird so rare it's listed on the RSPB list of birds deemed to be of high conservation concern.

For more information on these islands and many more, go to the Visit Outer Hebrides website.



The West Beach on Vattersay facing the full force of the Atlantic



The elusive Corncrake - often heard on the Hebridean Islands but rarely seen



John Irving smiling at Vattersay's primroses

Jubilee roundup

...the weekend in pictures



They came from miles around to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in Langholm – and a spectacular light show, combined with a blazing hill-top beacon, ensured they didn't leave disappointed.

For one special night only, the Malcolm Monument on Whita Hill was bathed in a colourful glow visible for miles around, courtesy of the team at Centre Stage Theatre.

Meanwhile a beacon, supported by Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council – one of more than 2,000 the length and breadth of the UK – was also lit as the country came together to mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne.

But all week there were celebrations big and small across Langholm, with folk comparing the occasion to the nationwide knees-up for Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

Langholm Playcare held a tea party for the children and staff on Wednesday. The children made Union Jack bunting using their handprint, which had been coloured red, white and blue. They also made their own flags to wave and crowns to wear.

Afterwards the older children went to the Day Centre to sing some songs, including The Jubilee Song, Sing a Song of Sixpence and We Like The Flowers.

Meanwhile members of the

Day Centre also enjoyed afternoon tea and some great entertainment from Charlie and Vi Graham.

And Langholm firefighters were honoured by the Queen as part of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Five members of the crew, led by watch commander Colin Dirom, were presented with commemorative medals to recognise five years' service by LSO Craig McGoldrick.

They included firefighters Alan Warwick, Geoff Maxwell, Stuart Mabon and David Brown.

"It was a great honour and thoroughly deserved by the lads," Colin said. "We'd known for a while that we were getting the medals, but not when. It was a bit of surprise when the LSO turned up out of the blue!"

The Jubilee proved inspirational to budding artists of all ages in Copshaw, with the resulting royal-themed works of art put on display in a special exhibition staged in Buccleuch House. Shops and businesses in the village joined in the fun by turning their windows red, white and blue – and new Tub Robbie Turnbull gave top prize for Best Dressed Window to Costcutter.

And the Queen's representative, Lord Lieutenant Fiona Armstrong, was among the hundreds of party goers celebrating the jubilee at Gretna Primary School and Nursery.



A 'handy' Playcare Union Jack



Above: Agnes Hunter and Cathleen Smith partake in some Day Centre daftness
Below: Fiona Armstrong helps plant a tree for the Jubilee



Langholm Fire Fighters FF Alan Warwick, FF Geoff Maxwell, WC Colin Dirom, FF Stuart Mabon and FF David Brown



Play Care street party



Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee Celebration at Hermitage Hall



Langholm Monument lights up to celebrate 70 years

BEPUZZLED

IT'S QUIZ WEEK...don't you know?

Questions

- 1) As of 2022 who holds the world record for the 100 metres of 9.58 seconds?
- 2) According to the proverb, a nod is as good as a wink to a what?
- 3) Which group founded in 1660 had Samuel Pepys and Christopher Wren as early members?
- 4) In Greek mythology, what was the name of the three headed dog that guarded the gate to the underworld?
- 5) According to the Bible which son of Enoch lived for 969 years?
- 6) In mathematics what is an angle of more than 90 degrees called?
- 7) The 1999 film 'Ten Things I Hate About You' is based on which Shakespeare play?
- 8) Which sport uses a ball that weighs between 5½ and 5¾ ounces?
- 9) Tim Healy, Jimmy Nail, and Kevin Whately starred in which TV series?
- 10) In 1935 which woman became the first to fly solo across the Pacific?
- 11) In the proverb, where do all roads lead to?
- 12) From which country did the pop group 'Aqua' originate?
- 13) According to the Bible, who said "Am I my brother's keeper"?
- 14) Which animal is the largest British carnivore?
- 15) How many Labours did Heracles undertake?
- 16) What is the name of the dog owned by Bill Sykes in Oliver Twist?
- 17) Which newspaper was known as the Daily Universal Register until 1788?
- 18) 'Benelux' refers to a grouping of which countries?
- 19) Which organisation which manages places of historic interest or natural beauty was co founded by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley
- 20) Matthew is the patron saint of which profession?

ANSWERS...no cheating!!

20 Accountants
19 The National Trust
18 Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg
17 The Times
16 Bullseye
15 12
14 Badger
13 Cain
12 Denmark
11 Rome

10 Amelia Earhart
9 Auf Wiedersehen Pet
8 Cricket
7 The Taming of the Shrew
6 Obuse
5 Methuselah
4 Cerberus
3 Royal Society
2 Blind horse
1 Usain Bolt

If you have compiled a quiz - or a crossword - you would like to send in to the E&L, we would be delighted to publish it.
You can either pop it through the door, (54 High Street, Langholm)
hand it in to the office or email it to
sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk

Please send your events for this FREE listing below, to sharon@eladvertiser.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE

JUNE

| | | |
|------------|--|---------------------------|
| Thurs 9th | The Rod Stewart Song Book 7.30pm | The Buccleuch Centre |
| Sun 12th | Afternoon Tea 2pm Booking only | Roadhead Village Hall |
| Thurs 16th | Newcastleton Welfare Group - Afternoon Tea Party 2-4pm | Newcastleton Village Hall |
| Fri 24th | Roy Orbison & The Travelling Wilburys Experience 7.30pm | The Buccleuch Centre |
| Sat 25th | The Brandon McPhee Experience 7.30pm | The Buccleuch Centre |
| Thurs 30th | Scottish Chamber Orchestra 7.30pm | The Buccleuch Centre |

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

Langholm Bridge Club...Friday's Results

North/South -

1st, Bob Francombe & George Graham,
2nd, Lesley McCartney & Barbara Addison,
3rd, Louise Grierson & John Packer.

East/West

1st, Nancy McLure & Anne Hislop,
2nd, Tom Stothart & Jim Muir,
3rd, Tricia Reynolds & Richard Von Slicher

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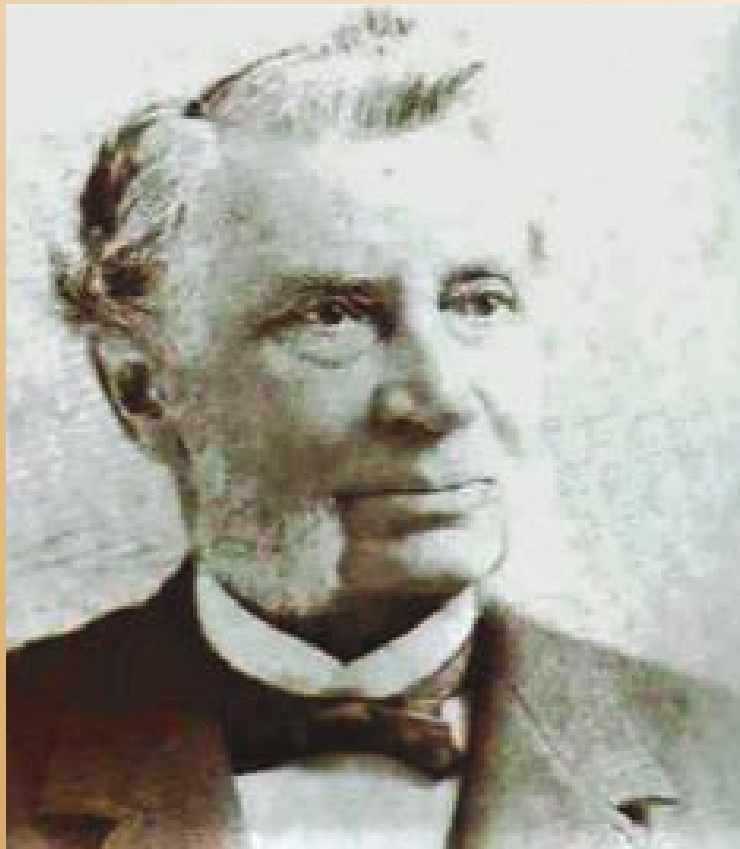
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BOWLING: Winning Triple Paul Warwick, Carolle Warwick and Luke Tolson with President K Irving at Queens Jubilee Invitation Triples at Langholm Old Town Bowling Club

LANGHOLM 1621 to 2021

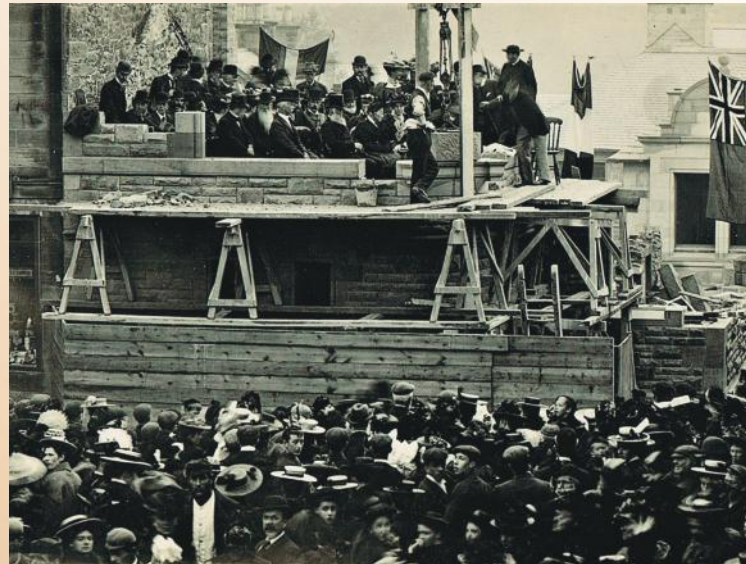


Thomas Hope

1896 Thomas Hope's Hospital. This enterprising and benevolent gent moved to America in 1819 and by the time he retired in 1858 had created a business empire consisting of three large grocery stores in New York and some thirty branches in other parts of the country. In his will he left £100,000 to build "an institution for the care and relief of sick and infirm persons" in Langholm. In 1896 a memorial stone was unveiled by his sister, Miss Jane Hope, to mark the completion of the building. However it would be another two years before the first patient, a nurse, was admitted.



The front elevation of the Thomas Hope Hospital



The laying of the memorial stone, The Thomas Hope Hospital

1900 The Burgh of Langholm Pipe Band was formed in 1900 after a group of local pipers met four volunteers, who were returning home on leave from the Boer War, to play them up the street from Langholm Station. The following year the band made its debut at the Common Riding by playing a selection of dance music in the Market Place on Simmer Fair Night. However it wasn't until the Common Riding of 1913 that they first took part in the ceremonial proper, when it was recorded that "the Pipe Band leads the way down the Kirk Wynd, the children cheering lustily the while". In 2007 the band was invited to play at the prestigious Braemar Highland Gathering for the first time. And two years later, on 5th September 2009, they won the 'Best Band' award, with Pipe Major Craig Irving receiving the Pipe Band Shield from Her Majesty the Queen.



The Pipe Band leads the way down the Kirk Wynd

four hundred years of history

The E&L Gallery



A spectacular Eskdale sunset captured on Sunday evening by Kate Nicolson of Langholm

Camera: iPhone SE

Experience a musical all-rounder

By Penny Johnstone

Lovers of traditional Scottish folk music are in for a special treat when 25-year-old Brandon McPhee returns to Langholm with his band to perform later this month.

The musician and singer, originally from Castletown village near Thurso and now living in Wick, learned to play the push button accordion on his grandfather's knee aged just 10. It all started after years of watching his grandad Donald's fingers on the instrument as a young boy.

"I still remember playing the first few notes – it just felt so right that it made sense – it's certainly what I've wanted to do ever since that moment, so it's all thanks to him," said Brandon.

The critically acclaimed and award-winning accordionist, who practises for five hours a day, last visited Langholm the year before

the pandemic and says he loves the warm welcome he and his long-established band receive when they arrive in the town:

"We are always made to feel so welcome. I get a chance to talk to everyone at the door after the concert. Folk usually ask for requests during it, so we get a feeling for what's going down well."

Creative

The band's tour is the first since the pandemic and Langholm is their only stop in the south of Scotland. The lockdowns proved to be a creative spell for Brandon, who managed to write four new songs and his first original number called 'Let's Start Again' is being released today. Brandon first took an interest in singing when he was 16, playing the music of his country favourites like Johnny Cash.

"The route I'd like to go down is leaning towards country but still retaining the

Scottish heritage part of the music. We lean towards the traditional side of country music – and performing in Nashville is certainly on my bucket list," he said.

Brandon went into full time music when he left school and his dedication has seen a growing catalogue of both traditional Scottish and Country music albums released through Pan Records – his most recent *Heedrum Hodrum* – and an expanding international following.

His cover of the Billy Ray Cyrus song 'Stand' reached No.22 in the European Country Charts. He's had numerous TV appearances in Britain, Ireland and America, has performed for the Scottish Parliament and privately on eight occasions for Prince Charles, the first when he was just 17 at Birkhall.

More recently at Buckingham Palace, the Prince told the celebrated accordionist:



VERSATILE: Scottish accordion champ Brandon McPhee brings his show to The Buccleuch Centre in June

"I don't know how you move your fingers so fast. It's quite incredible."

For tickets to Brandon McPhee's concert on June 25, head to the Buccleuch Centre website.

**The BRANDON MCPHEE Experience
is at The Buccleuch Centre
on Saturday June 25 at 7.30pm
013873 81196
www.buccleuchcentre.com**

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Party on the Pitch



Thanks to K Latimer Photography for the photos

A hugely successful event was held at Milntown on Saturday.

Kenneth Pool said "Saturday's Party on the Pitch was a great success, due to the support of the public of Langholm and district and to the hard work and dedication of the organising team. They spent many weeks planning the event which led to a very successful afternoon and evening enjoyed by all on the day.

"Thanks also to the local trusts whose support was much appreciated. It was a great way not only to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but also to round off the club's 150th anniversary.

"Thanks again to all involved, it was a great club and community celebration!"



Legion draw a blank

Football

Langholm Legion are still looking for a manager after their bid to attract an outside candidate drew a blank.

But the club is still confident of having a new boss in place before the start of the 2022/3 campaign.

Having enjoyed a hugely successful season, in which they finished third in the Border Amateur League Division A, Legion were hoping to have the position secured by the start of June.

But the May 31 deadline passed without any external applications – and now chairman Martin Thomlinson says the club is no-likely to recruit from within.

"We had no outside enquiries so will probably fill the vacancy from within," he said. "I'm hopeful something will be firmed up this month.

"A job share is something that would be considered if an individual felt it was too much to take on by themselves."

Anyone who is interested or would like more information then please contact Martin on 07921921789, or any member of the committee.





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Park blasts 87 as Carlisle overwhelmed

Langholm win, but rue missed scoring chances

Cricket

A quickfire 87 by Gregor Park helped Langholm to a comfortable win at Carlisle 3rds – although Dave Steele's men were disappointed with their 40-over total of 266 for eight.

By contrast, the home side never looked interested in reaching the total and were bowled out for just 172, with Chris Stewart taking six wickets.

Steele won the toss and had no hesitation batting on the flat Edenside track. Opener Park looked in prime form from the outset, scoring very quickly and ably supported by Stuart Duggan and an awful number of wides and no balls as pressure mounted on the young Carlisle attack.

The score had reached 49 when Duggan was adjudged LBW for 13. Tony Steele joined Park and the pair added 39 before Steele was clean bowled by Grieve for 18. The free-scoring Nicky Piszczkiewicz

joined Park with the score at 88 for two with 26 overs left, and the pair took the total to 150 by the drinks break.

The introduction of bowler Trowmans prompted a short-lived Carlisle revival with the dismissal of Piszczkiewicz for 22, bringing Graham Park to the crease for his 400th 1st XI game with his brother. They took the score to 187 before an exhausted Gregor skied a short Trowmans ball to fall for 87 in the 25th over.

Tempted

This brought the skipper Dave Steele to the crease and he and Graham Park made another 20 before Park was tempted by a further short delivery by Trowmans and was well caught. This brought Chris Stewart to join his skipper and they produced another useful partnership of 51 before Steele was caught down the legside for 42.

With overs running out, and



QUICKFIRE: Langholm's Gregor Park

the Langholm batsmen looking for quick runs, John Bell fell LBW for two, closely followed by Chris Stewart for 14. The 266 total was boosted by the Carlisle attack, which bowled 28 wides and 10 no-balls – and this, coupled with their slow run rate, meant it was nearly 5pm when the innings finished.

Langholm's bowlers were soon in their stride, with Stevie

Johnstone trapping Newton LBW for one with the score on five. But they were unable to capitalise and after 20 overs Carlisle were 71 for one. It wasn't until the 33rd over, and the introduction of Graham Park, that the batsmen started to take chances, and this soon led to wickets. First Park clean bowled Trickett for 75, then Chris Stewart struck with Graham Park taking the catch to dismiss Currie.

In Park's next over he had Brown caught by Jake Park at short third man. Two balls later the same combination got rid of Mesa for four with the score now 166 for five. The rest of the Carlisle side quickly fell all to the bowling of Chris Stewart as he achieved his first Fivefer for the club, ending the home side's innings with a ball to spare. Chris had tremendous figures of six for 25. Park took three for 42 and Johnstone one for 17.

Langholm lads make the grade at Hawick



Rugby POTENTIAL: Greig with international star Darcy Graham

Budding Langholm rugby star Greig Cartner was all smiles after receiving an award from Scottish international Darcy Graham.

Due to a shortage of numbers at Langholm, the U16 squad have been unable to play any matches and the U14s have only had a couple of games.

But Greig and four pals from Langholm – Ellis Dirom, Logan Jamieson, Alistair Lockie and Erick Rall – have been regularly

turning out for Hawick U15s. The disrupted season started off slowly with a few defeats, but as it progressed the team began to play better and their game play improved resulting in a couple of wins.

And at the end of season dinner and awards evening delighted Greig was awarded the U15s Player of the Year award by Edinburgh star Darcy, who has starred for his country on 29 occasions.

Veteran hound is still a Canny Mover

Hounds

The BHTA held their trails at Walton Moss on Sunday and invited the other associations to attend for a fun filled day to celebrate the Jubilee.

Drawing competitions kept the youngsters entertained while the hounds were racing and Jubilee party bags were given to all junior members. Special jackets were given to the winning hounds of each race to commemorate the day along with rosettes for all the placed hounds.

Eleven entries set off in the Senior trail where some early changes to the start seemed to baffle some of the dogs. When they crossed the first road Delta Script had a big lead on the rest of the field, with the favourite Jazzle some way behind the pack.

Reports from halfway, however, confirmed that Jazzle had made her way to the front and was being chased by Fire Lass. By the time they came on to the finish Jazzle had an unassailable lead and won comfortably from Fire Lass



Celebration: The Jubilee Trail hounds wearing their special jackets

who tried gamely to close the gap. Splendid Sally and Border Prosper were chasing hard in third and fourth from Delta Scope in fifth. Eagle Rock took the sixth ticket.

The Maidens were next up with 12 entries and they also seemed to get the start wrong. As they crossed the road six hounds were in the pack with Lucky Charm, Denton Shamrock and Castle

Clansman somewhat adrift of the field. It was difficult to identify the hounds as they raced through the long grass but there was no doubt when they showed on the finish that Lucky Charm was in front and held on well to win all the while being chased by Matilda. Intensity was finishing well but had left too much to do and had to settle for third. Denton Shamrock was fourth

with Eden Romina and Eagle Star taking fifth and sixth.

Twelve pups set off eagerly and reports from the roads were that Black Thorn was in front, but the pack were close behind and so it was as they came over the top on the finish. It was hard to tell from the line, but Black Thorn and Border Reign were racing it out and it was Border Reign who had the finishing power to get over the line in front.

Black Thorn had to settle for second with Eagle Gill and Eden Redarna finishing strongly for third and fourth. Final places went to Eagle Love and Shine on.

With only two entries for the Veterans they set off together but by the time they came on to the finish Canny Mover had opened up a big gap on Frankle for an easy win.

Jubilee Trail Winners:

Seniors: Jazzle (Steph and Sam Lithgow)
Senior Maidens: Lucky Charm (Marianne and Brian Sha)
Pups: Border Reign (Annabelle Connelly)

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