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Tarras dream is now a reality

£2.2m community buy-out finally official after deal signed



SIGNED AND SEALED: Delight for Tarras Valley Reserve supremos Jenny Barlow and Angela Williams

It's official: the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve has now doubled in size with the legal completion of the south of Scotland's largest community buyout.

And organisers have hailed it as a "moment of history and hope for nature, climate and people".

The landmark agreement of £2.2 million for 5,300 acres was reached between the Langholm Initiative and landowners the Buccleuch Estate after an ambitious community fundraising campaign.

With the official transfer of land ownership finalised this week, the Langholm community has achieved its original goal of raising a total of £6m to create a 10,500-acre reserve to tackle the nature and climate crises and boost community regeneration.

Initiative chair John Hanrahan said: "This is a moment of history and hope. It shows how communities can achieve the remarkable when people work together, even when the odds seem impossible.

"Huge thanks go to the thousands of people who went above and beyond to make this happen, and to Buccleuch for working with us so positively through-out.

"The climate and nature emergencies are among the biggest long-term threats facing us all, and restoring nature on a large scale is one powerful solution. We are hugely proud to be playing our part, and we hope our story will inspire other similar projects across Scotland and beyond."

The buyout's first stage made global headlines in 2021 after the community raised £3.8m to purchase an initial 5,200 acres and six residential properties from Buccleuch.

This led to the creation of the community-owned nature reserve in one of the biggest projects of its kind in the UK.

The buyout's second stage was launched in October 2021. A public crowdfunder raised more than £242,000 thanks to donations from almost 3000 people worldwide. An anonymous private donor made a donation of

£500,000, and the Scottish Land Fund awarded £1 million.

But success was only confirmed as a July 31 deadline was reached, with donations of £300,000 from Alex Gerko, philanthropist and founder of algorithmic trading firm XTX Markets, £100,000 from Anne Reece of The Reece Foundation and £50,000 from the John Muir Trust.

The community group was also assisted by a £1million investment from SOSE in 2020 for its initial buyout, alongside guidance and advice from the region's economic and community development agency.

Prof Russel Griggs, chair of South of Scotland Enterprise, said: "This is a momentous day for Langholm and the South of Scotland.

"Langholm Initiative's plans for the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve are hugely ambitious, focussed on restoring the land, contributing to biodiversity and the journey to Net Zero, and also regeneration of the town."

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Communities remember

The sound of the pipes signalled the start of Remembrance Day parades and ceremonies across our region on Sunday. And veterans, their medals and boots polished, were joined by members of the public to pay lay wreaths and pay sombre tribute to the Fallen from as far afield as Langholm, Canonbie, Claygate, Newcastleton, Eskdalemuir and Wester Kirk

For more Remembrance Day photographs turn to pages 8-10

Family Announcements

Thanks for Sympathy

IRVING, Tony

Lorna would like to thank everyone who sent flowers and cards on the sad death of Tony. A special thank you to Dr Mark Phillips, Langholm Health Centre, and the ambulance crews for their care. To Doreen Hislop and Lynn Maxwell for their help and support and to David Erskine and Jean Martindale for the funeral arrangements and to the Eskdale Hotel for the catering.

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Why we remember

A few weeks ago we featured the story of Lawson Cavers, killed in action while fighting for his country in Cyprus. This week, our correspondent Timothy McCracken writes about another Langholm lad, Eric Marland, who lost his life during the Second World War.

Both were just 24 – and who knows what life might have held in store for them had they lived.

At this time of year we remember their sacrifice, and that of millions of others who have died for their country. And, as ever, towns and villages across Eskdale and Liddesdale did just that on Sunday. Big or small, the Remembrance events were dignified and special events – and a fitting tribute to the heroes who left their homes to go to war, never to return.

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012
Editor Nick Brownlee, Features Editor Gilly Fraser
All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

School's out as teachers vote to strike

Teachers in Dumfries and Galloway are set to strike later this month.

Members of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) voted overwhelmingly for action after rejecting a five per cent pay offer from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

The first walkout is planned for November 24, with further strikes being considered.

Union officials say the ballot attracted a turnout of 71 per cent, with 96 per cent of voters in favour of a strike.

EIS general secretary, Andrea Bradley, said: "This ballot result provides the EIS with an extremely strong mandate for strike action over pay.



DEFIANT: Union boss Andrea Bradley

"Our members have sent yet another very clear message to their employers in Scottish local authorities and to the Scottish Government that they must do better on teachers'

pay." She added: "A move to strike action is always a last resort, but our members have become increasingly angry over their treatment by their employers and by the Scottish Government.

But Holyrood's education secretary, Shirley-Anne Somerville, said the Scottish Government and Scottish local government valued the teaching workforce.

"We recognise the vital importance of reaching a fair and affordable resolution on pay, both for the workforce during a cost-of-living crisis, and for the pupils and parents who rely on the vital services our teaching workforce deliver.

'A chance for communities to benefit'

"The community buyout has required a huge amount of work by many local people and partners, and SOSE congratulates all who have been involved in this journey.

"We are determined to continue to help communities to take advantage of the opportunities community asset transfer offers, which in the case of the Langholm Initiative is long-term economic, social and natural capital benefits for local people."

The additional 5,300 acres now added to the reserve include internationally significant peatlands, the headwaters of the River Tarras, and three properties including a working upland sheep farm.

Buccleuch's support for the buy-

out included agreeing on a fixed purchase price and extending purchase deadlines to give the community more time for fundraising.

Benny Higgins, executive chairman of Buccleuch, said: "The Langholm Initiative has shown what can be achieved with a strong, forward-looking plan. For myself and the Buccleuch team, it has been a pleasure to be part of this story, and we look forward, with Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, to what can be achieved by them in the future."

A community-led plan will shape the next five years of priorities and activities. Six new jobs have already been created on the reserve.

A haven will be ensured for

wildlife, including rare hen harriers, the UK's most persecuted bird of prey.

Meanwhile, the Tarras Reserve has been held up as an example of how local projects are finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, make lifestyles greener and to protect residents from the worst effects of climate.

This project was one of just 27 outstanding community-led projects selected by charity Carbon Copy to form the backbone of the Running Out of Time climate relay route when it passed through the UK.

It was the world's longest non-stop relay and thousands of volunteers who ran, cycled or sailed nearly 5,000 miles from

Glasgow to Sharm El-Sheikh where the COP27 climate conference was being held.

Ric Casale, co-founder and trustee of the charity said: "Tarras Valley Nature Reserve is an outstanding example of what communities, companies and partnerships at the local level can and are achieving right now. We want projects like these to inspire other communities and give them the confidence that they can do the same."

He continued: "Collective local action is too often overlooked in discussions and decision-making about how to address the climate crisis. National projects are too large-scale for the public to get involved and individual action alone is not enough."



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Gavin gets the gong!

Passionate volunteer receives region-wide recognition with award

By Gilly Fraser

Congratulations to E&L columnist Gavin Graham whose sterling work as a volunteer has been recognised with a top award.

Gavin has been named Volunteer of the Year in this year's Dumfries and Galloway Life magazine awards. Unfortunately, he couldn't make it to the glittering presentation ceremony at Easterbrook Hall, but the trophy was accepted on his behalf by Glen Cavers, who has succeeded him as Chairman of the Buccleuch Centre Trust.

Gavin says his love of working to help the community probably started with the Boys Brigade in Langholm. Since then he's taken on countless voluntary roles, including Chairman and Trustee of Langholm Initiative and Chairman of Langholm Walks. He says he couldn't have done any of it without wonderful back-up.

"I am blessed to have a lovely supportive family and an excellent group of friends," he said.

"They say that if you want a job doing get a busy person to do it and that certainly applies to me. There were times when I was never in the house and my wife Gaye has been such a support and never complained (much) but without her I could never have achieved any of this."

Gavin says he's found great satisfaction in all of his voluntary positions, but the

recent purchase of Langholm Moor has given him reason to be particularly proud as he was involved in the initial set up of the Langholm Moor Education Trust along with Judith Johnston.

"That and subsequent projects led to the community's ability to secure the funding and expertise to purchase the Moor," he says. "The Tarras Valley Nature Reserve will create many jobs in the future and put Langholm well and truly on the tourist map."

He also greatly enjoyed his time with The Buccleuch Centre, although the Covid years proved extremely stressful and gave him many sleepless nights.

"The Buccleuch Centre is so crucial to the future of Langholm not least because it brings twenty thousand visitors a year to the town. I know it has a great future under the new Chairman Glen Cavers and an excellent management team and trustees."

With an amazing sixty years of public service under his belt, it's hard to imagine Gavin ever sitting down and putting his feet up, but he claims he is trying to take more of a back seat nowadays.

"I am slowly winding down and am now only involved with Langholm Walks Group. I have just secured funding for our fifth edition of the Langholm Walks Booklet and a new website so that will be my project for 2023," he says. "And then I will retire and let others take over."



DANCING FEET: Gavin Graham flanked by Buccleuch Centre Managers Michele Lowe and Iona Davidson

NEWS IN BRIEF

Copshaw Christmas Tree Festival

Groups and businesses in the Newcastleton area are being invited to create a special decoration for Christmas.

It's part of the Christmas Tree Festival being staged by Liddesdale Parish Church on December 9, 10 and 11.

If an entire tree seems a bit too ambitious, people can opt instead to create something to represent their company, and to write a description of its heritage to be displayed alongside.

The organisers say they hope this will help to make Christmas a little brighter for the village this year.

Bridge results

E/W - 1st, Tricia Reynolds & Richard Von Slicher, 2nd, Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop, 3rd, Anne Ferguson & John Packer. N/S - 1st, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2nd, Lesley McCartney & Doreen Taylor, 3rd, Lorraine Morton & Avril Bannatyne.

Late night shopping ready to open

As the cost of living starts to bite, many High Street businesses have signed up to late night opening over five weeks from end November.

The late night opening will include a mini market hall in the Post Office featuring Beattie's Bakes, David McVittie Photography, Rose's Wardrobe, Ann Smith Art and Ellie's Bookshop Around the Corner.

High Street store Latimers will also be staying open late, with its famous range of household goods and furniture providing gift opportunities for even the most difficult of Christmas Day recipients.

There will also be the chance to discuss the Community Plan with members of Langholm Alliance.

Meanwhile as part of ongoing public consultations with groups within the community, the Alliance are planning to launch Conversational Café and Walking Wellbeing initiatives in January with support from local businesses and locals alike.

Funding applications for both initiatives are being progressed, with the focus on wellbeing and mental health post pandemic covering topics including living on less, menopause and men's health.

And an application to transfer Langholm Old Primary School to the community has been submitted to D&G Council with pre-planning applications due for submission.



DOORS OPEN: Latimers, above, and Beattie's Bakes are just two of the businesses opening up for some late -night festive shopping



Work continues to move the project forward and secure funding, with the hope of providing the community with a physical space that provides many of

the aspirations in The Community Plan. The Old Primary School is the ideal catalyst and home for fulfilling many of the visions within the Action Plan.

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Tucker: 'Nothing not to like'

OBITUARY: Les Richardson, Langholm man, family man, with a heart of gold

The death, last month, of Les "Tucker" Richardson robbed the town of one of its latter day characters.

A much loved husband, father, papa, brother, uncle, brother-in-law, father-in-law and friend he will be greatly missed by all those who loved him best.

Born on the 19th October 1953 to mum Margaret and dad Walter, he gained his nickname from his voracious appetite and ability to eat.

His early years were spent up at the family home in Holmwood and at Langholm Primary and Academy schools before being taken on as an apprentice stone mason at local builder Tom Graham's, following in the footsteps of his Grandfather Rob, who had worked on the Thomas Hope.

As the years went by he married his sweetheart Kate and welcomed their son Simon into the world in 1977 followed four years later by daughter Jennifer and the family was complete.

After Tom Graham's, and a stint at the Dyehouse, he set up with his great pals, Graham Cubbon and Sam Earsman and had a wealth of stories to tell of

their antics. The three could often be found in their office, The Buck, on a Friday afternoon where they would keep Norman busy on the shop floor and would often have the whole bar in uproar with their stories.

After family, Tucker's other great love was horse racing and he was a member of the "Crazy Gang" syndicate whose motto "Win or Lose we go on the booze" was adhered to strictly. The syndicate had a number of flappers including Dancing Jazz Time, It Takes Time and Stall-breaker, all of whom won many of the big horse races in the flapping circuit and gave him great joy, not least at the world famous "Dingle Races" in County Kerry.

He was a regular at Cheltenham races with his great pals Colin Barnfather, Frankie Steel, Napper Little, Norman Gormley and Cyril Johnstone to name a few, and the stories of their trips together have slipped into local folklore.

Another great love was hound trailing and he was part of a syndicate including Jock Fawkes, Mary Irving and Marti Borthwick and took great plea-



PAL TO MANY: Les 'Tucker' Richardson

sure from the fact that his eldest Granddaughter Baillie also got involved.

The syndicate won the blue ribbon hound trailing event in 2016 when their hound Castle

Caledonia, won the hound trail at Langholm Common Riding, and again the following year in 2017, leading to a big celebration.

In 2008 Les's son Simon, was

elected Cornet and there was no prouder man than Les when he led Simon into the Kirk Wynd and set him off up the hill with the flag, a job he managed so well that a succession of later Cornets asked him to perform the same duty for them.

The arrival of their four grandchildren Baillie, Finn, Evie and Sam over the years, brought great joy to both Kate and Les and he took great pride in everything they did.

In 2020 Les was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

His bravery in the face of such adversity and his refusal to lie down to this terrible illness is testament to the man himself. He never moaned or complained about it and whenever he was asked how he was he always answered in a positive manner; "I'm fine" or "joost grand" or "takin nee hurt".

As the illness started to make Les more breathless he invested in a motorised scooter, customising it with a holder for his beer and vape and bought a horn for it.

This gave him a new lease of life and he would use it to drive through to his beloved Buck for a pint and a blether with Norman.

As he drove past the front door he would give the horn two toots, a signal to the bar staff to have a pint ready once he'd parked up.

It is said that you will be judged by the number of people at your funeral.

The turnout for Les last Thursday shows he was greatly thought of, not just in Langholm, but throughout both sides of the Borderland, such was the number of mourners.

His loss will leave a massive hole in the lives of all those who knew and loved him the most his family and friends, but the love and esteem in which they held, and continue to hold him in, will ensure he will not be forgotten.

The term "Legend" is one that is often overused nowadays but it is one that can be confidently used when talking about Les "Tucker" Richardson, a man the likes of which will not be seen again.

The family would like to thank everyone for their kindness since Les passed away. The flowers, cards and messages have been a great comfort to them and are really appreciated.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Tax Man cometh!

The deadline for folk to submit their tax returns for the 2021 to 2022 tax year, and pay any tax owed is January 31 2023 – and HMRC is encouraging anyone yet to complete their return to do it early.

Filing early also means customers, who are unable to pay their tax bill in full by the deadline, will have plenty of time to access support and advice on GOV.UK. HMRC may be able to help by arranging an affordable payment plan.

In the 12 months to 5 April 2022, almost 142,000 customers chose to use self-serve Time to Pay to pay any tax owed for the 2020 to 2021 tax year, spreading the cost of around £475 million into monthly instalments.

Visit GOV.UK to find out more about Time to Pay arrangements.

Copshaw residents remain divided over new crossing

By Gilly Fraser

Proposals for new measures to make it safer to cross the road in the centre of Newcastleton have sparked a heated debate among villagers.

A 20mph speed limit is already in place, with signs at either end of the village asking drivers to slow down if they're exceeding that. However some drivers routinely flout the speed limit, so additional curbs are now being considered.

An initial proposal to create build-outs to reduce the crossing distance and improve visibility for pedestrians was considered but seems to have been shelved. Instead, Scottish Borders Council has offered to install a light-controlled pedestrian crossing between the two halves of Douglas Square.

The plan has not proved popular with all residents.

Some have welcomed the idea of a crossing in principle but say it should be sited further

along the main street between Elliots Butchers and Spar as this is where most people tend to cross.

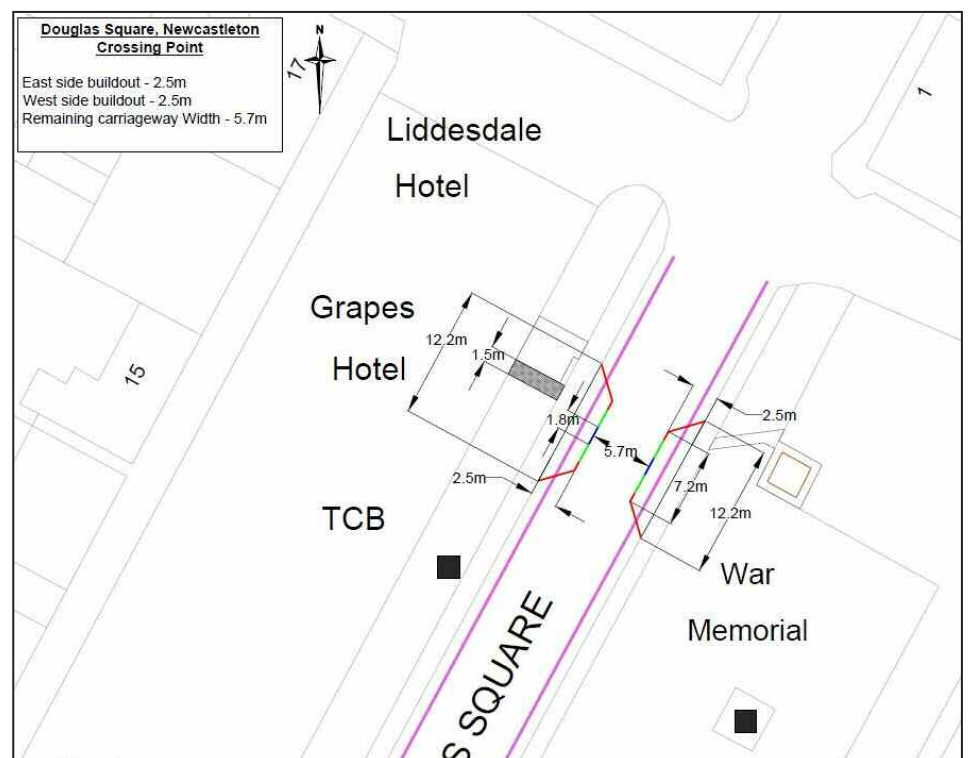
Safest

However the Community Council say the proposed site was identified by SBC to support the most users crossing the road at the safest point, and that moving it would reduce car parking capacity given the zig-zag restrictions required on either side.

Others have questioned whether there's any need for a light-controlled crossing at all, saying it wouldn't be cost-effective and suggesting a simple zebra crossing instead.

It has also been pointed out that part of the street has conservation area status and questions the potential aesthetics of such a crossing.

Residents have until December 9 to make their feelings known on the issue as part of a consultation.



CAPTION: To cross or not to cross – this is the location proposed by Scottish Borders Council for a light-controlled pedestrian crossing

Mary's mad about inking!

Student quits law degree to become tattoo artist

By Gilly Fraser

When law student Mary Hinds decided to get a tattoo, little did she think that a year later she would be the one doing the inking!

"I had gone to the In The Blood studio in Carlisle with my friend to get matching tattoos and really just on the off-chance I asked if they had any apprenticeships going," says Mary, 23.

"They asked to see my artwork and it all took off from there."

Initially the former Langholm Academy pupil combined studying for her university degree with working part-time at the tattoo studio, but soon realised where her true passion lay.

"I just started enjoying it so much and realised it was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I've always had a creative mind and really loved Art, and I've loved tattoos since I was a lot younger.

"There's a lot of different things you can go into through Art, but I thought this was a unique way to create your own art and put it on somebody permanently."

Mary's decision to quit her degree did not initially go down well with her parents Kerry and Stuart.

"I wasn't too happy about her leaving uni," says Kerry, "But I think that's a natural parent reaction really. However



ARTIST: A ray of light shines on Mary's personal inkwork

now I think it's the best thing she's ever done."

To say they're supportive now would be an understatement and both parents proudly sport examples of Mary's inking prowess.

"We always say that when most people help their children it's by helping them move house or something like that but with us it's by having tattoos done," Kerry says with a laugh. "During her apprenticeship she had to do five or six different styles, so her dad was the last one she did in order to qualify and I was the first after she had qualified."

Now Stuart has taken things a stage



DRAW: Mary's mum Kerry provides the perfect canvas for a work of art

further by joining Mary in the business – as her apprentice.

"I used to sit with my dad and watch programmes like Ink Master and Miami Ink," Mary says. "Now he's my apprentice and he's coming on well. I can see little bits of improvement!"

Mary – and now her dad – are following in a tradition that is literally as old as mankind. Examples of tattoos have been found dating right back to neolithic times, in every culture and in every corner of the world.

It's a job that calls for artistic talent and a creative flair, but also requires serious commitment since some works



PORTFOLIO: Just one of Mary's many artistic creations

can take five or six hours to complete. Mary says she really enjoys the challenge of the larger pieces, but in every case the job satisfaction is huge and she loves seeing the results of her own handiwork.

"The best bit of the job is seeing customers' reactions afterwards, seeing how pleased they are, especially when it's been my own original artwork.

"Some people do come in with photo references to show exactly what they want, but others ask for your own artwork and it's the most amazing feeling to know that they've seen what I can do and they want it on them for the rest of their lives."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Families to get £300

Thousands of families in our region are set to receive over £300 in cost-of-living support from the UK Government.

Payments from the UK Department for Work and Pensions started to be paid last week – and part of a wider package of measures to assist people who are struggling with their bills.

Over 600,000 households across Scotland, who claimed qualifying means-tested benefits during the eligibility period, will be automatically paid £324 this month, as part of £1,200 worth of direct help for households.

The payments are made directly into eligible recipients' bank accounts, with no need for people to apply or do anything to receive it.

Scottish Borders MP John Lamont said the payments were "very welcome" and praised the UK Government support as "essential help at this time of crisis and hardship."

Caravan park gets green light to expand pitches



A campsite near Langholm is expanding – as well as getting a social media make-over in preparation for next year's tourist season.

Ewes Water Caravan & Camping Park has secured funding for five hard standing pitches and a waste disposal unit.

However, thanks to the endeavours of the Caravan Club itself, this has been match-funded to allow the progress of a further five pitches.

Not ones to let the grass grow under their feet, the caravan park – which is run by a committee of hardworking volunteers – has ensured that work has already begun on the pitches ready for the start of the new

PITCH PERFECT: Another 10 spaces will become available at Ewes Water camping site.

tourist season in April next year.

There are currently 24 level grass pitches, 10 of which are to be converted but the work will not stop there.

Meanwhile husband and wife team Davie and Kerrie Gordon are in the process of upgrading the club's social media outlets, including a new website with support from Langholm Alliance tourism officer, Sharon Tolson, which will allow direct access for potential visitors.

The Langholm Rugby Club committee also has plans to ensure continuous upgrade of the site, which is an integral

part of the Milntown club and the wider community and are all to be commended for their continued efforts.

Elsewhere, an amazing £2,391 has been raised to the Alliance through the Coop Community Fund.

This will help young people in our community who are struggling with the fallout from the pandemic.

Blueheart Counselling and The Xcel Project have set the wheels in motion to utilise these vital funds to address mental health issues with our young people post Covid.

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 with Gilly Fraser

AgriScot returns after three year break



2019: Flashback to the last AgriScot

Ingliston was the place to be for anyone with an interest in agriculture this week, as AgriScot returned after a three-year Covid enforced absence.

Described as the UK's number one business event, it had more than 230 exhibitors, including the Borders-based Thorburn Group. This family-run business started life in the 1940s as a small blacksmith operation but now specialises in livestock handling and supplying shed building materials nationwide.

Thorburn Sales Director Ian Learmonth says he believes events such as AgriScot act as a great shop window.

"It's one of the top shows for us as you get constant business from the first minute of the day until the last," he said.

"As we are expanding our business, we can't just rely on word of mouth, we need to be going to shows to meet with new customers and get our name out there in the agricultural industry."

AgriScot, which is chaired by

Borders farmer Robert Neill, has moved on massively since its early days according to its Managing Director of Rural Projects Martin Dare.

"When I was first involved in 2000, it was in two halls and with less than half the exhibitors we have now," he said. "Fast forward to 2022, the event has grown arms and legs in terms of the number of sponsors, exhibitors, seminars, and the number of awards. We have become a lot more sophisticated."

Business is always the prime focus of AgriScot and Trade Stands Manager John MacInnes, who is himself a farmer, says it's a great way to make new contacts.

"Ultimately, our exhibitors are here to do business," he said. "They may have a new product to launch through suppliers and it is a good chance to make trade contacts as well as network with farmers."

"Agriculture is a people industry, and people like to meet face-to-face to buy products and find out more about new technology, whatever may benefit their business."

Compromise needed in land use debate

Farmland or forest – it has to be one of the most contentious issues in agricultural circles right now.

The question of whether to plant or to plough in the best interests of the environment has fervent supporters on both sides of the debate. Now one rural property specialist has bravely thrown her hat into the ring with a suggestion for compromise.

Sarah Radcliffe, forestry manager for H&H Land and Estates, which operates throughout the south of Scotland and north of England, says farmers don't have to give up food production in order to plant trees. They just have to be picky about where they plant them.

"All farms have areas that are too wet, too steep or where the tractor cannot get into and there are various options for keeping this land productive and increasing the tree cover over the farm," she says.

"We are all well aware that the climate is changing, with increased periods of extreme temperatures, drought and wetter weather.

"However, as well as helping



PICKY: Sarah Radcliffe, forestry manager for H&H Land and Estates

the environment by preventing flooding and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, trees can help keep livestock cool, sheltered, reduce stress and provide nutrition."

Sarah, who was with the Forestry Commission for fourteen years before joining H&H, says it can be a win-win situation if handled correctly.

"Hedgerow trees and wood pasture provide shelter for livestock both in the heat of summer and from wet cold weather in the winter. Low density tree planting, and scrub creation is an ideal shelter for wildlife as

well as game birds."

She says planting trees can prove particularly beneficial to those areas prone to flooding.

"Planting slightly larger areas of conifer woodland is known to help to reduce flooding lower down stream," she says. "By doing this you slow the flow of water by intercepting the water droplets that land on the branches and soak into the soil."

"Planting broadleaf trees along riverbanks can help to stabilise the banks and reduce soil erosion and trees can increase the shade over the river, keeping the water temperature cool."

Barony brings peat to fore

In environmental terms, peatlands can be hero or villain, depending on how they're treated. They store vast amounts of carbon, almost twice as much as all the world's forests.

However when they're degraded, by burning or drainage they release the carbon back into the atmosphere.

Peatlands cover more than 20% of Scotland's land, but around 80% of that has been degraded, making them responsible for around 15% of our greenhouse gas emissions. Restoring them is regarded as high priority and two years ago the Scottish government pledged to invest £250 million to restore 250,000 hectares by 2030.

Now a new course in peatland restoration is to be run by the SRUC at its Barony campus near Dumfries, the first of its kind in Scotland. The course, which consists of two week-long sessions has been developed in partnership with the NatureScot Peatland Action group which is led and funded by Scottish Government.

It will provide an overview of peatland ecology and hydrology and an understanding of the causes of peatland degradation. Those taking part will learn how to map and survey peatland, before designing effective interventions for the restoration of the sites. It will also cover all stages of planning, funding and delivering restoration



RESTORATION: Peatlands cover more than 20% of Scotland's land

schemes.

Peatland ACTION will cover 50 per cent of the £1100 course fee, and additional assistance could be available depending on circumstances.

SRUC Course Leader James Banks says it's an exciting opportunity to learn from experts.

"We aim to enable course participants to make positive change happen," he said. "And to get hands-on experience of addressing the global climate and biodiversity emergencies."

To find out more, contact SRUC at Barony.

Egg shortage hits shelves

Poultry producers say the shortage of eggs on some supermarket shelves is not entirely due to avian flu even though millions of birds have had to be culled.

Now some shops are rationing the number of eggs each customer can buy as stocks run low and one pub chain which serves cooked breakfasts is leaving the fried egg out altogether.

However farmers say the problem's being made worse because spiralling costs mean they're having to pay far more to produce the eggs. The cost of hen food has risen by fifty per cent, and they're seeing substantial hikes in energy bills, but supermarkets aren't paying the producers more.

One farmer claimed the shops were importing eggs from Europe rather than increase payments to UK producers. He said, "It's not because we don't



Seldom seen on supermarket shelves at the moment – a fine clutch of eggs

want to produce eggs, it's because we can't afford to produce eggs."

The British Free Range Egg Producers Association say they've been aware of the threat to the industry for some time.

A spokesman said, "We

warned ten months ago that producers would pause or halt production if they weren't paid a fair price for their product, and that the knock-on effect would be fewer hens and fewer eggs."

End of an era as John shuts up shop

Langholm legend to retire after 50 years behind counter

A stalwart Langholm shopkeeper is finally hanging up his apron after more than 50 years.

John Ritchie will be closing his New Town Convenience Store on Thomas Telford Road on Friday, marking the end of an era that began when he was just 22.

His latest shop was only opened in November 2019, but for the best part of 40 years John ran a popular minimarket in Henry Street which became an integral part of the fabric of the Muckle Toon.

“Because it was situated near to the mill – which was working at the time – we used to get 300 people a day through the door in those days,” John said.

“People would pop in for a bit of shopping, but it was also a meeting place where you could have a chat with your neighbours and catch up on the gossip.”

John, 76, started his retail career working in partnership with David Murray, before going it alone after a couple of years.

The closure of the mill prompted him to sell the Henry Street store – but the opportunity to move to the new shop last year proved irresistible.

“I thought I would give it another go,

maybe for a couple of years. But times have changed. The idea of a local corner shop is old fashioned these days, people either buy their groceries from the supermarket or online.

“It’s a shame, because you lose a bit of the community spirit – but it is what it is. Most of the customers I have these days are from outwith Langholm.”

Butchers

John was planning to retire at the end of the year, but his hand has been forced by the new owners Kirkups Butchers, who are expanding their Longtown-based empire to include a permanent home in the town.

“It’s all been a bit sudden,” John said, “and it’s meant that I’ve had a very busy week trying to get everything sorted by Friday.”

John plans to spend his well-earned retirement playing golf and spending time with his six grandchildren.

“It’s going to be strange on Monday, that’s for sure,” he said. “The thing I’ll miss most are my super customers, many of whom have been coming here for over 45 years.”



AT YOUR SERVICE: John Ritchie opened his first convenience store in Langholm when he was just 22

NEWS IN BRIEF

Buccleuch benefits

The Buccleuch Centre in Langholm is on the look-out for supporters. And by joining the venue’s new supporters club you’ll qualify for exclusive benefits as well as supporting the ongoing development of the centre. It costs as little as £2.50 per month to join.

For more details go to buccleuchcentre.com

Celebrate Creation

Langholm’s Creation Mill is celebrating its first anniversary with cake, nibbles and a cuppa. Anyone is invited to drop in between 4pm-6pm on November 21 – and there’s even a glass of bubbly available to raise a toast to the venture’s success.

XCEL-lent start

The new Xcel Youth Centre hosted its first event last week, with more than 30 youngsters attending Langholm Youth Club and enjoying hotdogs and hot chocolate.

Charities hit hard by cost-of-living squeeze

Groups forced to tighten belts

Charities and community groups across our region are being hit hard by the cost-of-living crisis.

That’s according to a survey of third sector organisations, which revealed this week that 38 percent have experienced a negative impact on services due to financial pressures.

It also comes at a time when more than half expect an increase in service demand due to the crisis.

The report, by Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG), shows that many organisations are still unsure about the impact of future energy costs – estimations of the change in bills range from a five percent jump up to three times the current costs.

Norma Austin Hart, TSDG’s chief executive officer, said: “Our research reveals a worrying picture for the third sector and the services they deliver, with 28 percent indicating a reduction in services and 10 percent a closure.

“So many are feeling the pres-



WORRYING PICTURE: Norma Austin Hart, TSDG’s chief executive officer is concerned about the future of services delivered by the third sector

sure from reduced income and increased costs along with a higher demand for what they provide – a perfect storm of circumstances. We are calling on government at all levels to recognise that communities are struggling and are looking for quick practical responses.”

A number of third sector

organisations are concerned at leaving fixed contracts and the jump in fuel for staff and volunteer transport is adding to that burden.

Just short of two thirds had not planned for the extra pressure on annual budgets caused by the sudden increase in energy costs.

And fewer than half indicated they were confident that the increased costs could be covered by organisational reserves. Those organisations unable to do so were beginning to look for additional fundraising, making further energy savings, or closing premises and asking staff to work at home.

Another impact of energy rises was the added uncertainty to funding applications, with third sector organisations unsure what percentage extra to factor in to cover future increases.

The TSDG say they will continue to work with organisations across the region to monitor the impact of energy costs into 2023.

Online subscriptions to the

Eskdale & Liddesdale
Advertiser

are now available at
www.eladvertiser.co.uk

A new way to read the ‘Langholm Paper’.
Published weekly and available to read
anytime and anywhere using multiple devices from
mobile phone to tablet and laptop.

GREAT IDEA FOR A GIFT!



At the going down of the sun...we will remember them

Don't forget team who ensured we remembered

At the appointed day and time, the Fallen were remembered in immaculate style.

Across the region – in Langholm, Canonbie, Newcastleton, Eskdalemuir, Wester Kirk and Claygate – veterans joined dignitaries and members of the public to pay their respects to those from these tight-knit communities who went to fight for their country and never returned.

The pipes sounded and then silence fell as poppy wreaths were laid. Some of the names etched into the stone memorials have been dead more than 100 years, yet they will never be forgotten.

But such events do not simply happen. In the days and weeks

running up to Sunday's ceremonies, teams of willing volunteers quietly and efficiently went about ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

These included the worship team from Langholm Parish Church, who were ably assisted by representatives from the town's Social Club.

They included Margaret Pool, who arranged and conducted the service, Langholm Town Band, Christine Calvert who oversaw the practicalities of staging the event, and Dave Patterson from the Social Club who co-ordinated the parade and provided lunch after the ceremony.

The parade itself was well attended by veterans, serving

Armed Forces personnel and representatives of local organisations, and wreaths were laid by several organisations led by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant John Hammond. This also included for the first time, the Eskdale Pony Club.

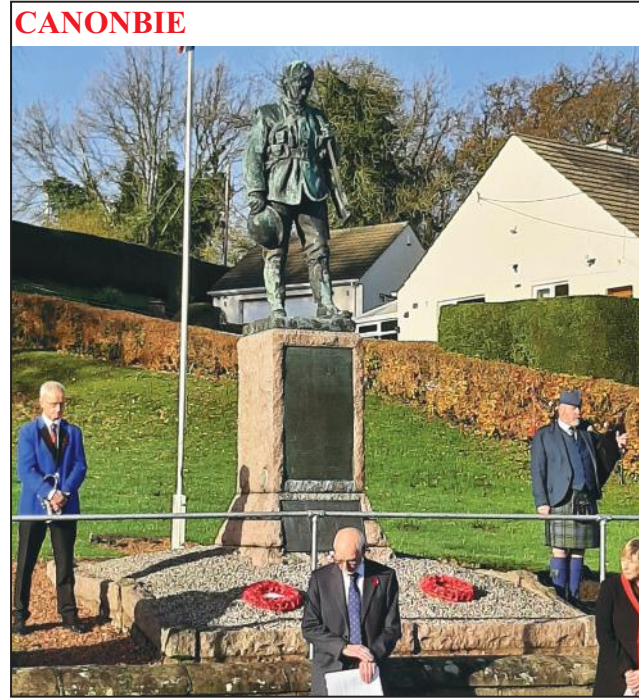
The readings were by James Kay and Sarah Stevens, head boy and girl from Langholm Academy, while Kayla

McVittie's beautiful solo anthem reduced many in the congregation to tears.

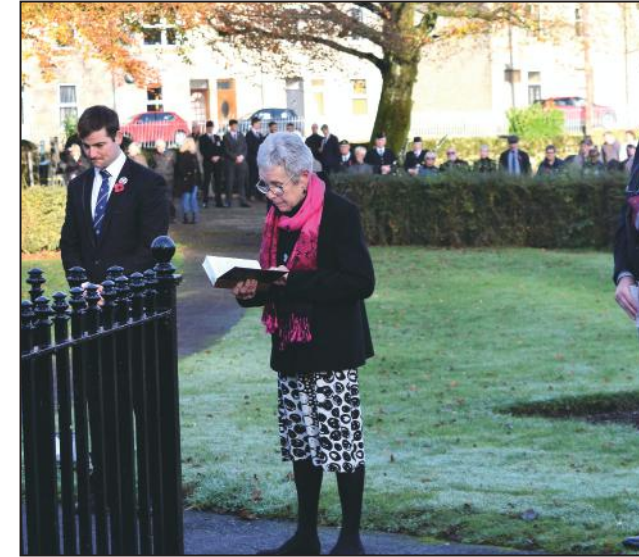
Richard Henderson performed the Piper's Lament, and cornetist Nicole Weatherstone gave a touching rendition of the Last Post and Reveille. And there were special thanks to organist Henry Jeffrey and the Langholm Parish Church Choir.



ESKDALEMUIR



CANONBIE



NEWCASTLETON

Members of Newcastleton's retained fire service and the First Responders joined the special Armistice Day parade from the village church to the war memorial. On a bright and unseasonably warm day, traffic paused and villagers lined the streets to watch the parade, headed by the flag-bearing Colour Party Robert Elliot and Robbie Turnbull.

The Reverend Morag Crossan led a service of remembrance at the memorial watched by the many who had gathered to pay their respects. Names of all those the village lost to the two world wars and conflicts since were read out and the Last Post was played in honour of the fallen. Only the sounds of birdsong filled the air during the minute's silence.

Red poppy wreaths were laid and single poppies planted in a deeply moving ceremony which included some of the village's youngest residents.



They came from near and far to pay their respects to the Fallen. And this selection of photographs taken across our region on Sunday shows, each Remembrance Day ceremony was conducted with due solemnity and sense of occasion.

Thank you to everyone who sent them in this week.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE SCOTLAND

Langholm101
Newcastleton 101

COUNCILS

Dumfries and Galloway Council
.....030 3333 3000
.....www.dumgal.gov.uk
Fault reporting (potholes/street-
lights etc.....0800 042 0188
Langholm Town Hall/Library
.....013873 80255
Dumfries and Galloway
bus timetables
www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables
Scottish Borders Council .
0330 100 1800
out of hours01896 752 111
Scottish Borders
bus timetables
...www.scotborders.gov.uk

UTILITIES

Scottish Water
.....0800 0778 778
...www.scottishwater.co.uk
Scottish Power
.....105
...www.scottishpower.co.uk
Scottish Gas emergency ..
0800 111 999
National Rail enquiries
03457 484 950
.....www.nationalrail.co.uk
Floodline SEPA
.....03000 996 699
.....www.sepa.org.uk
BEAR Scotland (A7)
.....0800 0281414
.....www.bearscoot.com

POST OFFICES

Newcastleton013873 75361
Canonbie ...013873 71348
Rowanburn 013873 71542

HOSPITALS

D&G Royal Infirmary
.....01387 246246
Cumberland Infirmary
.....01228 523444
Borders General Hospital
01896 826000
Thomas Hope Hospital
.....013873 80417

DOCTORS

Langholm ..013873 83100
Newcastleton013873 75100
Canonbie ..013873 71313
NHS24111

CHURCHES

Langholm,Eskdalemuir Ewes
and Westerkirk Parish churches
Ms Joy Lunn
Session clerk07584 357180
Canonbie United Parish church
Session Clerk..013873 25255
Liddesdale Parish church
Session Clerk..Glynis Cambridge
07469 397065

SCHOOLS

Langholm Primary
.....013873 80900
Langholm Academy
.....013873 80418
Newcastleton
.....013873 75240
Canonbie
.....013873 71336

CHEMISTS

Davidson Chemist, Langholm
.....013873 80220
Monday to Friday
8.45am -1pm; 2pm-5.30pm.
Saturday 8.45am-12.30pm.
Boots Pharmacy, Longtown
.....01228 792859
Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm.
Saturday 9am-5pm.

DENTISTS

Mark Buddy 013873 80521
Emergency - outside opening
hours

01461 202508

Memories of naval hero Eric

Langholm sailor was an Oxford student before WW2



HERO: Eric Butler Marland
Courtesy of the President and Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford

By Timothy McCracken

Almost 80 years ago, Eric Butler Marland of Langholm was killed in action when his ship, HMS Achates, was sunk during the Battle of the Barents Sea.

Aged just 24, Eric was serving as a lieutenant with the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, and had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for courage and resource in successful attacks on an enemy submarine whilst serving on HMS Vansittart.

In November 1942 – less than a

month before his death – he was awarded a Bar to his D.S.C. for a successful anti-submarine action in the Mediterranean whilst serving on the Achates.

Eric was the second son of Harry and Elsie Marland, of Broomholm, Langholm, and Rusthall House, Rusthall Common, near Tunbridge Wells. His father was a Manchester JP, and chairman of T Griffiths Hughes Ltd, manufacturing chemists, of Salford.

Prior to the Second World War Eric was studying French and Political Economy at Magdalene College,



Arthur Tolson, of Border Esk Cottage, Langholm. During the Second World War he served as a specialist aero engineer with the R.A.F.

Oxford. He was elected president of the Junior Common Room for the academic year 1939-1940, but was conscripted before he could take office. He played for the College rugby team.

Eric joined the navy and specialised in torpedoes and depth charges, serving from February 1940 on HMS Vansittart, and from January 1942 on HMS Achates.

He served on escort duties for several Atlantic, Mediterranean and Arctic convoys. He is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent.

When passing Border Esk, I often

think of Eric.

My great uncle, the late Arthur Tolson, of Border Esk Cottage, told me that he heard the announcement of the declaration of war just after 11am on Sunday September 3, 1939, on Eric's car radio.

The Tolson family were proprietors of Border Esk Garage, Langholm, and Eric had been filling his car with petrol on his way home to Broomholm.

My great uncle remembered, almost 70 years later, seeing Eric on this day, and the sadness he felt when he died in 1942.



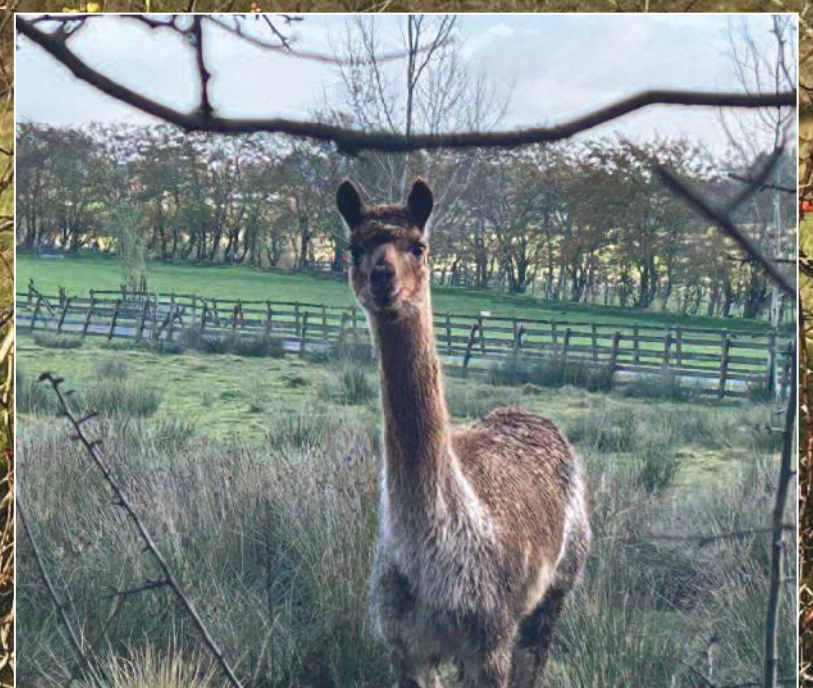
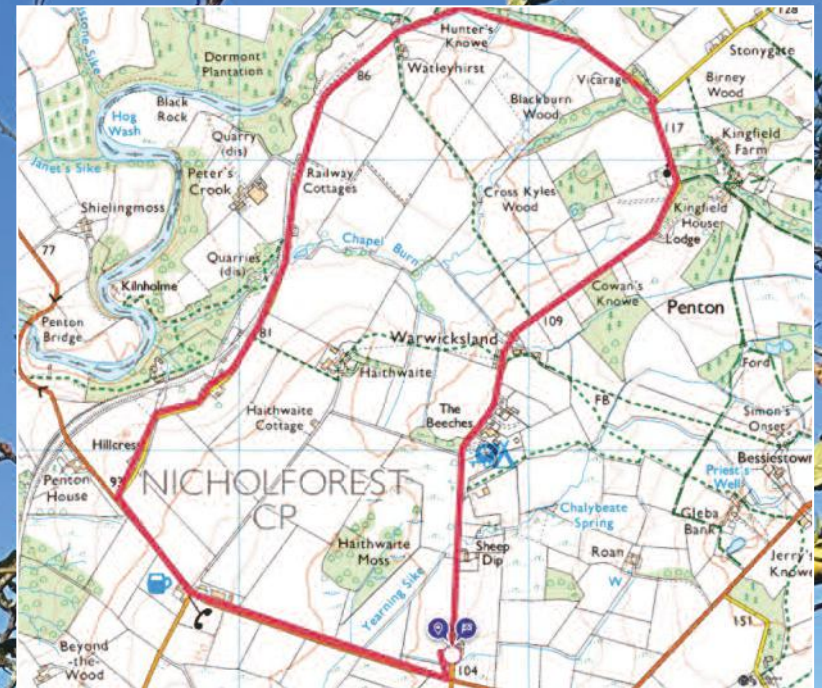
DOOMED: HMS Achates was sunk in 1942



CREW: Only a few survived when the ship went down

By Warwicksland and Kingfield

Walking correspondent
Gavin Graham takes us
on a ramble, just over
the border



Compared to some of my more energetic walks, this is an easy circular route on minor roads around the Penton and Nicholforest area.

We started at the bus shelter on the B6318, just half a mile beyond Pentonbridge Inn – but you can choose to start wherever it suits you.

The first mile of the walk was interesting for the number of crab apple trees on the left-hand side. We spotted at least a dozen of them and all full of fruit even although the leaves were almost off the trees now.

Beside the caravan park on the right-hand side of the road is a field of lovely alpacas. They were very curious about our arrival and came over to greet us.

We soon arrived at Nicholforest Public Hall, which looks one of the nicest halls in the area and there seems to be plenty going on at it. From there we were soon at Nicholforest Parish Church, and despite it being locked it was a lovely spot to sit

and have our coffee in the entrance porch.

After the church, keep following the road as it bears left until you come to the spot where it meets up with the old Waverley Railway Line.

This remains on the right of the road for about a mile. You will come to Railway Cottages on your right and see the inscription on the side of them N.B.R 1889. Near the cottages on the other side of the road are several fields of willow as the main crop.

Keep following this road until you once again come to the B6318 and looking to your left you will see The Pentonbridge Inn in the distance.

We thoroughly enjoyed this walk as the roads were very quiet but please remember that it is a public road and at times may be busier. The roads have several long straight stretches with Beech hedges on either side and the views across the Liddell valley can be quite spectacular.

Distance – 4.2 Miles

Starting Point – You can start anywhere on the circular walk, but probably the best place is at The Pentonbridge Inn if you are planning to eat or drink there after the walk. Check the Pentonbridge Inn website to see if they are open for lunches and it would probably be best to book in advance.

Map Reference – Pentonbridge Inn 437765
Total Ascent – 218ft

Terrain – Minor roads
Public Transport – None that I am aware of.

Time allowed – 2 Hours
OS Map – Explorer Map 324 Liddesdale & Kershope Forest



Looking back...

25 Whodunnit author visits Langholm

1997

The cast of "Murdered to Death" were in a bit of a dither after the curtain on their performance on Friday evening – when producer Alex Morrison announced that the author of the play had been a member of the audience!

The author, Peter Gordon, has friends in Langholm who, after seeing details of the LAODS production in the E&L, invited him to visit and arranged to take him to see the Friday evening performance.

Mr Gordon took the opportunity to meet the cast back stage after the performance. Producer Alex Morrison said "He was very complimentary to all the cast and said he had thoroughly enjoyed the lay. He has seen performances of the play before and apparently each one has been different and given him a new

insight."

He also commented on the simplicity of the stage set which he felt had worked rather well and was a clever way of staging with the limitations of space.

A lecturer at Leeds University, Mr Gordon lives in York and is very involved with amateur dramatics and very often previews his plays before they are released for professional production.

The play is proving popular with amateur societies because of the wide range of characters portrayed and Mr Gordon is delighted that the work is to be translated into Dutch for performing in Holland. Mr Gordon also revealed that he is planning to write another play around the character of Inspector Pratt.

At the end of the visit, Mr Gordon autographed programmes for the cast and vowed that it wouldn't be his last visit to Langholm.



50 Prices...

1972

"Pit this in 'er paper", was an instruction of one of our elderly readers when he handed us a printed paragraph about the country in the year 1900, when it stated prices were rising but wages had risen very little in the 90s except in certain industries.

To compare the cost of living in 1900 with today's scale is difficult because the value of the purchasing power of money has steadily declined. In general, however, lower-class wages were so low that it was possible for families earning only a moderate income to keep at least one servant. Thus, because labour was cheap, so were many of the essentials and luxuries of life. In 1893, for instance, income tax was still only 7d in the £ and feelings were strong when it rose to 8d in the £ a year later. It was not until the Boer War that it rose to 1/- and eventually to 1/3d. Anyone with an income of less than £160 a year paid no tax, and this meant the majority of people.

At this time, popular cigarettes cost a penny for a packet of five while pipe tobacco cost threepence or fourpence an ounce. A glass of beer cost 2d – and was strong – and most daily and evening newspapers were a halfpenny each.

In Langholm, the abstract statement account for the Common Riding showed a total income of £177:5/- and an expenditure of £180:0:8, a deficiency of £2:15:8d. It is interesting to note that on the expenditure side threepenny bits were paid to 515 children in the procession; horse racing cost £50:15/- in prize money; hound trail, wrestling and foot racing cost £39:19/1, and music per Langholm Town Band and Flute Band cost £10:2/-.

Gate money – the amount collected at the paddock, wrestling ring and at the dancing amounted to a modest £48:13/-.

Changed days indeed!

75 Town Council: Holmwood scheme

1947

The allegation that there was a great deal of concern amongst the ratepayers in the burgh at the lack of progress with the permanent houses on the Holmwood site was made by Mr GE Bell at the monthly meeting of Langholm Town Council, held in the Town Hall, Langholm, on Friday evening.

Mr Bell stated that many ratepayers had approached him on that matter, and he suggested that the contractors be asked for a written report to show whether the work has been carried out as expeditiously as possible, and if not why not.

Official information given by the Department of Health as to the Cruden type of permanent pre-fab house schemes, and stating that these schemes were now scheduled to be completed by the autumn of 1948.

The Provost expressed the hope that the Cruden type scheme in Langholm which

provided for 12 such houses on the Wauchope Street/ Eskdaill Street site would be completed within the stipulated period, and that work in connection with the servicing of the site would be commenced at an early date.

The contractors of the pre-fab houses were now attending to minor repairs and defects in these houses, and the work in that connection should be completed soon. In connection with the permanent houses, the roads were well advanced and were very good. The houses were proceeding well and should be slated soon.

Mr Harkness – When does the Burgh Surveyor think the first of the permanent houses will be completed?

The Burgh Surveyor – One block of two houses is ready for slating just now. There is a bit of a snag about that work but we expect the slating to commence on Monday. As far as the interior work is concerned, it will be a long time before that is completed.



C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday 10th November 2022

C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 10,218 sheep comprising of 4,705 prime lambs and 5,513 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown on Thursday 10th November 2022.

A good entry of cast cows were again forward to a competitive ringside of buyers, with more fleshed cows on offer. As ever, more numbers are required on a weekly basis to meet purchaser demand here at Longtown. The sale topped at £1,494 for an Angus from JA & E Dinwoodie, Archerbeck, Canonbie, with others to £1,278 from JDM Thomson, Pilmuir, Hawick. Luings sold to a top of £1,450 from The Lamperts, Brampton, who sold others to £1,156. Beef Shorthorns to £1,263 and £1,113 from Pilmuir, Hawick. Friesian cows topped at £1,184 from CT & J Wigham, Hethermill, Kirkclinton with Herefords selling to £1,050 from FR Crew, Gall Farm, Boreland.

Top per kilo of 182p for a Belted Galloway from B Rae, Chesters Brae, Hawick with Angus selling to 180p from Archerbeck, Canonbie. Beef Shorthorns sold to 174p from Pilmuir, Hawick with Luings to 170p from The Lamperts. Friesian cows sold to 160p from Hethermill.

A larger show of 4,705 prime lambs were forward with trade again

being sharper on the week and buyers being keen for large numbers of well fleshed lambs in all weight categories, with all best quality lambs regularly 300-350ppk and well fleshed commercial lambs of all weights 250-275ppk.

Top price per kilo of 350p for Dutch Texel lambs consigned by EJC Dean, Kirkhouse, Brampton.

Kirkhouse, Brampton. Top price per head of £172 for Texels shown by Messrs Peterkin, Barnyards, Beauty.

More well finished Lambs are required to fulfil increased purchaser demand and are required on a weekly basis.

Overall average 258.7p (SQQ 259.3p)

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Dutch Texel 350p Kirkhouse.
Beltex 330p Clatequoy, 328p, 324p Crawthat, 320p High Greenhill, 315p Newton Cottage.

Texel 320p Ashness, 317p Watch Currock, 315p Lingey Field, 308p Kirkhouse, 303p Langdyke Cottage.
Charollais 289p Basco Dykehead, 268p Greenburn, 266p Galleywreay.
Suffolk 285p Wallend, 281p Lednabirichen, 271p Cowburnrigg & Westernhopeburn.

Herdwick 269p Ashness, 267p Bridge End.

Roussin 267p, 263p Rigg Garth.
Mule 263p Wanwood Hill, 258p Whiteside, 257p The Heugh, 255p West Newlands, 254p Wanwood Hill.

Cheviot Mule 262p Solwaybank, 257p Thornship, 255p Skelfhill.
Cheviot 259p Blackcleugh, 257p Ballywilline & Newton Cottage, 256p Earlside, 254p Mount Bengier.
Blackface 254p, 253p Wanwood Hill, 242p Longrigg.
North Country Cheviot 253p The Land.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

Texel £172 Barnyards, £168 Kirkhouse, £164 Aldermanseat, £162, £160 Barnyards, £155 High Stennies.
Suffolk £166 Glenrath, £150 Tinnishall, £149 West Newlands & Slealands, £148 Tone Hall.
Dutch Texel £154 Kirkhouse.
Beltex £152 Clatequoy, £152, £148 Tercrosset, £147 High Stennies, £146 Tercrosset & Leanach.

Roussin £144 Rigg Garth.
Cheviot £144 Finnieness.
Cheviot Mule £143 West Newlands.
Charollais £141 Galleywreay, £139 Tinnishall, £138 Rigghead.
Millenium Blue £140, £138 Aldermanseat.
Mule £135 Camphill, £134 Hole Farm,

£131 Wanwood Hill, £130 Burnfoot Hill.

North Country Cheviot £132 The Land.

Herdwick £130 The Heugh.
Blackface £120 Wanwood Hill & Whiteside.

Another large entry of 5,513 cast ewes and rams were forward and sold to a similar trade on the week, with buyers looking for sheep full of flesh.

Heavy ewes topped at £288 for Texels shown by J Robertson & Son, Becks, Langholm.

Mule ewes to £133 from JN Hall, Harelawhill, Canonbie. Hill ewes topped at £99 for Hill Cheviot ewes from T Magnay, Galleywreay, Penrith. Rams sold to £215 for Texels from W & PF Walton, Penpeugh, Bardon Mill.

Please do not hesitate to contact our auctioneers, who will be pleased to take your calls for all further enquiries or entries. Heavy ewes of all breeds are wanted by purchaser request for next weeks sale.

John Walton 07880 527066
Nick Woodmass 07854 200489
Sam Hogg 07584 207323
Norman Douglas 07786 36683

HEAVY EWES

Texel £288 Becks, £278 Craillloch, £274 Nether Stennies, £265, £256 Becks, £245 Low Leam.
Beltex £235, £180 Ghyll House, £172, £168 Finnieness, £168 High House.
Charollais £188 Thackwood, £182 Upper Auchenlay.
Dutch Texel £178, £142 Kirkhouse.
Blue Texel £170 White End.
Suffolk £160 Beckfoot, £158 Viewley, £154 Dallowie, £148 Eastside, £146 Linton.
Bluefaced Leicester £158 Westend, £136 Newlands.
Mule £133 Harelawhill, £127 Beechwood, £126 Linton, £125, £120 Harelawhill.
North Country Cheviot £126 High House, £125 Ballinloan.
Lleyn £108 Harwood House, £104 The Height.

LIGHT EWES

Hill Cheviot £99 Galleywreay, £98 North Shortcleugh, £95 Hindhope, £94 Priestthaugh, £92 Clonhie, Tomaig & Garvilland.
Blackface £90 Drumblair, £87 Galleywreay, £86 Dyke Farm, £85 Dallowie.
Easycare £77 Cleongart, £74 Brookside, £70 Cleongart.
Swaledale £76 Hollin Close, £71 Low

Leam, £70 West Newlands.

RAMS

Texel £215 Penpeugh, £200 Viewley, £198 Coatyards, £190 Meikle Whitriggs.
Charollais £178 Eastside.
Bluefaced Leicester £150 Morley Hill & Heatherglen.
North Country Cheviot £142 Mid Calder.
Cheviot £130 Low Farnham, £122 Meikle Whitriggs.
Suffolk £130 Hollytree.
Blackface £120 Plenderleith, £118 Toft House.

Averages:

Lambs

Light to	263.0p (225.5p)
Standard to	323.0p (252.7p)
Medium to	350.0p (263.5p)
Heavy to	330.0p (259.7p)
Overweight to	301.0p (251.5p)

Ewes

Light to	£99.00 (£54.29)
Heavy to	£288.00 (£103.41)
Rams to	£215.00 (£110.88)

The E&L Gallery



QUEEN OF THE BECKS BURN: Molly poses midstream. Photo by Billy Scott of Langholm

Camera: Leica D-lux 7

Thank you and goodbye from Muckle Toon Producers Market

After 12 successfully years the Muckle Toon Producers Market has finally called it a day.

Following the onset of Covid, the committee had been waiting patiently to hand out their donations to the community – but organisers Janice Steven and Dorothy Gillis were delighted to be able to finally get the chance to present the last of the donations.

They included Langholm Daycare Centre, for their dedication and drive throughout the pandemic, and the Thomas Hope Hospital for the amazing work it does looking after patients and making them feel at home.

Another recipient is Langholm Town Band. It's been running for over 200 years, and its oldest member, David Calvert, is still going strong at 82. The band are passionate about supporting the town and encourage anyone to join and have a go.

Finally, Langholm Girls Football is a new and vibrant

addition to the town, which is so well attended by both the girls and supporters.

Committee member Sharon Robertson said: "We were very lucky as a market to have been independent and not need or rely on any outside help, we also had a great variety of producers and crafters some are now running successful shops and online businesses in their own right.

"We were also so fortunate to have Janice and Dorothy who would go above and beyond to make sure everyone was made to feel welcome. From organising the stalls, meeting the stallholders and customers. And could sometimes be seen at the other side of the stalls just giving a helping hand whenever needed.

"By having all the right mix the market drew a great customer base from the town and outlying areas which in turn helped the town with new visitors going round the shops and some having lunch before leaving."



CLOCKWISE: Langholm Day Centre, Langholm Girls Football, Langholm Town Band and The Thomas Hope Hospital all received generous donations

E&L CLASSIFIEDS

The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser
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LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

will hold an
INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER
in The Buccleuch Centre
Wednesday 23rd November at 7pm

Come and enjoy a drink and nibbles - this will be our first gathering since Covid!!

To be followed by an AGM

Langholm Day Centre

Annual General Meeting

Friday
9th December
at 10am

in Langholm Day Centre
All are welcome to attend

Langholm Community Centre

Annual General Meeting

Friday
9th December at 11am
in Thomas Hope Lounge
Langholm Day Centre

All welcome

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WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

contact alan@eladvertiser.co.uk to be added to the What's On list

Wed 23rd	Eskdale & Liddesdale Archaeological Society Get Together & AGM	The Buccleuch Centre 7pm
Thu 24th	Barbara Dickson with Nick Holland	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 26th	Liddesdale Ladies Amenities Group Coffee Morning	Newcastleon Village Hall 10:30am
	Canonbie Church Soup Kitchen & Table Top	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1.00pm
	Langholm Christmas Lights Switch-on	Langholm High Street from 2,30pm
Sat Dec 3rd	Newcastleon Christmas Lights Switch-on	Douglas Square Newcastleon from 4pm

Langholm Golf Club winners 2022

Golf

MEN:

J H Taylor Trophy, Gordon Rae; Whita Rosebowl, Ryan Milligan; R M Weatherstone, Lewis Hawes; Clubhouse Cup, Gordon Rae; A T Irving Trophy, Scott Collins; E&L Trophy, Brady Wilson; Porteous Quaich, Lewis Hawes; D I Beverley, Brady Wilson.

Life Members, Scott Collins; Prize Medal 1, Ryan Johnstone; Bentley Cup, Ross Rae; Castle Craigs, Jim Murray; Midsummer Tankard, Derek Johnstone; Westview Trophy, Dennis Little; Anniversary Cup, David Johnstone; Medal Final, Derek Johnstone.

6180 Trophy, David Johnston; 6180 Trophy Scratch, Simon Tweddle; Autumn Cup, Ryan Johnstone; Prize Medal 2, Ryan Johnstone.

Midweek Metal, Brian Porteous; Order of Merit, Derek Johnstone; Langholm Open, Simon Tweddle; Hillside Cup, Daniel Johnstone; Rosebowl, Brady Wilson; Pairs Knockout Andrew and Brian Porteous; Senior Championship, Derek Johnstone; B Championship, Daniel Johnstone. Men's Championship, Nathan Bell.

LADIES:

Sharon Turner Memorial Trophy, Hazel Jeffrey; Captain's Prize, Shirley Borthwick; Colwell Cup, Hazel Jeffrey; Vice Captain's Prize, Tessa Lumley; Lymiecleuch Cup, Tessa Lumley; Stewart Cup, Morag Pool; Midsummer Tankard, Tessa Lumley; Summer Rose Bowl, Morag Pool; Handicap Championship, Hazel Jeffrey; Medal Final, Morag Pool; Ladies Championship, Ailsa Tweddle.



FAMILY SILVER: Simon and Ailsa Tweddle

Hearts hit top form just when it matters

Sport Nostalgia November 1997

Hearts 2 - Longtown 2

Hearts travelled the short distance to Longtown for their second meeting with their border rivals.

Longtown, top of the league on goal difference, were confident of beating their Scottish rivals, as Hearts were starting minus three of their most experienced players, Robert and Coco Copeland and Ken Walker.

The Hearts' management had known all week that they would have to field a weakened team and had made appropriate plans for it.

They brought in Stuart Armstrong, a tough tackling fullback from Laversdale and Andy Steele another fullback from Longtown so Hearts started the game full of confidence.

From the early stages of the game Hearts contained the Longtown forward line and started to dominate the midfield.

Keith Graham and Clive Foster were always on top of their midfield counterparts. After 20

minutes Hearts should have been one up when Pearson, working well down the left side, latched on to a pass from Foster. He lobbed the keeper only to see his fine attempt hit the post.

Hearts continued to press with Brough and Graham coming very close. Brough who was on the end of some very heavy challenges from the Longtown defence was always one step ahead of his markers and even at the young age of 17 is capable of mixing it with the toughest of opponents.

For the first 35 minutes Longtown didn't cause any problems for the Hearts defence. Cuthbert and Patterson in the middle of defence kept any problems caused by the opposition well away from Marc Scott's goalmouth.

Disaster struck on the 36th minute when the Longtown winger Armstrong tripped in the box. This was Longtown's third penalty in three games against.

It all worked out well, however, as the penalty hit the post. Hearts continued to hold their own and went in far the happier side at half-time.

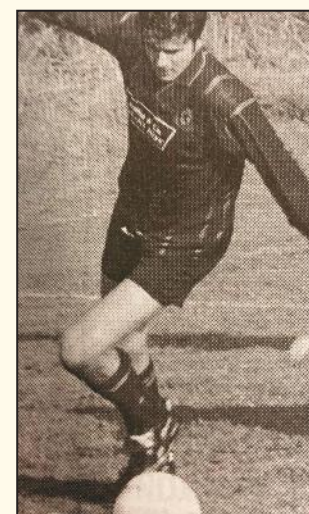
As so often happens in games, Hearts never started the second half like they finished the first. Right from the kick-off passes went astray and the team lost its shape.

By the time Hearts got themselves together they were two down. The first was a superb strike from 20 yards from Armstrong. The second, a far post header from Martin caught Foster sleeping. These two lapses in concentration cost Hearts dearly but as they have proved before, they are never beaten until the final whistle.

Longtown substituted one of their forward line and put a midfielder on which worked in their favour. Cuthbert started to push forward causing problems and winning a series of free kicks.

Now it was Longtown on the back-foot and Hearts clawed a goal back on 80 minutes when a Hearts' free kick wasn't cleared. Ellwood picked up the loose ball and slammed in a great goal from a very difficult angle.

Hearts were now swarming all over Longtown and on 85 minutes a throw-in from Pearson



GOAL: Stevie Ellwood nets again to hold league champions

was neatly laid back to him from Foster. Pearson then swung in a peach of a cross where Brough lay in wait to volley into the net to make the score 2-2.

Hearts and their fans couldn't believe it. To come back from 2-0 down against the league champions with a weakened team was superb.



Top dogs hold their nerve

Langholm pushed all the way by league rivals

Rugby

By Kenneth Pool

Langholm 24
Livingston 19

After a week of heavy rain and high winds rugby returned to Milntown under blue skies and warm sunshine with a top of the table clash against Livingston RFC.

Livingston were lying second in the league, one point behind unbeaten Langholm – so a tough match was expected, and the large crowd witnessed a good game of rugby with both sides running the ball whenever the chance arose.

It wasn't long into the match before good pressure from the home side saw Adam Roe running in at the corner to score a good solo try – although the usually dead-eyed Nathan Smith missed the difficult conversion. Livingston were proving a bit of a handful upfront and were always a danger, especially when their speedy backs were able to run the ball. And a mistake by Langholm saw the ball scooped up by the Livingston centre, who ran 30 yards to score between the posts.

The conversion gave the visitors the lead, but Langholm soon hit back. A slick move saw skipper Smith dart over for a try, which he converted.

The home side were now



ALL SMILES: Langholm celebrate yet another impressive win

enjoying a lot more possession and were rewarded with another fine try from centre Ben Jardine, converted by Smith.

Livingston weren't rolling over, however, and hit back with another well-executed try which was also converted to bring them back within a score. But with half-time looming, Langholm made a break up the touchline and, with the forwards in control, the ball was passed to Steve Nicol who crashed over the line to score Langholm's fourth try to secure the bonus point.

In second half, the home side

had plenty of possession but were finding it difficult to add to their score. And, as the match wore on, it looked like neither side were going to make a breakthrough.

With less than 10 minutes left, however, it was the visitors who added to their score with a well worked try which once again took them to within five points of Langholm.

Nervous

The Milntown crowd were now a bit nervous as the last few minutes of the match ticked away.

Livingston tried again to move the ball out to their wings, but the attacks were snuffed out by good home defence. There was a collective sigh of relief around the ground when the ref blew for full time and Langholm had maintained their unbeaten league record.

The win maintains Langholm's splendid start to the season and sees them five points clear at the top of East League 2, and with a match in hand over second-place Livingston.

The next match is at home on November 26 when Corstorphine are the visitors.



WINNERS: The girls did the town proud

Dream start for Langholm U10s

Langholm girls' football continues to go from strength to strength, with the U10 team getting off to a dream debut start against Eastriggs Primary School.

It was an excellent all-round performance under the lights at the Scholars ground, with plenty of spectators – and proud parents – making it an atmosphere to remember.

The goalscorers for Langholm were Freya Elliot, Jessica Cuthbert, Ciara McKinnel and Hannah Imrie.

On Saturday the season continues when the U12s and U14s travel to Heston Rovers Belles of the Erin Cuthbert South West Scotland League.

Professional hit by ruthless Amateurs

Faltering Legion crumble as league leaders blast five goals

Football

Langholm 1
Duns Amateurs 5

By Craig Cuthbert

Langholm's bad run of form continued at the weekend as they crumbled to league leaders Duns Amateurs.

Despite home advantage, and the return of leading scorer Brian Mattinson, it was never going to be easy against a free-scoring Duns side who put eight past Legion back in August and have only lost twice this season.

And so it proved – although it was the

hosts who took the lead against the run of play.

Cole Hamilton has been one of the few rays of sunshine in Langholm's gloomy season, and the youngster once again showed why when he intercepted a pass in the Duns half before slicing into the box and smashing the ball into the top corner.

It was a superb goal, and Hamilton would go on to give the visitors' defence a torrid time all afternoon.

But at the other end, Duns were soon going about their business in ruthless fashion. Having absorbed the early blow, they stepped up their game and scored

twice to lead 2-1 at half time.

A bright start to the second half saw the lively Hamilton causing problems once again, and when his cross was scrambled home by Mattinson it looked like the perfect riposte to level the scores.

But the goal was ruled out for offside – and that, in terms of chances, was pretty much that.

Duns are reigning Division A champions for a reason, and it wasn't long before they set about punishing the Legion defence. They scored three unanswered second half goals, which might have been more had it not been for Johnson's heroics in goal.

The defeat, while not unexpected, nevertheless leaves Legion third bottom of the league and just four points ahead of Greenlaw, who have played four fewer games.

It adds extra spice to Saturday's clash at fellow strugglers Tweeddale, who are level on points. A win would ease a lot of the pressure – another defeat would leave Legion floundering.

Team : D Johnson, B Winter, L Irving, F Dell, C Pool, C Grieve, C Cuthbert, R Johnstone, C Hamilton, D Winter, B Mattinson. Subs (all used) C Johnstone, A Whittal, B Borthwick, T Henderson, R Hotson.

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