

A fine portrait

Sir Charles Malcolm is added to family gallery

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Lights fantastic!

Preview of Saturday's Muckle Switch-on event

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After predator kills hens, Wattie declares WAR!

By Nick Brownlee

Living alone in remote Winterhope, Wattie Rutherford's only companions were his 18 hens.

That was until they were targeted by a predatory mink – who over the course of just two weeks has systematically slaughtered the entire brood.

The loss of the birds has left Wattie devastated. But now the 84-year-old widower has declared war on the killer carnivore.

"I've kept hens and ducks for over 35 years, and you accept that now and again they are going to be attacked by other animals – that's just nature," Wattie said.

"But this is different. First it came and killed four of my hens, then came back a few days later and finished off the rest of them. When I came down and saw the carnage it had left in the enclosure I felt sick, and at that point I decided enough was enough."

American mink are highly prized for their fur, and it is thought that many populations now living in the wild in Scotland are related to animals freed by activists from farms where they were raised specifically for their coats.

They live near rivers and watercourses, and will typically prey on fish, small mammals, eggs and birds.

According to the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative, the American mink (*Mustela vison*) spread throughout the country following escapes from fur farms



WARPATH: Wattie Rutherford was devastated after a mink killed his hens

in the latter half of the 20th century.

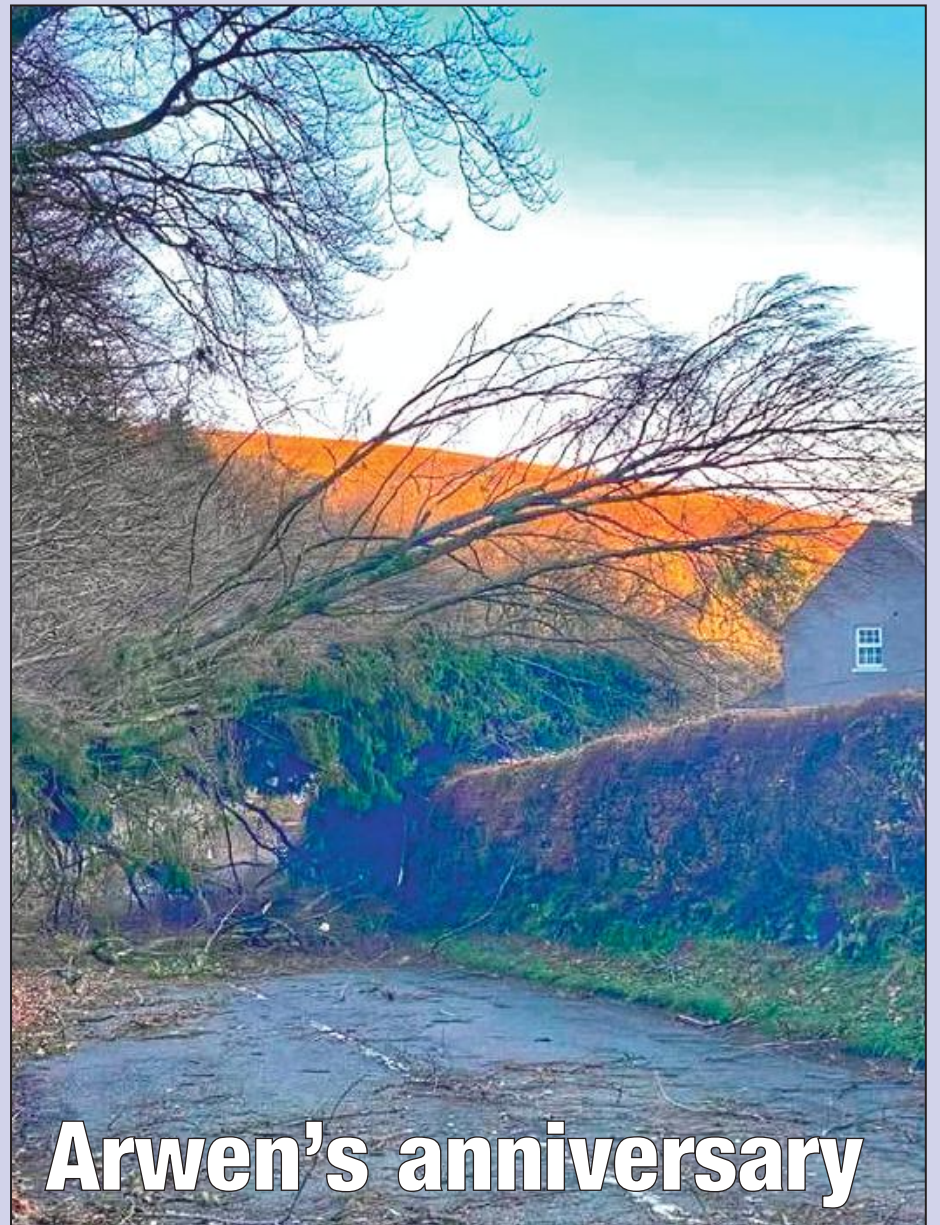
"Being an opportunistic predator, often killing more than they require for food, mink have had a devastating effect on our native wildlife," a spokesman said. "In particular ground nesting birds and water vole populations are vulnerable to predation by this avid hunter.

Wattie, a former filterman for Scottish Water, believes the mink responsible for killing his hens gained access to the enclosure from the burn that flows adjacent to his house.

"Where there's a river you're going to get the likes of otters living there, and while they'll come after birds they're nothing like mink," he says.

Wattie says he does intend to replace his hens – but is taking no chances on a repeat of the slaughter.

"I'll be setting up a cage trap, baited with raw meat. Mink are crafty wee devils, but I'm hoping it won't be able to resist it. I don't like to kill anything, but after what happened to my hens, this is war."



Arwen's anniversary

STORMY WEATHER: It's a year since Storm Arwen ripped through our region, with winds of up to 100mph causing spectacular damage – but thankfully taking no lives. To mark the anniversary of this extraordinary weather event, we've put together a four-page special in which people who lived through the storm have shared their memories of that unforgettable November night. Here's hoping for a somewhat quieter time this year!

Forreports and photos, turn to pages 7-10

Family Announcements

Thanks for Sympathy

HOGG, Maureen

Suddenly on 20th November 2022, in Dumfries Infirmary, after a long illness bravely borne, Maureen Hogg, née McNeil, Holmwood Drive, Langholm, dearly loved wife of John, a much-loved mam, granny and great-granny. Funeral details later.

IRVING, Ailsa

Irving, Ailsa, formerly of Rowanburn, died in London on 17 November aged 82 years. A much-loved sister, aunt and great-aunt.

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Arwen: a humbling reminder of the power of nature

Anyone who found themselves in the teeth of the storm on November 26, 2021, will never forget where they were that night.

But then Storm Arwen was the kind of once-in-a-generation weather event folk will be telling their grandchildren about in years to come.

This week we hear from just some of those who found themselves caught up in the chaos. It's clear that their memories of what happened are still vivid – but you will all have your own recollections.

A year later, Arwen's scars are still visible. Paths are still blocked by fallen trees and it could be many months before they are finally clear. It's a humbling reminder, if we needed it, of the frightening power of nature.

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012

Editor Nick Brownlee, Features Editor Gilly Fraser

All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Libby in line for award

Newcastleton pharmacist Libby Kennedy is in line for a prestigious national award.

She has made it through to the finals of the Scottish Healthcare Awards 2022 in the GP Practice Pharmacy of the Year category.

The awards cover a wide range of categories, including Innovative Technology Project of the Year, Developments in Female Health, Diabetes Project and Pharmacy Student Leadership. They recognise the massive contribution made by health workers across a highly complex industry.

Libby is no stranger to awards – in 2019 she was presented with the Respiratory Project of the Year title at the Scottish Pharmacy Awards.

Judges then described her as “an inspiring pharmacist, working at the very heart of her community. Her care and compassion for her patients is impeccable and the clinical outcomes she has achieved speak for themselves.”

In the same year, Libby's husband Dr Howard Kennedy was named Scotland's GP of the Year at the Scottish Health Awards.



INSPIRING: Libby Kennedy accepting her award in 2019

Indy blow as Supreme Court rules against second referendum

Supreme Court judges have rejected the Scottish government's argument that it can hold a second independence referendum.

In a ruling passed on Wednesday, Lord Reed said he and his fellow judges unanimously agreed that power on the issue lies with the UK government. For a vote to be held legally, Westminster would have to temporarily hand over those powers to Holyrood, like it did in 2014.

The first Scottish independence referendum eight years ago resulted in voters saying “no” to change. However, that did not settle the matter and the independence supporting SNP adminis-

tration in the Scottish Parliament wants another ballot next October.

Polling in the past few years suggests the electorate in Scotland is split more or less down the middle on the issue.

However ahead of the ruling, the Scottish government had said the next general election could be a de facto referendum on Scottish independence.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: “While disappointed by it I respect the ruling. But the Supreme Court doesn't make law, only interprets it. A law that doesn't allow Scotland to choose our own future without Westminster consent exposes as myth any notion

of the UK as a voluntary partnership and makes case for independence.”

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said he respected the unanimous ruling.

“People in Scotland want both their governments to be concentrating all attention and resources on the issues that matter most to them,” he said.

“That's why we are focussed on issues like restoring economic stability, getting people the help they need with their energy bills, and supporting our NHS.”

Hebrides MP Angus Brendan MacNeil said his preferred option would be an early Holyrood election.

“If we hold an election on only one issue, there's only one media narrative around that election and that would be independence or remaining in the union,” he said. “And I'm quite confident the people of Scotland would choose independence.”

He added: “The position now for the Scottish government and for people in Scotland is, if you want independence you have to use the ballot boxes at elections – and this ruling may ease the path or make more opportunities for Scottish independence going forward.”

“Scotland is effectively a hostage in the union, but the way out is of course the ballot box.”

Langholm model gives Hope to NHS

Cottage hospitals 'vital' to alleviate pressure on beds

Langholm's hospital is a shining example of why our region's cottage hospitals should be reopened.

The claim follows an appeal by councillors for mothballed medical facilities to be brought back online to relieve the pressure on beds across Dumfries and Galloway.

Cottage hospitals in Kirkcudbright, Newton Stewart and Moffat were closed in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Last week an independent group of councillors urged regional NHS chief Jeff Ace to reopen them to ease pressure on the health and social care system.

Dee and Glenkens ward representative, Cllr Dougie Campbell, who represents the Dee and Glenkens ward, said: "Kirkcudbright Cottage Hospital is very much valued by my local community and if re-opened could play a vital role in relieving current pressure on NHS staff, and importantly, make much needed beds available in the DGRI."

The Thomas Hope Hospital

remained open during the pandemic, however – and according to Langholm councillor Denis Male it should be a model for how cottage hospitals operate.

"There is no doubt that our cottage hospitals are a vital resource across Dumfries and Galloway, especially when the problem of lack of staff for out of hospital care is causing bed blocking in our main Dumfries and Galloway Hospital," he said.

"We are fortunate that the Thomas Hope is working to full capacity to relieve some of the pressure."

Cllr Male says the proposed development of sheltered and extra sheltered houses at Murtholm will also play a part. These are expected to be operational in 2024.

NHS Dumfries and Galloway has revealed it will shortly be carrying out a consultation as part of "a review of community bed base requirement".

Figures from the NHS Inform website suggest reopening the sites would add 58 hospital beds back into the region's capacity, which could allow patients to be closer to home while they



The Thomas Hope Hospital

waited for suitable care packages to be put in place.

Mr Ace recently admitted that in one day in October there were 139 people in the region's hospitals even though they were well enough to leave.

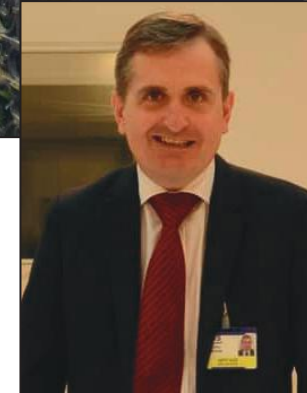
Castle Douglas councillor, Iain Howie, said: "Any measures that can be taken to alleviate the pressures on NHS staff and patients is absolutely welcomed and I support the actions being taken by the independent group."

In addition to the region's

main hospitals, at Dumfries and in Stranraer, there are community facilities in Annan, Castle Douglas, Lochmaben, and Thornhill.

A health board spokesman said: "Around two thirds of patients in our cottage hospitals are medically fit for discharge and we are working to enhance our community teams to speed up their journey home."

"Our community teams are currently supporting around 100 people who would otherwise



Jeff Ace

be delayed in hospital awaiting care and support in their own homes."

NEWS IN BRIEF

D&G attractions shine

Tourism businesses across Dumfries & Galloway have received recognition at Scotland's premier tourism and events awards.

A total of 13 businesses and individuals received an award at the Scottish Thistle Awards regional finals for the West, which took place last week in Glasgow.

The winner included Queensberry House in Moffat, The Ship Inn & No1 Fleet Street Restaurant in Castle Douglas, Kitchen Coos & Ewes in Newton Stewart, Loch Ken Eco Bothies in Castle Douglas, the Devil's Porridge Museum in Eastriggs, and the Annandale Distillery near Gretna.

This year saw more than 500 entries submitted, including almost 1,000 nominations from members of the public keen to give hotels, restaurants, B&Bs, visitor attractions and individuals the opportunity to earn the recognition they deserve in the part they play in making Scotland such a fantastic place to visit.

The regional winners will now come head-to-head with competition from other tourism businesses and events across Scotland at the National Final taking place in February 2023.

Sir Charles is the star of the show



RELATIVE VALUES: Charlotte Wylie, centre, great-great-granddaughter of Sir Charles Malcolm, at the unveiling of his portrait in Langholm Town Hall

An impressive painting of a distinguished son of Langholm was unveiled in its new home this week.

Sir Charles Malcolm was born in 1782, one of 17 children. His brothers included Sir John Malcolm, the statesman and diplomat whose monument still towers over the Muckle Toon.

Charles joined the navy at the age of 13 and was despatched to the East Indies, where he quickly rose up the ladder. In 1799 he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, and three years later became acting commander of the sloop Albatross.

In 1837 he became a rear-admiral, and 10 years later was promoted to vice-admiral.

The painting, which has gone in display at Langholm Town Hall, was donated to Dumfries and Galloway Council's Arts and Museum Service by the family of Sir Charles.

It was shipped from Devon and has had conservation work done on it to improve its condition. It will be displayed on the Band Room alongside paintings of the other brothers, and the official unveiling was



D&G Arts & Museum Service brings Sir Charles home

attended by Sir Charles Malcolm's great-great-granddaughter along with other invited guests. "Sir Charles is from a distinguished local family," said Cllr Archie Dryburgh, chair of the communities directorate.

"One of Langholm's most significant landmarks is The Malcolm Monument, and the Malcolms are a celebrated family with a statue of Charles's brother Sir Pulteney on display at the Town Hall too.

"We're pleased to be able to unveil this new portrait of Sir Charles in his home town."

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Shaun is keeping funerals in the family

Sons join their dad in running long-established Copshaw business

By Gilly Fraser

A long-established funeral directors has become a family concern following the retirement of one of its partners.

Philip Hedley has decided to step down from his post as the former Hedley & Turnbull in Newcastleton to leave the company in the capable hands of Shaun Turnbull and his sons Robbie, 21 and 17-year-old Harvey.

Shaun first joined the firm 15 years ago and says initially it was only to help out – but soon progressed to playing a far bigger role. He says Philip will be a very big miss to the business because he played such a huge part in it.

“Philip taught me the whole trade,” Shaun says. “He spent so much time guiding and helping me through the whole process, because there’s so much involved.”

“I would like Philip to know how much I appreciate first of all him inviting me in to do the funerals and all the time he has spent guiding me through the job itself because there’s so much involved, right from taking care of the body, organising the funeral and on the day itself. I can hardly even put into words how important that has all been and how much I appreciate it.”

Shaun admits it’s not a job



FAMILY TRADE: Shaun Turnbull is taking over at Hedley & Turnbull, with his sons Robbie and Harvey

that would suit everyone, but says Robbie and Harvey cope with all of its demands really well.

“They have both been helping me over the last year or so, so this just makes everything official. They’re both young but they have grown up with me doing this so they’re totally used to the business.”

Shaun had previously proved his versatility in a variety of jobs, including a stint with Harrison and Hetherington in Carlisle, the Grapes Hotel, and the Barbours factory.

Now he runs the village’s Spar shop and is its postmaster, he hosts events in Legends

function suite, is a member of the retained fire service, and continues with his home improvements business. But he says funerals take priority over everything else.

“Everything else just stops,” he says. “We are going to people when they’re suffering and they’re crying out for help.”

“They’ve just lost a loved one and they don’t know where to turn. Families have got enough to deal with at that time. They have to cope with their own grief and with letting everyone know and they’ve got folk coming in and out, so to get those other tasks taken off their shoulders is massive.”

Web help for struggling D&G residents

New site will provide cost of living advice

A new website has been launched to help Dumfries and Galloway residents with cost-of-living increases.

The site is a one-stop shop detailing help with money and benefits, household bills, finding work, health and wellbeing, as well as support for families, young people, the elderly, and disabled.

Cost-of-living increases are now affecting everyone living and working in our region, but many residents remain unaware of what help is available to them.

The website details the support at local, national, and UK level and will evolve as information and support changes.

It has been developed by the region’s Poverty and Inequalities Partnership and will signpost people in need to information and resources that can mitigate the impact of falling income or increased bills.

The Partnership is made up of local and national organisations, including Dumfries and Galloway Council, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, and Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service.

Its remit is to drive forward a local action plan and work collaboratively to tackle poverty and inequalities. The website is part of a wider campaign to highlight the cost-of-living support available and help those in need.

Dumfries and Galloway council co-Leader, Cllr Linda Dorward, said: “Dumfries and Galloway is known for coming together in a crisis: you only have to look at the region’s response to covid to see that.”

“Close working between partners is essential to support our citizens at all times, but particularly now with the cost-of-living increases being felt every time we go to the shops or check our bank accounts.”

“I welcome this new website, which makes it easier for those living in the region to access the help and support they need.”

Jeff Ace, NHS Dumfries and Galloway’s chief executive, said the cost-of-living pressures set to be faced by communities this winter were very significant, and had the potential to impact on people not just financially but also significantly in terms of health and wellbeing.

“As an individual organisation and as part of the wider Poverty and Inequalities Partnership, we are committed to providing what support we can to people during this extremely challenging period,” he added.

“I very much welcome the new website, which has been created as one of the resources people will be able to access, collecting information which may be of use and signposting to individual agencies.”

The website can be found at costofliving.dumgal.gov.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

D&G is “Best for Travel”

Our region has been named one of Lonely Planet’s “Best in Travel” destinations for 2023. It’s one of only two places in the UK, and 30 worldwide, to make the travel bible’s annual list.

The south of Scotland features in the guide’s Learn category, alongside Manchester, New Mexico, Dresden, El Salvador and Marseille.

According to the writers, the region’s history and culture make it the ideal place for delving into the past, to learn more about iconic figures such as Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott.

Iconic

Scotland’s Tourism Minister Ivan McKee said: “Scotland is one of the world’s most iconic destinations with diverse and varied regions to be explored. The inclusion of the South of Scotland in Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel 2023, only highlights this rich diversity.”

“This recognition will put the South of Scotland on the map for more foreign and domestic visitors and encourage them to stay longer and spend more as they sustainably explore and discover the region’s historical, cultural and natural attractions.”

“This will contribute to supporting the recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector.”

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on the issues affecting our area. You can write to us at Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser, 47A High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH or email your comments to newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk. In the interests of space, the editor reserves the right to shorten letters where necessary

Thanks for poppy generosity

I’d like to express my thanks on behalf of Poppy Scotland to all the residents of Canonbie, Chapelknowe, Glenzier and Rowanburn for contributing to the 2022 Poppy Appeal, raising a total of £1075.42.

This money is used by the charity to support military veterans who are suffering from debilitating physical and mental injuries as a consequence of their service, and helps re-build lives and support families in need.

Achieving this sum is only possible through the hard work and commitment of the volunteer door-to-door collectors freely giving their time and effort, and

the support of venues hosting collections. The local community’s support and generosity is outstanding.

Many thanks also to all those people who attended the Community Remembrance Service. The Royal British Legion Liddesdale, Canonbie Community Council and the Probus Club laid wreaths, along with a number of personal memorials in memory of those who gave their lives for their country.

I’m grateful to Jenni and Paul Williams for helping lead the memorial, to Kenneth Hill and piper Iain Bell for their music, and the help of the traffic marshals enabling us to mark this occasion with respect.

Chris Jagger
Poppy Scotland Area Organizer
(Canonbie & District)

Through the courtesy of the E&L, may I publicise and thank everyone who donated to the Langholm Area Poppy Scotland Appeal 2022.

Thanks to all the businesses and schools etc for hosting a tin; the Coop and local market for allocating us a charity table.

Thanks also to the many collectors, old and new, for walking the streets – including Benty and Ewes – some of whom have been involved in this for 30-plus years. Its pleasing to witness the younger generation offering to help.

To the Countfest Team who gave up their time again, with the addition of the Bank Girls Kerrie and Jill on their day off – thank you. The total for the Langholm area was £2,473.15.

Kate Turk
Langholm Area Organiser for
Langholm Social Club



FAREWELL: From grocer John Ritchie

John says thank you

First of all I would like to thank my customers for their support of my shops over the last 52 years, in the Market Place, Henry Street and lastly Thomas Telford Road.

The gifts and cards I have received have been overwhelming. I’m sure I don’t deserve them all as I considered myself just doing my job. Also the messages on Facebook – it was great to read them all.

Lastly I will miss all the chats and stories told over the years. They were all true!

John M Ritchie
26 Thomas Telford Road
Langholm

Join us at the lights fantastic!



Christmas Lights Switch-on promises another Muckle day of fun

It'll be a case of 'ACTION! MUSIC! LIGHTS!' this weekend, as Langholm gears up for the long-awaited festive switch-on.

After two years in the dark thanks to Covid, the Muckle Toon will once again be aglow when the Christmas Lights once more herald the start of celebrations.

And there's a full programme of activities leading up to the big moment when Santa and his helpers flick the switch in the Market Place on Saturday afternoon.

The fun starts at 2pm when Santa, accompanied by the Langholm Pipe Band, leaves the Buccleuch Centre bound for his grotto in the Eskdale Hotel. It's there that, for just £2, local children can visit the man himself and – as long as they've been good – receive a present.

Meanwhile outside in a marquee in the Health Centre car park there will be a cookery demonstration, and a chance to visit various stalls. You can even see

Santa's reindeer, which will be on display in the Buck Yard along with free roasted chestnuts.

There will be music and entertainment throughout the afternoon, courtesy of the Esk Valley Jazz Men, the Langholm Town Band and members of LAODS.

Daffy Dill will be wandering the streets with her giant bubble hoop, while Mary the Faerie will be sprinkling old and young with her magic fairy dust.

This culminates at 4pm with carol singing around the market place before the blessing of the tree and the switch-on itself at 4.30pm.

Shops, galleries, hotels and restaurants will be open all day, with special gift offers, and complimentary festive refreshments.

The organisers would like to say a huge thank you to the people of Langholm and surrounding areas, who have helped or donated to the Langholm Christmas Lights Appeal, and special thanks to Ashleybank Investments, Buccleuch Estates, and LE&W Community Council for their support.



OLD BUFFERS: Kenneth Pool and Alan Weatherstone 'press the button' at last year's event as Billy Young and Santa look on.

Left: Iain Bell, Ian Anderson and Keith Lauder provide the music



SLEIGH BELLS: Santa and Mrs Claus with Amelia Vevers and Ella Basnett



NEWS IN BRIEF

Fishing boat tragedy

A man has died in hospital after a fishing boat capsized in a harbour in Dumfries and Galloway.

Emergency services were called to the scene near Port William Harbour, Newton Stewart around 4.30pm on Saturday, after reports of a boat in difficulty.

A report is now due to be sent to the Procurator Fiscal to establish the full circumstances of the incident.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: "We were made aware of a boat which got into difficulty and capsized near to Port William, Newton Stewart around 4.30pm on Saturday, November 19.

"A man was taken to Galloway Community Hospital where he died a short time later."

Bridge results

1st Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2nd Scott Muir & Jim Muir, 3rd Doreen Taylor & Lesley McCartney, 4th Doug Dixon & Tom Stothart, 5th Jan Dunckley & Aileen Graham.

Festive bus times 2022

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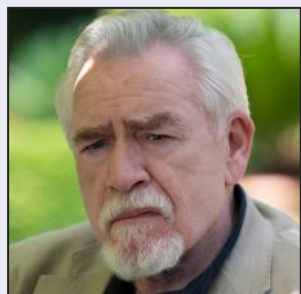
Actors sign open letter

Scottish actors Brian Cox (right) and Alan Cumming put their names to an open letter calling for an end to factory farming sent to world leaders at COP 27.

The letter was organised by the group Compassion in World Farming and signed by more than two hundred celebrities including Chris Packham, Jane Goodall and Dame Joanna Lumley.

The letter states, "If the global community is to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement targets and the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, action must be taken now to end industrial animal farming.

"From pollution to the climate crisis and wildlife extinctions. From animal cruelty to human hunger and malnutrition. Take a closer look at almost any global challenge, and you'll



find food at its core. A system based on overproduction and unhealthy food is propped up by intensive farming methods."

Alan Cumming says he's supporting the campaign to help change what he describes as a broken system.

"The amount of human edible food we produce just to feed the animals we slaughter for meat is beyond wasteful – especially when millions of people around the world go hungry every day. We need a food system that is fair, kind and sustainable."

A tax on methane?

NZ is first to unveil levy based on herd emissions

It's no secret that the relationship between agriculture and greenhouse gases is becoming ever more contentious.

Agriculture is reckoned to be the fifth biggest producer of greenhouse gas emissions and produced around 11 percent of the UK's total in 2020. The biggest culprits are cows and sheep, because they have digestive systems which naturally produce methane.

The mission now is to create what's been described as a 'Net Zero Cow', through a mixture of selective breeding, improved livestock health, feeding additives which reduce the production of methane. And mixed agriculture systems, such as growing legumes in rotation.

Research is being carried out in a number of places including the Roslin Institute at Edinburgh University and the results look promising with the possibility of new breeding strategies to lower methane emissions, as well as new feed additives or probiotics.

On the other side of the world however, new government proposals have forced farmers to take to the streets to protest. In New Zealand it's estimated that half of the country's greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture.

Now in what's believed to be a world first, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has unveiled a plan for a new tax based on herd's emissions.

Money raised would be returned to the agricultural industry for research, technology, and incentive payments to farmers for their efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

The New Zealand PM announced that the new system would enable the country to meet its target of emitting 10 percent less methane by 2030 and move it toward a cut of at least 24 percent by 2050.

The plan has not been received favourably in many quarters. Greenpeace said it didn't go far enough and opposition MPs sug-



METHANE TAX: NZ Premier, Jacinda Ardern's proposals have met with resistance from the farming community

gested that production would simply be relocated to other countries with less stringent regulations.

Meanwhile Federated Farmers, the country's biggest lobbying group, said the plan would "rip the guts out of small-town New Zealand" and protests were held in more than fifty cities and towns with farmers driving their tractors at a snail's pace on busy

highways and city streets, causing considerable traffic chaos.

The government hopes to deliver a final report by the end of the year and if it's approved, the proposals could become reality by 2025. However New Zealand is due to hold its next General Election in 2024, so the farming community will first have their say through the ballot box.

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Project will improve productivity, profitability and sustainability

Two farms in the south of Scotland have been chosen to take part in the next stage of a scheme designed to improve productivity, profitability and sustainability.

The Monitor Farm Scotland Project is managed jointly by Quality Meat Scotland and AHDB Cereals and Oilseeds with funding from the Scottish Government.

Barnbuckle in Dumfriesshire is a beef and sheep farm run by Richard McCormick, his partner Hayley Currie and Richard's parents, Andrew and Janice. They run 150 suckler cows, 20 store cattle and 700 ewes.

Cowbog in Roxburghshire is a mixed tenanted farm, with two holdings and a contract farming arrangement with the Roxburgh Estates. Husband and wife team, Robert and Lucy Wilson, together with Robert's parents have one of the oldest established herds of Herefords

in the country, with 100 suckler cows plus followers, and 20 finishing cows. They also have a small flock of sheep and land in arable or forage production, and they run the award-winning Wilson's Farm and Kitchen which specialises in farm tours and food experiences.

They say they'll use their time with the project to carry out a whole farm review, with biodiversity audit, in depth soil analysis and evaluation of the business to see where things can be improved.

Evaluate

Along with the other seven monitor farms chosen this year, they will each have their own dedicated management team plus an associated Business Group to evaluate solutions and best practice.

The initiative was first launched in 2003 and Programme Manager Beth



BIODIVERSITY: Robert and Lucy Wilson of Cowbog Farm have been chosen to take part in the Monitor Farm Scotland Project

Alexander says those chosen to take part all find enormous benefits.

"During its lifetime, the Monitor Farm initiative has pioneered new ways of working, experimented with fresh ideas and most importantly, improved the productivity and profitability of the businesses it has worked with," she said. "The journeys

these farms go on will be as unique as the farms themselves."

Scotland's Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon says the scheme can tick many boxes.

"This long-running programme is ideally placed to support the wider agricultural sector to optimise production, contributing to our food security while helping meet our targets."

The day the storm came

Remembering Arwen, November 26 2021



When Arwen stormed through Eskdale, it caused enormous amounts of devastation in the valley, bringing down thousands of trees.

Reports of injury to people and property were limited but the destruction in our forests and to the Langholm walks was substantial and is still being cleared up.

Some people, who were out of their homes on the evening of 26th, struggled to get home and were probably lucky to get to their destination without injury.

On the 26th itself there were storm warnings coming through on the news and late morning the Met Office issued a red weather warning for areas on the east coast.

There were also amber warnings – but Langholm and Eskdale were in the yellow weather warning area and people could never have envisaged what actually was about to hit them.

These are just some of their stories...

Reporting Team: MAIRI TELFORD JAMMEH and FREYA McCALL

Arwen: 'The storm outside did roar and rustle'

'The wind was like a jet plane'

Jane and Jamie Telford, who live just outside Langholm on the side of a hill heard the weather forecast which mentioned the storm... but they weren't taking it very seriously...

JAMIE: At 8.30pm we heard the wind getting up, and by 8.45pm sticks were hitting the windows and it was really wild. The noise of the wind was like the sound of a jet plane taking off. It was frighteningly loud.

JANE: We put our nose out of the door but were hit by flying sticks and leaves and quickly came back in. The wind was scary. At 9pm the lights went out and we had no electricity after that for five and a half days. We went to bed early because it was cold and we had no lights, but we could still hear the jet plane wind.

The couple slept until about 4am and by then the wind had died but they had no phone signal or electricity. Jamie then decided to drive out to get a phone signal to report the power being out, but the end of the road was covered by fallen trees.

JAMIE: Jane decided to go out for a look and discovered that not only were those

trees down but three in the garden had come down too. One had gone through a dyke, one narrowly missed the oil tank and one completely took out our compost heap which had gone down the steep gully to one side of us. I've never seen anything like it before.

JANE: I experienced the 1987 storm when I was living in Hackney in London in a top floor flat. The lights went out then and in the middle of the night everything was blowing horizontally. The chimney pot fell off, bounced off our roof and at that point I thought anything could happen. With Arwen I at least didn't feel that the house could blow away!

JAMIE: Eventually we got to the Douglas Hotel where we were welcomed, and we tried to use their wi-fi and were able to eat there.

JANE: Thankfully we have a woodburning stove and could just get a small pan of water on that to fill hot water bottles. We also had lots of candles and we were able to eat and shower at friends' or relatives' houses over the next few days.

'Surreal – but a great community spirit'

Though the storm earned an amber weather warning at night, hundreds of Dumfries and Galloway residents woke up to a near apocalyptic scene. Structural damage, power outages and roads blocked awaited anyone that walked or drove through Langholm to survey the damage.

The Hallpath woods, now in the process of being replanted and managed by the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, was near flattened in a matter of hours.

"When I woke up we seemed to be getting a lot more light than usual," recalled Hallpath resident Alice Roberts. "I went outside and saw the entire woods, which usually blocked the morning sunlight, fallen down."

The changed landscape wasn't the only effect of the storm, however. Hundreds of homes across the region were left without power for more than five days.

"The wind had been picking up the past few days. At about 9pm the power cut off suddenly. Being cut off was surreal," said Alice. On Hallpath, curiosity brought people together.

"There was a large group of people on Saturday morning at the entrance to the woods, staring at it because no one could comprehend what was happening."

Although the destruction of the woods was a strange adjustment for Hallpath residents, it has opened up an opportunity for regrowth, with the natural regeneration of the woods encouraging volunteers to get involved with caring for the beautiful scenery surrounding Langholm.

"There was a great community spirit," Alice said. "Despite everything, it was nice to meet up with people outside their houses, talking and catching up with everything going on."

Interview by FREYA McCALL



Davie Reid's wood on the outskirts of Langholm has been flattened, with trees also bringing down electricity cables

Picture by Stan Wilson



A huge branch split off a fir tree on Francis Street, Langholm

Picture by Sharon Tolson



Tree uprooted in the centre of Buccleuch Park in Langholm

Picture by Gavin Graham



Arwen even gets the Armstrong Tarran coo on the Kilgreen Picture by Sharon Tolson



The path from Castleholm to Langholm Lodge has been completely obliterated

'We sang Auld Lang Syne – then the lights went out!'

A group of 11 members of Langholm Rotary Club were at a function at Hawick on the night of Storm Arwen.

As soon as Auld Lang Syne was sung at the end of the event the lights went out. Word had come through that the minibus was unable to come back for the group and alternative transport arrangements had to be made.

Taxis were found, although one member had come by car and he set off. On reaching Walker's Hole however he was stuck due to fallen trees blocking the road.

Not knowing Langholm well, he parked at the Whitshiels business units and stayed in his car all night. With no phone signals there was no way to communicate with anyone.

Another group also parked at the Whitshiels but they walked round by Milntown to get home. The third group parked up and, keen to get home, clambered over the fallen trees.

Tom Stothart was one of them, and he said: "I never thought about going round by Milntown. All the way down the road we weren't sure if our road would be blocked by a fallen tree or not. It was a wild night and the wind was still high on our way home and it was quite frightening."

"In retrospect we realised that the trees we climbed over might not have settled properly and more could have fallen so we were probably lucky not to have been injured."



This shed landed on its roof in the middle of the road between Canonbie and Kirkpatrick Fleming

Picture by Katie Smith

'I thought I was going to die'

Sue Toon left Langholm about 5.30pm to collect something in Annan. Little did she know what her journey home might be like.

"I knew there was a storm on its way but as this area hadn't been forecast the red alert I wasn't too worried.

"As I left there was a tree down on the other side of the Skippers' bridge, but I was able to navigate around it.

"In Annan it was breezy, but heading back to Langholm I was told the A7 was blocked as lots of trees were falling. I then tried to come by the Gilnockie Road, but it too was blocked by trees on the Langholm side of Long-

wood lodge.

"A small car got through and I went so far in this car – but there was another tree down before the end of the road. I returned to my own car, and along with another car which I followed we aimed to get to Lockerbie and come round the Eskdalemuir road. The journey was hard but the worst was yet to come.

"As I got further down the road towards Langholm I knew I was only a couple of miles from the town, but then I was blocked by more trees, running out of fuel and had no mobile phone signal.

"You feel fairly safe in the car, but I was between a rock and a hard place so decided to get out



TERRIFIED: Sue Toon

and walk. The noise of the wind was deafening. I've never heard anything like it. It was like the loudest rock concert but it was wind!

"I could hear trees falling and then wires were down and I had no idea what they were. I had to

clamber over trees and when eventually I was so happy eventually to see the Langholm sign. I was terrified.

"Walking on I had to cross the Langholm bridge and thought I was going to get blown over. It was seriously blowy. I eventually got home at 1am, where there was no electricity.

"The next day me and my husband returned to try to retrieve the car. There was a tree on the road in front of it and another behind it but no damage to the car.

"I have never experienced anything like this before. It was a very frightening experience and I genuinely thought I was going to die. It has made me acutely aware of what wind can do."

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.bears Scot.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

‘The lights flickered, then went out... We knew then it was serious’



TEAM WORK: Rally drivers, who were stranded in the town, and the emergency services combine efforts to clear the A7 the morning after the storm

‘I felt like a refugee’

Adrian Solomon lives at Lyneholm in Westerkirk, but on the night of Storm Arwen was at a concert at Eskdalemuir Hub.

“There was beautiful ambient lighting in the hall and lovely music from the trio of musicians. I was sitting by the window looking out and could see the bunting flapping and I could hear the wind. The lights flashed a few times during the concert but came back on and the musicians played on. There was such an amazing atmosphere.

“The concert finished at 10.30pm and I set off to drive down the Castle O’er road. There were lots of pieces of trees flying about and just before the entrance to Castle O’er a tree was down, but myself and the people in the car in front of him managed to move it enough to get past.

“The noise of the wind made a roaring sound which was punctuated by branches breaking and

bits landing all over the place

“When I got home the electricity was off, so I went to bed but around midnight I was still awake and there was an enormous cracking sound when a tree hit the roof.

“The whole house shook and the tree rumbled down the roof. I went to the front door and all the tree branches were forming a canopy over the door.

I went back to bed and in the morning I saw that the tree had pulled down cables and a telegraph pole which were lying at the door of the next door house.

“I went next door but there was no signal anywhere although the neighbours had been told to get out of their house because of the power cables so they left to stay with friends. I decided to go back to Eskdalemuir to my friend’s house and fortunately my car was okay. However, near Bessie’s Hill there were so many trees down I

couldn’t get through.

“Tom, who lives nearby, offered to show me how to get onto the Lockerbie road through the forest tracks, so we zig-zagged along and that road was clear. When I got to Eskdalemuir I felt like a refugee and there was no electricity at my friend’s house either.

“Fortunately the tree that came down near my house wasn’t the biggest trunked tree – there were bigger trees. The roof damage was only to ridge tiles and tiles on the gable but it was not extensive.

“I had no electricity for three days but Scottish Power sent a team who worked in the dark using big arc lights cutting away the tree, making the cables safe and restoring our electricity.

“There could have been a tragedy that night but thankfully there wasn’t. I learned later that on the night of the storm the musicians had negotiated fallen trees on their way to where they were staying at Davington.”

Stranded at the Benty as the storm raged

On the night of the storm, Mairi Telford Jammeh and her son were planning to drive to Kinlochleven in the highlands, but changed their minds because of the storm warnings.

“I was very concerned about him driving across Rannoch moor where there can be high winds, so he eventually changed his plans.

“That evening I left about 6.30pm to go to Eskdalemuir Hub to a concert and although it was windy on the drive up the road and there was a bit of snow, which made me think of turning back at one point, I arrived unscathed.

“I had planned to stay overnight at the Benty with a friend rather than risk the longer drive back to Langholm.

“The concert was lovely with Nick Jenkins on fiddle along with two other musicians and the warm lighting and buffet kept us warm and we would never have known there was a storm raging outside. There

was an occasional flicker of the lights but they didn’t go out while I was there.

“About 10.30pm we stepped outside to drive to the Benty and it was then that we realised the strength of the wind howling outside. We had been totally cocooned in the concert and were oblivious to Storm Arwen raging outside.

“Nevertheless, we got down the road without mishap although when we got there the tree above my friend’s house was swaying perilously in the wind and the house was without power.

“I slept like a log in the room with the stove and woke the next morning to calm.

“The tree that had looked so dangerous the previous night was still standing and the wind had gone. Gradually we discovered that the roads to Langholm were both blocked by fallen trees so I was stranded at the Benty for a few more hours.”



COPSHAW: Newcastleton didn’t escape the wrath of Arwen



NO WAY OVER: Langholm’s Duchess’ Bridge was out of action for many months after being damaged by falling trees

Renewable Energy Systems 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 Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (RES), company registration number 1589961, with its Registered Office at Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LR, has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a generating station comprising of a wind farm and battery energy storage system, known as Bloch Wind Farm, in Dumfries and Galloway near Langholm, south of the B7068 (Central Grid Reference E 333000, N 580000). The combined installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be 171MW (126MW wind farm and 45MW battery energy storage system) comprising up to 21 wind turbines with a maximum ground to blade tip height of 230 metres and has been subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. An EIA Report has been produced to accompany the application for consent.

RES 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, are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Location	Normal Opening Hours	Address
Langholm Town Hall	Monday: 9am to 12 noon, 1pm to 5pm Thursday: 9am to 12 noon, 1pm to 5pm	Market Place, High St, Langholm DG13 0JQ
Middlebie Community Centre	When the facilities are open for activities	Middlebie Lockerbie DG11 3HT

An additional hard copy will be available upon request with Middlebie and Waterbeck Community Council.

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 www.bloch-windfarm.co.uk or on the Scottish Government Energy Consents website at www.energyconsents.scot under application reference ECU00003463.

Copies of the EIA Report may be obtained from Carey Green (telephone: +44 1872 226 931 / email: carey.green@res-group.com) at a charge of £1,500 per hard copy or free of charge on DVD/CD/USB.

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 **12th January 2023**, 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.



Looking back...

25 Champs of Scotland pride of Langholm

1997

Langholm's disco dancers have done it again ... for the second year running they have taken the title of Scottish Champions.

And the youngsters who are all under 15 not only did themselves proud, but also their home town.

Nearly 50 dancers and supporters went to Inverness for the finals of the Youth Clubs Scotland Disco Dancing Championships, hopeful of retaining the title they won last year in Dumfries.

But with several of them suffering from muscle problems and heavy colds as well as feeling the strain of the gruelling training and travelling, they knew it would not be easy to hang on to the title.

In the event the girls performed magnificently on the day to recapture the shield.

Four of last year's team – Amy Brown, Sharon

Mattinson, Kerry Robinson and Kirsty Rose – were joined by Donna Adams and Lizzie Irving, with Gemma Ireland as reserve.

Secretary Barbara Mitchell said the girls had behaved and danced superbly.

“The girls should be really proud of themselves and it is nice to see these competitions and that our kids are little gems. They did us all proud” said Mrs Mitchell.

But she stressed none of it would have been possible without the great support given by local organisations and individuals to ensure they were able to get to the championship which this year had involved a two-night stay in Inverness.

However, their success in Inverness has now created another problem for it means they automatically go forward into the British finals which will be held in March. As yet they have no idea where they will be.



50 Langholm marksman's success

1972

Mr P A Varley, proprietor of the Eskdale Hotel, Langholm, and the founder of the Eskdale Air Rifle and Pistol Club, figured prominently in the prize list at the Scottish National Small-bore Rifle meeting which was recently held in Galashiels.

In the small-bore pistol event Mr Varley was runner up to the champion Mr P Welsh of Plymouth, while he also tied for first place in the “Pool Bull” competition.

The Eskdale Club, the first of its kind in Scotland, has entered teams in the National Pistol and Rifle Leagues, and registered a win against Fords, scoring 370 points against 362 by the motormen. The individual marks for the Eskdale team were as follows: PA Varley 99; G Hagen 98; I Liggins 86; E Armitage 87.

In their match against H&L Slater, the Eskdale team were defeated by 390 to 362.

Eskdale scores: G Robertson 90; A Weatherstone 92; J Fisher 89; A Weatherstone 91.

The Eskdale Club in Langholm is going on from strength to strength. It now has a membership of 38 and meets each Tuesday in the Eskdale Hotel, and arrangements are presently being made to have an inter-club match with Hawick Miniature Rifle Club.

It is of interest to note that according to the rules of the National Association both air rifles and pistols are fired in an unsupported standing position.

Special dispensation, however, has been officially granted to Eskdale team member, Mr Alan Corrie, Stubholm, who represented Scotland in the last two Paraplegic Games in weight-lifting and basket-ball and his fellow members hope that air rifles and pistol shooting is included in forthcoming Paraplegic Games and he will be chosen for the Scottish side in such events.

75 Royal Wedding

1947

November 1947 will never be remembered as the month in which Princess Elizabeth, elder daughter of the King and Queen, and heir presumptive to the throne, was married to Lt. Phillip Mountbatten (Duke of Edinburgh) in Westminster Abbey. It was the climax to a Royal romance that had started the emotions of the whole world and for one week, at least, it transformed Britain's austere capital into a city of dazzling light and gaiety in which was reflected the pomp, dignity and regal splendour of a bygone age. It also made history in that throughout the country the impressive ceremony was, for the first time, attended by millions of unseen guests. In Langholm, we anticipated it for weeks; we were thrilled by the very thought of it; we speculated on what it would be like; then we listened in to it all and, like millions more, marvelled at its simplicity. Our schools

closed down for the day; otherwise it was a case of business as usual in the town; but most of us managed a few minutes off in which to listen in to our first Royal Wedding.

The Weather

November will also be remembered for the variety and beastliness of the weather served us. Following the severe frost a fortnight ago which made the most case-hardened sit closer to the fire at night, came a week of such mild treachery as to leave many householders in doubt whether to call in the plumber or evacuate to the garden shed for the remainder of the month. However, we had the comfort of knowing that such conditions were general throughout Scotland. The heavens opened last weekend, when we were treated to as nasty a gale of wind and rain as we could wish for. On the whole we will shed no tears at the passing of this memorable month.



C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday 17th November 2022



C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 8,863 sheep comprising of 5,031 prime lambs and 3,832 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown on **Thursday 17th November 2022.**

A larger show of cast cows and bulls was forward, again to a full ring of competitive purchasers ensuring all classes met a marvelous trade with many more required on a weekly basis to satisfy buyer demand here at Longtown. The sale topped at 211p for a Simmental from first time vendor D Mackay, Lednabirichen, Caithness, who sold others at 188p and 172p, with dairy bred British Blue cows topping at 170p from GF Davies & Co., Upper Glendiven, Langholm. Salers to 168p from A Reid & Co., Glendearg, Eskdalemuir, which also topped at the price per head at £1,797. Simmental cows to £1,616 from Lednabirichen and Blues sold to £1,377 from Upper Glendiven. RW Telfer, Spadeadam had Angus sell to £1,184 with Beef Shorthorns to £1,036 from J Anderson, Rowanburnfoot, Canonbie.

A larger show of 5,031 prime lambs was forward.

Top price per kilo of 384p for a Texel lamb consigned by Oli Harrison of Aimshaugh, Alston, consigned a lamb which was donated to raise money for SCBU Equipment Fund for the Special Care Baby Unit. This lamb also topped

the price per head at £200 and was purchased by J Gittins of Ystum Colwyn Farms Ltd, with a further £500 given from Ystum Colwyn Ltd and West Scottish Lamb Ltd. £320 was donated each from T Holmes, Pickstock Foods Ltd and MacTaggart Bros, £300 from Field Fresh Trading Ltd, Farmers Fresh Ltd and ALHR Farms Ltd with an additional £260 from A Watret and C&D Auction Mart. A Blackface lamb was also very kindly donated from Messrs Walton, Wanwood Hill for the charity and sold for £100 to Ystum Colwyn raising a fantastic grand total of £3,680.

The directors, auctioneers and all the staff at Longtown Auction Mart thank all the purchasers who stepped forward to raise funds for this well worthy cause. Your support is appreciated by both the families involved and by Longtown Auction Mart.

Lambs on a whole sold to a slight resistance as more numbers piled forward nationwide. Heavy lambs were forward in massive numbers with trade slightly easier than last week's high rates of return. Best export lambs regularly exceeded 300ppk, achieving a very satisfying sale average of 245ppk.

Out with the charity lambs, heavy lambs Topped at £185 for Texels consigned by Messrs Ward, Whitstonehill, Lockerbie.

Top price per kilo of 332p for handy weight Beltex lambs consigned by Messrs Marrs, Broomhills, Carlisle. Overall average 245.3p (SQQ 245.6p)

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Texel 384p Aimshaugh, 304p Peela Hill & Pasture House, 298p Corneyside, 297p Cubbyhill & Chirdon.

Beltex 332p Broomhills, 330p Thornthwaite Close, 328p Waterloo, 320p Kilford Croft & Huntley Lodge.

Dutch Texel 320p Kirkhouse. **Suffolk** 279p, 269p Kilford Croft, 251p Achscrabster, 250p Chirdon, Kilford Croft, Pasture House & Westernhopeburn.

Blackface 270p Wanwood Hill, 250p Nutholm, 238p, 235p Wanwood Hill, 235p Greensburn.

Charollais 269p Basco Dykehead, 265p Parkhill, 262p Achamore. **Millenium Blue** 254p, 250p Aldermansat.

Cheviot 249p Balure, 248p Nether Overhill, 244p, 242p Lawesknowe, 240p Huntly Lodge.

Herdwick 248p Ashness. **Cheviot Mule** 246p Langholm, 241p Nether Overhill.

Mule 244p Greensburn, 242p Langholm, 241p Dalbhraddan, 240p Low Dunashery & Wanwood Hill. **North Country Cheviot** 240p, 232p Westerloch.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

Texel £200 Aimshaugh, £160, £156 Prior House, £155 Achamore, £152 Kirkhouse, £149 Achamore.

Beltex £185, £175 Whitstonehill, £156 Kilford Croft, £149 Whitstonehill, £145 High Stenries.

North Country Cheviot £156 Westerloch.

Cheviot £148 Lawesknowe, £132 Kirkton.

Suffolk £144 Slealands, £143, £141 Kilford Croft, £139 Upper Auquhadlie, £137 The Land.

Dutch Texel £144, £140 Kirkhouse. **Millenium Blue** £135, £130 Aldermansat.

Half-bred £133 High Moat. **Charollais** £131 Achamore, £127, £125 Tinnishall.

Mule £129 Brookside, £114 Parkdargue, £112 Miller Hill & Nether Stenries.

A smaller show 3,832 cast ewes and rams was forward to the same ringside of competitive purchasers ensuring all classes were sold to increased rates of return. With next to no pure bred Texel ewes in, the three quarter bred ewes took a big lift. Best bred Texel/Beltex ewes are keenly sought after and wanted in numbers for next week's sale. Heavy horned ewes and Mules also took a big lift and again are actively sought after for next week's sale. Heavy ewes topped at £250 for Texels shown by Gillespie Farms, Gillespie,

Lockerbie. Umpteen amounts of Mule ewes received returns from £110 - £125, topping at £138 from Viewley Hill ewes topped at £120 for Hill Cheviot ewes from D Henderson & Son, Moorside, Wick. Whilst Blackface ewes topped at £115 and £105 for 2 penful's consigned by Messrs Ballentyne, Cowburnrigg, Haltwhistle. Rams were forward in great numbers and sold to a top of £225 for Texels from PH McVittie, Burn House, Haltwhistle.

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
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HEAVY EWES

Texel £250 Gillespie, £235 Rought Hill & Eastside, £228, £222 West Nubbock, £222 Viewley, £218 Dormansteads.

Beltex £152 Finnieness. **Suffolk** £150 Firth View, £148 Viewley & Hallees, £142 Mindork, £140 Bowsden Moor.

Cheviot Mule £142 Dormansteads, £137, £134 Mindork.

North Country Cheviot £138, £133,

£122 Achscrabster, £120 Nether Stenries & Viewley.

Mule £138, £130 Viewley, £129 West Nubbock, £125 Killeonan, £124 Beckhall.

Bluefaced Leicester £138 Underwood, £130 Nutholm.

LIGHT EWES

Hill Cheviot £120 Moorside, £117, £114 Low House, £108 Devonport Farms, £98 Nutholm, £97 Glendearg.

Blackface £115, £105 Cowburnrigg, £91 West Nubbock, £90 Wanwood Hill.

Jacob £112, £96 Killeonan. **Romney** £89, £86 Holme Farm, £82 Nutholm.

Kerry Hill £85 Nutholm & Westerloch.

Lleyen £85 Huntly Lodge. **Swaledale** £82 Gallowberry, £79 Devonport Farms.

Easycare £73 Huntly Lodge.

RAMS
Texel £225 Burn House, £205 Achscrabster, £188 Viewley & Nunsclough.

Charollais £185 Brookside. **Blue Texel** £175 Nether Stenries.

North Country Cheviot £160 Devonport Farm.

Beltex £152 Finnieness. **Romney** £148, £145 Pearsby Hall.

Suffolk £135 Stemster, £128 Nutholm.

Cheviot £130 Lawesknowe, £116 Nutholm, £110 Crosscleugh.

Winter chill is my cue for a garden tidy-up



Now is the time to get things shipshape for next year, says HELEN KNOWLES

November has been fantastically warm – but temperatures are finally dipping down to their usual levels.

Hopefully the rainfall will ease off too, as the soil is now so waterlogged that it makes doing any work in the beds and borders a bit awkward.

If you do have to get in to do any digging then using walk boards will help to reduce soil compaction; but when the conditions are this wet it can quickly deteriorate into a clarty mess, so unless it's really urgent it's probably best left until the ground has had a chance to dry out a bit.

Besides, there are always plenty of other jobs to be getting on with.

If you have plants in pots outside over the winter, especially those sitting on hard surfaces such as paving slabs or concrete, then they will benefit from being lifted up on pot feet as this will allow water to drain from the pot more easily and reduce the risk of waterlogging.

The last of the summer flowering annuals are really past their best now, so it's time to clear them away and add them to the compost heap, along with the remainder of the fallen leaves.

They will all rot down and make a wonderful mulch for the garden.

If you can get a bit of digging done then this is an ideal time of year to plant bare-root hedging, trees (including fruit trees), shrubs, fruit bushes and roses before the weather turns cold.

Bare-root plants have the advantage of being much cheaper to buy than pot-grown plants so are a really good choice if you need a large number of plants or are working to a tight budget.

If you already have fruit bushes in the garden, but would like more, then now is the time to take hardwood cuttings.

It's really easy and works with a range of plants, including many ornamental shrubs and roses too. Hardwood cuttings are traditionally lined out in trenches but



LOOKING FORWARD: Apple Blossom, top, red currants and Rosa 'Wickwar'

if you don't have the space for that then large plant pots work just as well.

Vermiculite

I tried taking rose cuttings for the first time last winter and simply filled three-litre plant pots with a mix of compost and sharp sand (a gritty mix of compost and sand, vermiculite or perlite will work just as well).

I put the cuttings into the pots, pushing them well in and then left them in a sheltered spot outside, watered them when required during the spring and early summer, and then once there were roots peeping out of the bottom I carefully tipped them out and potted them on individually.

It has been very mild so far but don't leave it too late to put up that greenhouse insulation. I've held off from putting mine up so far this year as it does cut out quite a bit of light but as the days continue to shorten and temperatures are beginning to drop it really is

time to get the rolls of bubble-wrap out and get the greenhouse nice and cosy for the more tender plants.

I'm looking forward to some nice crisp, cold days out in the garden catching up with pruning and tidying, but if the weather is too wet then there is always work to do in the potting shed.

Empty pots and seed trays can be washed and put away ready for use next spring and garden tools will always benefit from a little TLC.

Wash off any mud and then treat wooden shafts and handles with linseed oil. It's much easier to dig with a sharp spade, and secateurs and loppers will be better for having their blades sharpened too.

After that a light spray with oil will help to keep the metal rust free until you use them again. After all that it's time for a well-earned cup of tea and a browse through the seed catalogues to plan what you're going to be growing next year.



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	Canonbie Church Soup Kitchen & Table Top	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1.00pm
	Langholm Christmas Lights Switch-on	Langholm High Street from 2,30pm
Sun 27th	Buccleuch Centre Christmas Fayre	The Buccleuch Centre 12pm - 4pm

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Fri 2nd	The Magic Drifters	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 3rd	Newcastleton Christmas Lights Switch-on	Douglas Square Newcastleton from 4pm
Sun 4th	Faw Side Community Group Christmas Market	Ewes Hall 10am - 3pm

Langholm Funders Forum

'WELCOME TO LANGHOLM' FUTURE CHAMPIONS AWARDS

Langholm's young athletes now have an even better opportunity to fulfil their potential as the 'Welcome to Langholm' Future Champions Awards enter their sixth year. The Awards were established in 2016 by four Langholm based charities – The Stevenson Trust, The Arthur Bell of Langholm Trust, The Bowman Little Trust and the Stoneypath Trust - to ensure that young sporting talent from Langholm and Eskdale are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential and become the medal winners of the future.

The programme is delivered by Annandale and Eskdale Active Schools and Community Sport for Dumfries and Galloway Council who work with local schools and sports clubs to cater for these champions of the future who are in education or the early stages of their career.

'Welcome to Langholm' Future Champions Awards aim to reduce the drop-out of talented athletes from sport due to academic and particularly financial pressures where the cost of travelling every week to access facilities, coaching and competitions has become increasingly prohibitive.

Succeeding in your chosen sport at the highest level while undertaking academic studies or while living in rural Scotland requires both talent and commitment. Our aim is to support the most promising young athletes in Langholm and Eskdale and encourage them to fulfil their sporting ambitions."

David Stevenson
Olympic Pole Vaulter,
Tokyo 1964



PENTATHLETE: Matilda Brockley will compete at national level at The Emirates Arena in Glasgow this Saturday

CALUM GRAHAM

Active Schools and Community Sports Officer



MENTOR: Calum Graham has spent many years encouraging and assisting young athletes in Annandale and Eskdale

Calum Graham who coordinates the awards said "the programme was established in 2016 on the back of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to support and help fast-track young local sporting talent to become the potential medal winners of the future.

And in those following four years, the funders have awarded £50,750 to 107 young athletes.

"It is very difficult for our area's young athletes to fulfil their potential while undertaking academic studies or while living in rural Scotland and this financial support can enhance access to appropriate coaching, competition, equipment and training facilities. This can make such a vital contribution to the families

who support their children in pursuit of achieving at the highest level in their chosen sport."

Calum added "Nine more awards totalling over £5,000 were recently made to nine young athletes living in the DG13 or DG14 postcodes. These young athletes also go on to inspire younger people in the local schools and community to participate in sport through their own sporting achievements or coaching younger sportspeople."

One of those is 15 year old Matilda Brockley who has been helping with the Langholm Primary School Sportshall Athletics team and will earn her first Scotland Athletics vest on Saturday.

MATILDA BROCKLEY

Gold Award recipient

15-year-old Matilda Brockley will compete for Scotland tomorrow at the Scottish Schools International Pentathlon in Glasgow.

Matilda, who recently received £1,000 and a gold award through the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards now trains with respected Scottish Athletics Track and Field Coach, Linda Nicholson from Peebles as well as continuing to train locally.

After being introduced to athletics through primary school sporting events including Sportshall Athletics, Matilda continued to compete for the school whilst also training and

competing with Annan and District Athletics Club.

Matilda who has just turned 15 years of age is currently ranked No.2 in Scotland in her age group for the Pentathlon which includes the 60m hurdles, 800m, high jump, long jump and shot putt. Following training and selection days with Scottish Athletics coaches, Matilda is one of four girls selected to make up a team of four boys and four girls in the under 16 age group event.

The event will see Scotland face teams from England, Ireland and Wales at The Emirates Arena in Glasgow on Saturday 26th November.



JOURNEY: Matilda has been competing since she was in primary school

Funding will be available on an on-going basis with four closing dates for applying below.

January 31st • April 30th • July 31st • October 31st.

For further information contact: Calum Graham, Active Schools and Community Sport, Langholm Academy, Thomas Telford Road, Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway, DG13 0BL | Tel 07787 690 611 | Email calum.graham@dumgal.gov.uk



It's Conan the Unstoppable!

Now Langholm running star aims to conquer America



STAR: Conan Harper is off to the USA



RANKED: Conan is No 1 in Scotland over 5000m

Athletics

Langholm athletics star Conan Harper is to take a major step forward in his brilliant running career – in America.

The S6 pupil, currently ranked number one in Scotland in the U-20 5000m race event, has received no fewer than THREE full scholarship offers from colleges in the USA.

Scouts at Charleston Southern University in North Carolina, La Salle University in Pennsylvania and A&M University in Texas are vying

for Conan's signature after being blown away by his performances on the track this season.

These have included victory in the the Scottish U20 5000m track championships, where the teenager really alerted the athletics world to his talent.

Conan has benefited from the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards, which provides funding for young sports people from the town.

Co-ordinator Calum Graham said: "I've seen Conan progress from an early age, and it's clear that he has such desire, drive and determination – and his



Bowling

BOWLED OVER: Langholm social club held their inter-county pairs competition at the weekend.

The tournament, which was open to members from Langholm, Benty, Canonbie and Ewes, had a decent entry of 20 pairs. The worthy winners were Corey Park and Kerr Gordon. They beat sisters Trish Henderson and Louise Keeney in the final. The beaten semi-finalists were Allan Nixon & Mark Goodfellow and Alasdair & Rhea Cavers.

work ethic is second to none.

"He has worked tremendously hard to get to where he is today and deserves every success and opportunity that is coming his way. It's inspiring for younger people to see and shows them what can be achieved with hard work and the right attitude."

Conan flies to Berlin tomorrow to compete in the U18's Indoor European City Challenge. Representing Glasgow at the event, he will compete in the 3000m against athletes from different cities all over Europe.

He is also heading to America to compete in Division 1 NCAA

track and cross country in the summer of 2023 or January 2024, depending on which offers he receives. But before heading to the States, he will be looking to get the opportunity to represent GB next year at the European outdoor championships in Romania.

Just to warm up, Conan ran in the Brampton to Carlisle 10-mile race at the weekend, finishing in a time of 51:43 – ranking him second in the UK for U20 this year for the distance, despite it being treated as a training run.

Legion hold firm for priceless win

New boy Whittall strikes as strugglers show they have steel

Football

By Craig Cuthbert

Struggling Legion knew it was win or bust when they travelled up to Peebles to face Tweeddale Rovers.

And after a series of damaging defeats, it was time to ring the changes on the pitch. Ireland had returned from illness to slot back into heart of defence next to Dell, which pushed Irving back into his usual position of centre midfield.

Cain Maxwell replaced Johnson in goals – but there was a blow before kick-off when leading goalscorer Brian Mattinson was forced to called off due

to illness, paving the way for Whittall to make his first start.

The visitors set out their stall early, controlling the possession and dominating the chances. And their reward came after 20 minutes, when Johnstone's low curling cross from the right found Whittall, whose smartly-taken volley looped into the net.

Buoyed by the goal, Legion continued to exert pressure. Indeed the only danger came from their own defensive mistakes, and from a deflected shot which Maxwell brilliantly tipped round the post.

Chances continued to come at the other end of the pitch, and just before half time Legion capitalised to double their lead.

Johnstone again picked up the ball in a

positive area, and when the Rovers keeper was unable to hang on to his cross-shot, it was the veteran Borthwick who managed to react quickest and head home from a couple of yards out.

With a two goal lead, Langholm were maybe guilty of thinking the game was done and dusted as they came out for the second half.

But Rovers had other ideas, and Legion were once more grateful to Maxwell to prevent the hosts from scoring early in the second half.

With 10 minutes to go, a Rovers corner caused mayhem in the Legion penalty area and Irving's desperate lunge to prevent a goal was instead punished with a

penalty decision. This was duly converted, resulting in a nail-biting finale.

But where they once might have crumbled, Legion held firm to see the game out and secure a precious three points. The win sees them up to sixth in the league on 13 points, but their rivals have enough games in hand to make every match a must-win for the foreseeable future.

On Saturday Legion will be heading up the A7 to face Hawick Legion in the second round of the South Cup.

Team: Maxwell; Pool, Dell, Ireland, B.Winter; D.Borthwick, Irving, Cuthbert, Johnstone; Whittall, D.Winter Subs ; Reid, B.Borthwick, Hotson

E&L SPORT

