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Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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SNOWSCAPE: As temperatures plummeted across our region this week, the reward was stunning scenery like this panorama of a wintry Ewes Valley seen under beautiful clear blue skies. Photo by ANNE ERSKINE

Hole-y unacceptable

- Langholm pothole misery grows
- Fed-up residents contact E&L

The pothole plague affecting roads in and around Langholm is reaching epidemic proportions, according to angry E&L readers.

After we highlighted the dismal state of the Hermitage Castle Road last week, you've been contacting us with your own hair-raising experiences of crumbling, ill-maintained roads near you.

Typical of our correspondents this week was Kirsteen Davies, who lives near Claygate on the B6357.

The road there is so steep in places, the council has installed TWO grit bins on a section just one third of a mile long. But Kirsteen says drivers are more at risk of

disappearing down the huge craters which pepper the tarmac.

"At the bottom of the hill there is a pothole on each side of the road creating the need to drive as if on a slalom course," she said.

"Just below the first grit bin there is a constant stream of water across and down the road to such an extent that despite the application of grit on a daily basis the road is still freezing over.

"Coupled with severe potholes at this point, on a hill and on a bend, it is an accident waiting to happen."

Turn to P2



CRATER: One of the deep potholes on the Gilnockie road

NEWS IN BRIEF



Pictures of pooches

Meet the Langholm artist whose lifelike pet portraits are selling like hot cakes
See p10 & 11

High flyer

Can you guess what sport this is? Amelia Edwards is an international at it. Find out more inside.

See p8 & 9



Family Announcements

Deaths

MacKAY, Mary

Peacefully on 12th January 2023 in Notwen House Care Home, Mary Mackay, late of Hopsrigg Cottage, beloved wife of the late William, dear mother of Elizabeth and Brian, a much loved nana and great-granny.

Funeral service at Westerkirk Parish Church on Friday 27th January at 11.30am. thereafter interment in Westerkirk Cemetery, all friend invited, family flowers only, donations in lieu to Notwen House Residents Fund.

Thanks for Sympathy

AITCHISON, Marion

Ian, Gillian, Jim, David and Families would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support following the peaceful passing of Marion and all the cards received with many lovely messages of support.

David Erskine for his unerring attention to detail; the Reverend Morag Crossan for her kind words and lovely service; To all who attended the service, committal and Buccleuch Centre.

Thanks also to Castlevie Catering and staff of the Buccleuch Centre; and to Cochranes Nurseries.

The very generous sum of £927 was raised for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

Marion would have been proud and a bit overwhelmed by the amount of love and support for her.

Thank you all so very much.

MURPHY, Jean

Margaret would like to thank all family and friends who came along to pay their respects at the interment of her lovely mum Jean who sadly passed away on 20th December. Thank you for all your lovely cards and beautiful bouquets of flowers which were very much appreciated.

Grateful thanks to the Rev Scott McCarthy for his kind and comforting words at the home service and also at the graveside. Special thanks to David Erskine & Co for all their help and first-class service. Many thanks also to the staff of the Buccleuch Centre for their hospitality. And last, but not least, a very special thank you to all carers and staff at Lydiaview Care Home who so kindly looked after mum in her final years.

The sum of £500 was raised for Lydiaview Residents Fund. Thank you all for your donations.

Church Notices

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The future looks bright with our talented youngsters

Today we feature two 20-year-old women from Langholm who, in their own way, are doing their bit to make the Muckle Toon proud.

And while at first glance there's nowt much in common between an artist and international Frisbee player, the one thing Chloe Beattie and Amelia Edwards share is a desire to make the very best of their God-given talent.

They're not alone. Our sports pages regularly feature the exploits of our brilliant young athletes – and it surely won't be long before we see them competing in the Olympics.

The younger generation always get a lot of stick. But on this evidence it's safe to say that we're in good hands.

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012

Editor Nick Brownlee, Features Editor Gilly Fraser

All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

'We're forever rescuing folk'

>From p1

The B6357 is used by school buses and logging lorries, but in icy conditions it is rendered almost impassable for normal traffic. This is despite Kristeen heading out with her sledge and shovel to spread grit on the road.

"The constant flood of water across the road makes this an almost pointless task as the water washes the grit and salt away."

Dumfries and Galloway Council say their priority is fixing main roads – but residents in rural areas are increasingly concerned about the state of the roads in their area.

Last week, reader Sarah Laing described the Hermitage Castle Road as being a "death trap".

She said: "We and our neighbours are forever rescuing folk who aren't aware of the hikes and have blowouts, and the ditches are all full and need clearing out. At present the water runs the road in the steepest of places and forms sheet ice."

Meanwhile new figures show that motorists whose vehicles suffer damage as a result of potholes in our region have a less than 50-50 chance of receiving compensation from the council.

The local authority's insurers have paid out more than £200,000 in compensation in the last three years, with around 42 per cent of claims being successful.

Galloway and West Dumfries Tory MSP, Finlay Carson, said: "There are cases of motorists being left thousands of pounds out of pocket when it comes to repairing their vehicles after they have clat-

tered into a pothole.

"Apart from the cost of repairing tyres and alloy wheels which isn't cheap there are often knock-on costs towards addressing steering issues. It is grossly unfair that drivers are expected to pick up the bill because the councils are unable to repair potholes and other surface issues when they already pay heavily on road tax."

The state of the region's roads has long been a bugbear of local residents, with Mr Carson blaming "poor funding by the Scottish Government".



CRATER: This foot-long pothole is just one of the many blighting the B6357 road at Gilnockie

A council spokesman said: "Dumfries and Galloway Council, like many other roads authorities in the country, are managing a significant number of roads defects particularly during the winter season with low temperatures and flooding damage to carriageway surfaces.

"In recognition of the extent of the road defects experienced in recent years the council had agreed to fund an additional £2.4m through a roads repair fund over a three-year period for repairs on roads defects and this additional repair work has been running over the last year."

Remarkably, D&G had the second best payout rate among Scotland's 32 local authorities, with less than 16 per cent of claims ending in success last year according to data revealed following a series of Freedom of Information requests by the Scottish Conservatives.

A Scottish Government spokesman said: "Despite UK Government cuts to our budget, we have protected councils in the most challenging budget since devolution to provide more than £13.2 billion in the 2023-24 Local Government Settlement.

"This represents a cash increase of over £570 million or 4.5 per cent, which is a real terms increase of £160.6 million or 1.3 per cent.

"Maintenance of the local road network is the responsibility of local authorities and it is up to individual councils to manage their own budgets and allocate the total financial resources available to them on the basis of local needs and priorities.

"If other parties wish to see more funding allocated for purposes of this type, they must identify which other budgets must be reduced to provide the funding. This has not been done on this – and many other – occasions."

• Do you have a pothole horror story to share? Contact us at newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk



SLALOM: Drivers on the B6357 have to dodge around gaping potholes while avoiding potentially lethal stretches of icy tarmac. Residents like Kirsteen Davies, right, are demanding action by the council.



Respiratory illness on the rise

New Year sees big increase in cases at local surgeries

High rates of respiratory illness such as the flu are being recorded across Dumfries and Galloway.

And it's led to our local surgeries reporting big increases in the number of patients requesting treatment in the New Year.

"The week before last was very busy," said Jackie Henderson, practice manager at the Langholm Medical Partnership. "Every other patient was presenting with upper respiratory issues."

It's a similar story at Newcastleton Medical Centre, where according to Dr Howard Kennedy the increase in cases started in the run up to Christmas and has continued ever since.

"Some of those cases have tested positive for Influenza A and others for Covid 19," said Dr Kennedy. "During the pandemic, hand washing, masks and social distance measures reduced viral spread.

"Now these have gone it's a perfect recipe for the various infections to spread."

NHS Scotland is advising peo-

ple to avoid mixing with others, stay at home and take simple measures to care for those who are most vulnerable.

Consultant in public health, Dr Andrew Rideout, said: "After years of living with Covid-19, we are all pleased to see a reduction in the measures that we have to follow to prevent the spread of infection.

"However, this winter we are still seeing a number of respiratory infections that are causing significant problems in our communities."

He added: "Covid-19 is still here and numbers are starting to increase. Flu is here in numbers that we haven't seen for many years, and recently we have seen the impact of Strep A infections throughout our communities.

"All of these are affecting individuals, communities, care homes and the wider NHS system but the measures that we learned during the pandemic are effective against any respiratory illness."

Several steps can be taken to



INFECTION: Patients at our surgeries have been testing positive for flu and Covid

avoid getting the flu, including washing hands to not pass the infection to surfaces and other people.

When coughing or sneezing people are advised to cover their

mouth and nose. It is also recommended to drink plenty of water, take an over the counter medication such as paracetamol and take time to rest and recover.

For help and advice, the NHS inform website is available with no waiting queues. The NHS 24 111 service is also available by telephone.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flood webpage

A new webpage has been launched to help people hit by last month's severe flooding.

The site shows all the help available from the council and other organisations, including grants, help with benefits, bulky uplift availability and advice.

There are also sections listing what the council and its partners did and is doing to help businesses and householders.

Council co-leader, Stephen Thompson, said: "This webpage should be the starting point for anyone affected by the recent severe flooding across Dumfries and Galloway.

"We have recently experienced unprecedented flooding across our region, and we acted immediately to get vital help and support to those most in need.

"Our council and our partners continue to do whatever we can to help householders and business-owners respond to these distressing events."

www.dumgal.gov.uk/Flood-Recovery-Support

Ewes ladies celebrate in style



LINE-UP: Back: John Tullie, Billy Young, Jamie Fletcher, Kenneth Pool
Front: Grace Brown, President Joan Cubbon and Caroline Tullie

The Burns Night season got off to a splendid start last week, when members of the Ewes SWI gathered at Langholm Rugby Club to celebrate the Bard.

Thanks to Covid, it was the first such supper since January 2020 – but the ladies were soon in the spirit and it was as if they'd never been away.

President Joan Cubbon welcomed members and friends to the event, and they were then treated to a delicious home-cooked broth.

Ricky Henderson piped in the haggis, which was borne aloft by Jenny Hinchcliffe. Joan addressed the haggis with great aplomb and the company enjoyed the traditional fare.

Kenneth Pool gave a very humorous and thought-provoking Immortal Memory, then Billy Young entertained with songs and John Tullie recited Holy Wullie's Prayer.

The Toast to the Lassies was in the capable hands of Jamie Fletcher and Caroline Tullie's reply to Fireman Sam was very

appropriate.

Grace Brown then rose to recite Tam o' Shanter as the storm outside provided a particularly eerie atmosphere for that most eloquent of Burns' poems.

After the raffle and vote of thanks by Tessa Lumley, the evening was concluded with Auld Lang Syne sung by the company.

Bridge results

N/S - 1 Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2 Lorraine Morton & Elspeth Clarke, 3 Nancy McLure & Derek Scott.
E/W - 1 Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop, 2 Doreen Taylor & Lesley McCartney, 3 Jim Muir & Alison Mullock.

MP Mundell claimed £200k expenses



Dumfries MP David Mundell claimed more than £200,000 in expenses last year, new figures have revealed.

This included £40,000 for travel and accommodation, while

his staffing bill for 2020-2021 was just over £185,000.

This is down on last year, when Mr Mundell was the fourth most expensive MP in the UK, claiming more than £260,000.

The figures are published in the annual review of MPs expenses, which showed total costs of MPs last year rose by four per cent to £132.5 million, with almost £300,000 going on hotel claims for just 49 members.

Average

The average expenses claim across Westminster was £203,000, although the-then prime minister Boris Johnson claimed £178,406 and Labour leader Kier Starmer £168,109.

Business costs are the essential costs incurred by MPs while carrying out their parliamentary duties including staffing, office costs and travel.

MPs cannot claim for personal

costs, such as food and drink, during their normal working day, and all claims must be compliant with IPSA rules and accompanied by evidence.

A register of Mr Mundell's donors shows that he received £5,000 from IX Wireless, a communications company based in Blackburn, and private donations of £7,000.

In July last year, he also received a complimentary ticket to Wimbledon, worth £475, courtesy of drinks giant Diageo.

And on a fact-finding trip to Ukraine in September, Mr Mundell's travel and accommodation – totalling £1,200 – was funded by the Dumfries-based Halo Trust charity.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Squirrel-pox warning

A suspected squirrel-pox virus has been reported in our region, with locals urged to remain vigilant for signs of the fatal disease.

Several individual red squirrels have been spotted by members of the public near Lockerbie, which appear to display classic symptoms. At least 10 have been found dead in the area due to suspected squirrel-pox.

Squirrel-pox is a virus carried by grey squirrels which appears not to affect them and is not considered harmful to humans, but when passed to red squirrels is often lethal. As a result, it is usually fatal within two weeks and an outbreak can cause local numbers to crash.

Janet Nixon service

A service will be held in Langholm today in memory of Janet Nixon, late of Buccleuch Terrace, who for many years was a popular member of the team at Thomas Hope Hospital.

Following the service at the Parish Church at 11am, there will be an interment at Castleton Cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

A 'recipe for chaos'?

Drivers hit out at new, region-wide 20mph speed limits

By Gilly Fraser

There has been a mixed response to Scottish Borders Council's decision to make reduced speed limits permanent throughout the region.

The council was the first local authority in Scotland to bring in the 20mph speed limit two years ago and Newcastleton was chosen to trial it, along with Stow, Sprouston, Eddleston and Coldingham.

The scheme was then rolled out to more than ninety other towns and villages over the course of the next few months as part of the Scottish government's £1.2 million "Spaces For People" project.

Councillors were told in a report that the new speed limit was intended to "reduce the risk and severity of injuries as a result of collisions between vehicles and vulnerable road users, and to encourage more active travel and make active travel easier and more appealing by lowering speed limits, especially important considering links between obesity and Covid-19".

The report also anticipated that the reduced speed limits would not go down well with everyone.



SLOW LANE: 20 mph might be ideal for cyclists, but frustrated motorists claim the new speed limits are a danger

It said "There is a risk that there will be a vocal minority who believe that being asked to slow down by 10mph is unacceptable and social media will likely be busy initially, however as schemes bed-in acceptance is expected to be generally forthcoming."

That turned out to be an understatement when an online consultation had to be taken down due to the amount of

abuse received.

Signs in Newcastleton alert drivers to their speed and villagers say most do seem to slow down accordingly, though many put the foot down again when they reach the outskirts.

The council has now decided that there are obvious safety benefits to the reduced speed limits and clear evidence to demonstrate positive change in

driver habits.

However it was accepted that 20mph would be unrealistic, unjustified and generally uncomfortable in some areas, so a more flexible approach will be taken in 32 locations including Hawick and Galashiels.

Councillor John Greenwell, who is an executive member for roads development and maintenance said the scheme

had improved life for many local people.

"Its introduction has undoubtedly made the Borders a safer and more vibrant place to live," he said. "More and more people are now choosing more active means of travel like walking or cycling because they feel safer."

However one driver described the changes as "a recipe for chaos".

Smyth pledges support for Men's Sheds

South Scotland MSP Colin Smyth has pledged his support for the "vital" Men's Shed movement, after the news that the Scottish Government is due to stop all statutory funding in 2023.

Thousands of men benefit from more than 200 Men's Sheds across Scotland, with dozens in towns across our region. The facilities offer community spaces for men to connect and develop new hobbies, with the aim of reducing loneliness and isolation.

In Langholm, organisers of a proposed Men's Shed have been on a quest to find a place to call their own since May last year, and in October they received a donation of £1,000 from the Buccleuch Estate towards a permanent home.

Langholm Shed co-ordinator, Andi Marron said: 'The out-comes in nearby Lockerbie,

Dumfries and Hawick have proved that the shed can make a clear, direct and measurable impact on loneliness, anxiety, depression and mental health to raise health and wellbeing in the community."

The Scottish Men's Sheds Association said a decision was taken in February last year to stop all statutory funding in 2023, with the association branding the decision "devastating".

Mr Smyth recently added his name to a cross party list of 40 MSPs, urging the Deputy First Minister to reverse the decision.

"The Men's Shed movement has proven themselves as a vital resource benefiting men's health and wellbeing," he said.

"Men's Sheds help tackle isolation and loneliness, with the movement being described as one of the greatest mental and physical health developments in a generation."



VITAL: Men's Sheds, like this, can help tackle isolation and loneliness

Tough Mudder plea from Ben's mother

Help cure this killer condition, says Langholmite Nancy

A former Langholmite is calling on kind-hearted folk in the Muckle Toon to help raise money for a good cause.

Nancy Cunningham – perhaps better known here as Nancy Porteous – is supporting her son Ben, who is taking part in a gruelling cross-country obstacle course in memory of a pal who died of cystic fibrosis.

The Tough Mudder event pits contestants against a course which can be as long as 15km, and studded with agonisingly inventive challenges with names like Funky Monkey, Cage Crawl and Electric Eel.

Ben, 26, is planning to take on a course at Drumlanrig Castle in June, with the aim of raising thousands of pounds for research into the killer disease.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited condition in which the lungs and digestive system can become clogged with thick, sticky mucus. It can cause problems with breathing and digestion from a young age. Over many years, the lungs become increasingly damaged and may eventually stop working properly.

In 2018 Ben's best friend Ross Moore

died aged just 22, after a lifetime battling the condition.

"Ben and Ross were incredibly close all through school, and when Ross died he was understandably devastated," said Nancy, who now lives in Glasgow.

"Ben decided he wanted to do something to honour his friend, and decided the best way of doing that would be to help scientists come up with a cure for this terrible disease.

"He initially set himself a total of £1,000 – but that has already been doubled by kind donations, and now he's hoping to raise even more for this important cause."

Nancy still has a strong connection with Langholm – her brother Alan, a retired road sweeper, still lives in the town and she visits regularly.

"I know that Langholm folk are incredibly generous, and although times are hard they'll see their way to helping Ben and also helping the thousands of other sufferers of this condition – and hopefully going some way towards finding a cure."



GOOD CAUSE: Langholmite Nancy Cunningham – née Porteous – is asking for support for her son Ben, who is tackling the daunting Tough Mudder course to raise funds for cystic fibrosis research

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hillwalker airlifted

A hillwalker was airlifted to hospital with multiple injuries after he fell while climbing in Dumfries and Galloway at the weekend.

The man, from the Glasgow area, was with friends who raised the alarm after he lost his footing at the Grey Mare's Tail near Moffat and fell into a burn which swept him downstream before dropping him 15 metres over one of the upper waterfalls.

Action

He was then carried along in the rushing water before managing to stop himself and a rescue operation sprang into action.

The injured man was winched into a Rescue 199 helicopter and flown to the major trauma centre at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow, where he is understood to be recovering well.

£2k warm spaces grants available

Staying warm in the chilly winter months has become a real problem for many people this year because of rising energy costs.

Now there's a scheme in the Borders to help provide warm spaces to help people who might be struggling to heat their homes.

The scheme – known as the Scottish Borders Warm and Well Fund – is being run by the local council. It's open to voluntary, community and charity organisations in a number of areas, including Liddesdale.

The council has £100,000 available for the scheme and will provide grants of up to £2,000 to successful applicants, with each locality receiving an allocation of this funding based on their population.

Grant awards can be used for a variety of purposes, such as the cost of energy bills, food provision, light refreshments, activities, and staff/volunteer costs.

SBC say the warm spaces must be in appropriate and accessible venues and must be free of charge to users. It's also stressed that the groups must ensure everyone is treated equally, with dignity and respect and must respect people's rights to confidentiality.

A spokesman said: "The fund has been launched to support voluntary, community and charity organisations to provide a warm



COSY: Warm spaces provide much needed comfort

space for local residents, families and friends who are struggling to heat their homes during the winter months.

"We want to support a dignified approach for the allocation of this funding and ensure help reaches communities and individuals who require additional assistance."

If you would like to apply to the Warm and Well Fund, please email: community-grants@scotborders.gov.uk to request an application form.

The E & L Gallery

Send us your photographs!

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

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

Photo by: Kenneth McLean

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Farming on the Border

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Farming with Gilly Fraser

Take part in farm stock survey

Scottish farmers are being urged to take part in a survey described as the most authoritative annual financial analysis of the country's agricultural stock.

It's not a new initiative – the Scottish Farm Business Survey (SFBS) has been around since the 1930's. It gathers data and provides statistics which help the Scottish government in policy making for the industry.

Those who take part – currently around 450 farms – are allocated to specialist business analysts who help with the paperwork and ensure the data is accurate before it's submitted.

Participants have to send in their most recent set of annual accounts and be prepared to take part in a follow-up discussion which can be done online if preferred.

In return they receive detailed management accounts designed to help them understand their business finances and to track performance over

previous years.

They also get a whole farm carbon audit which may prove invaluable when making grant applications.

The survey is managed by SAC Consulting, which is part of Scotland's Rural College.

Sustainability

Principal Consultant Sascha Grierson, says businesses all over Scotland are turning their attention to their sustainability credentials.

"In the survey, we now measure whole farm carbon footprints and nitrate use efficiency to look at alongside the farming economics," she said. "It's proven that businesses which benchmark, improve their performance. It doesn't have to be complicated; you can pick some simple measures from the economics, the productivity information you get or the greenhouse gas emissions that matter to your business to get started."

Farmers need help to adapt to climate changes

No-one could understand the need to work with the seasons and whatever weather brings better than farmers, but as the climate changes, they may need help to become more adaptable to cope with new conditions.

That's the opinion of NFU Scotland's Climate Policy Manager Kate Hopper who says the Met Office's confirmation that 2022 was the hottest year on record for Scotland shows that adaptation must now play a key role in the management of the country's farms and crofts.

Writing in her regular blog column, she says 2022 was a great year weather-wise for arable production in some parts of the country, resulting in record yields. However there were also increasing input costs, prolonged periods of drought affecting fruit and vegetable growers, extensive periods of rain and an overall volatility which made planning difficult.

For the first time, the Scottish



ADAPTING: NFU Scotland Climate Policy Manager Kate Hopper says the ability to adapt is crucial

Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) had to suspend water abstraction licences due to water scarcity, resulting in the loss of millions of pounds worth of fruit and vegetable crops.

As the Scottish Government

seeks to deliver a new Agricultural Policy for Scotland, NFUS is calling for future policy support to deliver investment in practical actions which can help farmers transition further. This needs to include invest-

ment in infrastructure to help farms and crofts adapt to climate change.

Kate Hopper says farmers and crofters are already adapting management practices to increase carbon sequestration, improve soil health and increase biodiversity, but they can't be expected to shoulder the burden alone.

"We need to be able to mitigate the risks posed by environment change so that we can continue to deliver high quality food and crops to support the Scottish economy," she says.

"This should include investment in water storage and boreholes, landscape scale water catchment management, flood management infrastructure, improvement to soil health, new crop varieties and methods of maintaining crop yield. This will help to increase the resilience of farms and crofts to climate change as we continue to produce sustainable food."

Checks on meat 'wholly inadequate'

The UK Government must act now to guarantee a robust, reliable system delivering proper checks on food.

That's the call being made by Pig Producer Jamie Wyllie, chair of NFU Scotland's Pigs Committee.

He says the UK's border controls for checking meat and other food products entering the country have been "wholly inadequate" since the UK left the EU and that no thought was given to creating a new replacement infrastructure and management system.

He fears this leaves farmers and crofters exposed to devastating animal diseases such as African Swine Fever.

"ASF can cause up to 100 percent mortality in pigs," he says. "The UK is currently free from ASF, and we want to keep it that way. The two main ways this disease spreads are from

pig-to-pig contact and in meat. The disease can stay active for over a year in frozen, cooked, or raw meat. Because the UK is an island, realistically the only way this disease can come into the country is from imported infected meat."

Different

He acknowledges that when the UK was still part of the EU there was freedom of movement of meat anyway but argues that the situation is now very different.

"The EU does have a very sophisticated system for disease monitoring, checking and sharing which helps EU countries to mitigate risk, but we no longer have access to this system," he says. "The EU makes us do these verification and health checks so they obviously think it's important for their member countries health."



BREXIT: Jamie Wyllie, NFU Scotland Chair of Pigs Committee

In a Border Force operation last year, 21 vans out of 22 checked were found to be carrying illegal meat, allegedly for personal consumption. Mr Wyllie says this was a great result for the Border Force and will hopefully dissuade others but proves that checking needs to be done regularly and on commercial imports as well as personal.

Under new legislation, an operational system is due to be brought into place by the end

of January 2024, having been postponed a couple of times. Mr Wyllie says it's imperative that it be fit for purpose when it does come into force.

"The last thing the industry wants is a poor system brought in just to meet a strict deadline. We need reassurance from the UK Government that a realistic plan is in place giving the development of the new system the focus and resources it needs to deliver an effective system without further delays."

Battle of the nations

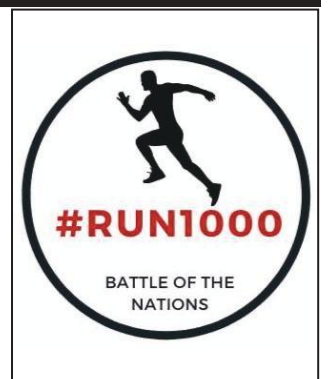
Members of farming communities from right across the UK have been putting their best feet forward or using a spot of pedal power to raise funds for a very special cause.

This was the third year of the Run1000 campaign organised by the Scottish-based RSABI charity which provides emotional, practical and financial support to people working in agriculture.

Participants signed up to one of five national teams – Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland and New Zealand.

Over the course of seven days from January 9 to 15, the team members had to complete one thousand miles, whether by walking, running or cycling. It didn't matter whether their individual contribution was one mile or one hundred miles, so long as they took part.

The winning team was the first to reach the one thousand miles landmark – and this year the crown went to Wales.



LANDMARK: Wales is winner

Money is still coming in but at the last tally, more than five thousand pounds has been raised for mental health charities, and a total of 3,193.8 miles were covered during the course of the week.

The next big RSABI fundraising venture is in August with the Great Glen Challenge when teams will cycle, kayak, walk and run between Fort Augustus and Fort William.

Sir's going on strike again

Dumfries & Galloway teachers to join national dispute over pay

Teachers in Dumfries and Galloway are set to go on strike again next week in the latest walk-out in their ongoing pay dispute.

Talks last week involving unions, the Holyrood Government and COSLA ended without a deal being reached, after two days of strike action saw the closure of primary and secondary schools last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Members of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) and Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association want a 10 per cent pay rise, and are to target schools in our region on Monday, January 23.

EIS General Secretary Andrea Bradley said: "Despite their warm words over the past week, the Scottish Government and COSLA have again failed to come to the table with a new pay offer to Scotland's teachers."

"Our members are not prepared to accept the repeatedly reheated sub-inflationary offer that has now been sitting around for six months and that is neither fair nor affordable for teachers."

"In the absence of an improved offer, our members will continue with strike action this week in their struggle for fair pay."

COSLA and the Government insist a 10 per cent pay claim is unaffordable.

Following Thursday's talks, education secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said: "This week's meetings have provided a crucial opportunity to further discuss potential areas for agreement."

"There is a shared understanding that these latest talks are focussed on examining options for compromise, rather than tabling a new offer at this time."

"While talks are ongoing, the Scottish Government continues to urge the teaching unions to reconsider their plans for industrial action."

She added: "Strikes in our schools are in no one's interest – including for pupils, parents and carers who have already had to deal with significant disruption over the past three years."

"We remain absolutely committed to a fair and sustainable pay deal."



PICKET LINE: Teachers across the region are coming out on strike later this month over a 10 per cent pay claim.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cold snap hits hard

Icy conditions are continuing to cause disruption across some parts of our region, and more is forecast, as the UK experienced its coldest night of the year so far.



Lows of minus 8.7C were recorded in Eskdalemuir this week, while elsewhere more than 100 schools and nurseries in Shetland, the Highlands and Aberdeenshire were forced to close on Tuesday due to snow and icy conditions.

An amber warning for snow in northern Scotland has been issued by the Met Office for between 3pm and 11.59pm on Tuesday.

Forecasters are predicting up to 20cm of snow in a short space of time across Aberdeenshire and the Highlands.

Photo: Chrissie Coburn-Krzowska



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The girl who's putting a new spin on the humble Frisbee

GB star Amelia is tipped for the top in a growing sport — and the pride of her Langholm family. NICK BROWNLEE reports

The last time I played Frisbee, it was me versus the dog on the beach at Powfoot.

The dog won – or at least he was last seen running off towards the dunes with the Frisbee clamped in his jaws.

I didn't mind: it was just a bit of fun, after all. And what's a £4.99 bit of tat from the souvenir shop, if not for the dog to tear to shreds?

Had I known then that prowess at throwing a plastic disc could have made me an international sports star, watched by millions around the world, I might have tried harder.

But then until I met Amelia Edwards this week, I had no idea that Frisbee was an international sport.

If you live in Langholm, you'll know Amelia. Her mum Samantha Edwards still has a house in the

Muckle Toon, her grandparents are Sheena and Arthur Elliot, and her Uncle Alan is the power behind the throne here at the E&L Advertiser.

She's now at Leeds University, studying for a sports degree – but that's just the half of it. She's also captain of the Uni Frisbee team and, at the age of 20, the youngest member of the Great Britain squad to have played in the recent World Indoor Championships in Lithuania. Fast forward a few years, and it's a pretty good bet that you're looking at the next GB skipper-in-waiting.

But I know what you're thinking: There's a World Championship? For Frisbee? Well, you'd better believe it, folks. Frisbee is a Thing. And it's getting bigger every year. And if you're still not convinced, check it out on YouTube – and prepare to

be blown away. "It's kind of a cross between netball and American football," Amelia explains patiently, and clearly not for the first time. "It's getting more and more popular in Europe, but it's massive in the USA. They've got leagues over there, and it's watched by thousands of people."

So how exactly do you make the leap from playing with the dog on Powfoot beach to representing your country against the very best Frisbeeists in the world?

In Amelia's case, start young – which is me scuppered.

"I was always quite good at tennis when I was little, but I was introduced to Frisbee as a sport by my maths teacher when I was in Year Seven," she says. "I really enjoyed it, and the following year my coach asked if I wanted to go for

a trial with the Under 17 GB team.

"I was only 14, but I was selected for the squad to play in a tournament in Belgium."

For clarification, the sport in its organised form is called Ultimate Frisbee (UF). It was first played by High School students in New Jersey in 1968 – just 10 years after an inventor named Ed Headrick was awarded a patent for a flying

“It's getting more and more popular in Europe, but it's massive in the USA. They've got leagues over there, and it's watched by thousands of people.”



DOUBLE VISION: Don't look twice — this photograph shows Amelia performing a spectacular diving catch. When she's not playing, she trains hard to make sure she's at her athletic peak



CATCHING THE BUG: Amelia first got hooked on competitive Frisbee when she was just 10 years old, and has worked on her skills ever since



INTERNATIONAL: Ultimate Frisbee was invented in the United States and has since grown to become a global sport, played by thousands of people.

disc made of flexible polypropylene plastic. (This would become the Frisbee we now know and love – the name itself was coined by students at Yale and derives from the Frisbie Pie Company in Connecticut).

As Amelia says, UF has become huge Stateside, where the top players are fully professional. But there are now dozens of clubs in the UK and it's growing every year. Amelia, who now lives in Warwickshire, plays for one called Leamington Lemmings.

"It really is a sport for all," she says. "It's popular because it's easy to pick up and most importantly it's fun to play for people of all ages and abilities, indoor or outdoors."

"And people are now starting to hear about it, which is great. I think initially they think it's just a game you play in the park or on the

beach, but when they see a match then they really go for the idea."

As with all elite sports, natural talent is just the first step towards becoming a top player at the very highest level.

When she's not studying,

or playing, Amelia spends hours in the gym, honing her fitness for the rigours of the court. Then there's the throwing techniques required – and here it gets really technical.

"There are basic forehand and backhand throws, but there are variations of these depending on the situation," she says.

"And quite often you'll find yourself being marked by someone who's bigger

and taller than you, so you have to be able to bend the Frisbee around them to find a free player on your team.

"So yes – I do spend a lot of time practising my throws. You're learning all the time."

The hard work is paying off in spades.

As well as representing GB in Lithuania, where she helped the squad finish second, Amelia has been recognised as a rising star in the sport, with awards for Best Newcomer and Best Mixed Player.

In the next few weeks, she's going for a trial for the Under 24 team, and after that? Well, she's too modest to say, but just maybe her next stop will be the big

leagues of the USA.

"We'll just see what happens," she says. "At the moment I'm just loving playing the game and being part of the set-up."

Amelia's busy schedule doesn't prevent her from regular returns to Langholm, however. She visits several times a year, the last being a family get-together at Christmas. "I love Langholm, and I've got loads of friends I meet up with whenever I'm back."

Unfortunately, there aren't any UF teams in our part of the word – the nearest are in Glasgow and Edinburgh. But who knows? When she's retired, maybe she'll set up a team in Langholm.

Or maybe reading about her will inspire someone to start one first? I'll be signing up – and so will the dog.

• Check out Ultimate Frisbee on the UltiTV YouTube Channel



REACH FOR THE STARS: Jumping high to make a catch, Amelia in action for Great Britain at the Indoor World Championships, held in Lithuania

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How I turned my pet project

It's a dog's (and cat's) life for Langholm artist CHLOE BEATTIE.



A childhood love of art has turned into a thriving business for a young Langholm entrepreneur.

But it was the Covid lockdown which provided the spark for Chloe Beattie to take the plunge and turn her passion into a going concern.

Under the name CB Design and Illustrations, the talented 20-year-old creates amazingly lifelike portraits of people's pets – a skill the former Langholm Academy pupil taught herself by watching YouTube videos. And the pictures have proved

HARD AT WORK: Langholm artist Chloe Beattie is getting plenty of commissions after setting up her own illustration business

so popular, Chloe has turned her hobby into a full time profession.

“Ever since I can remember, I have always loved art,” she says. “I always tried experimenting with different mediums in the Academy, just trying different things, such as landscape portraits in acrylic paints and watercolours.

“I always remember having some time to spare as a young child outside of school, I would sometimes draw my own car-

toon characters or paint things like hillside views or even some drawings of my pets at the time.

The business started in early 2020, during the pandemic, and under the name Chloe B's ART. “During the pandemic, I would look up tutorials on how to draw realistic horses, dogs and cats on YouTube and follow those,” she says.

“Then I was testing out how popular pet portraits would go down for local people. I soon realised that they were very

popular.”

The first commissions started coming in early 2021, when Chloe was studying for a Diploma of Higher Education in Design and Innovation at the Open University.

“I think my first sale was from a local person who wanted a portrait of their dog done in a realistic style. At the time, I was doing it for a side income while studying in my first year, so I only charged around £20 for it.

“However, now that it is a full time business, my prices have increased to £60.”

After graduating, she reached out to the Princes Trust to get advice on starting a self-employed business. And having done so, she is now being inundated with requests.

“It's time consuming work, and the time it takes to create a single portrait really depends on how busy I am with other ones,” she says.



DOG'S LIFE: Chloe is able to turn her hand to pet dogs and more famous pooches. On the right is her version of the legendary Greyfriars Bobby, whose statue stands in Edinburgh

into a thriving wee business

But as she tells NICK BROWNLEE, she wouldn't swap her new career for the world.

"I do have a limit on how many portraits I can do in a month. Some illustrations can take between six weeks to three months depending on how large the portrait is.

"I work from photographs mostly: for example, if a customer reaches out to me requesting a portrait, I will always ask for a reference photo to draw from.

"I use digital software for creating my portraits which is just like drawing in real life, but drawing on the laptop. It is all very technical. I also use mediums such as coloured pencils or plain graphite pencils to create portraits as well."

Chloe says her ambition is to grow the business.

"To be able to make a decent living from it is the dream, but I'm just thrilled that my job is doing what I love.

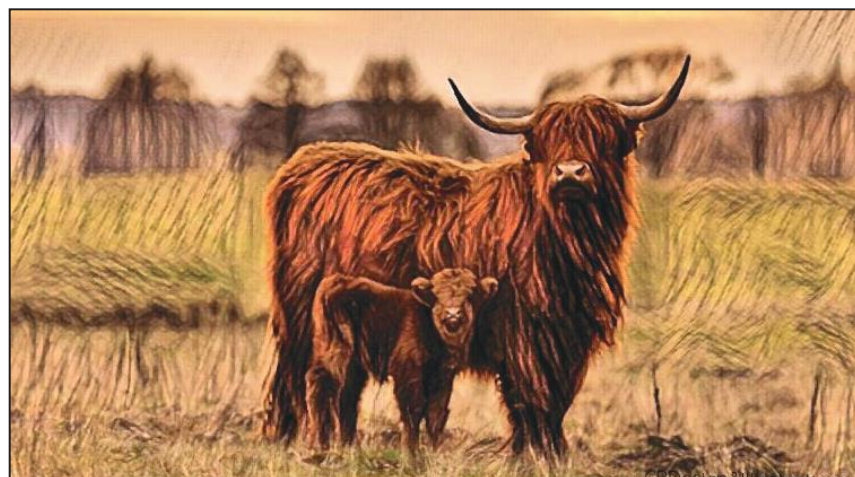
"I'd like to say a huge thank-you to all the generous people of Langholm, my family and surrounding areas for the ongoing support in my business.

"Their continuous support is the main reason why I keep going. During the festive period, I got an overwhelming response to my portraits which I am so grateful for. I hope I continue to receive support in the years to come, which I am sure I will."

'HIGHLAND BEAUTY': One of Chloe's latest compositions for 2023, right



TALENTED: Some examples of Chloe's work, below





Looking back...

25 Footpath safety fencing grant

1998

Six months after a Langholm pensioner's lucky escape when she fell down a river bank, the Council has agreed to a £1000 grant to repair a local walk.

Concern about the safety of the fencing along Easton's Walk was raised by Buccleuch Estates, through whose land the path leads. But responsibility for the walks was handed over to the Council as part of the 1954 agreement on the Rights of Way.

At their meeting last week, members of the Mid and Upper Annandale and Eskdale Ara Committee of Dumfries & Galloway Council agreed to make available £1000 to carry out repair works to the fencing along the walk.

Buccleuch Estates Factor Gareth Lewis had written

to the Council explaining that they were attempting to promote the walks, but he was concerned that insufficient funding appeared to be forthcoming to maintain the existing paths.

The Council granted £1500 towards the repair of a rotten safety barrier and the refurbishment of a footbridge on the walk five years ago.

The Committee heard that the Countryside and Access Budget available to the Committee had been fully spent for the financial year, but monies were available in the Capital/Revenue Budget available to the Area Committees from the Executive Committee.

After hearing that the Council's Rights of Way Officer had been consulted they agreed to make the money available.



Langholm Archives

50 SAYC Senior member training

1973

Four young people from the Langholm and Canonbie area are representing their local youth clubs on the senior member training course being run by the Scottish Association of Youth Clubs. The first part of the course was held on Sunday at Dumfries Youth Centre and at the Loreburn Hall, Dumfries and included a "potted sports" programme and a lecture on violence as well as a question and answer time.

The four were Misses Margaret Osziak, Avril Turnbull and Kim Morrison from Langholm Youth Club and Gordon Waitt from Canonbie.

The next part of the course will be held on a Saturday and Sunday in February, and this will be held in a hotel in Dumfries where accommodation has been arranged for the 29 participants from the South-West area.

On the agenda for the next meeting will be films, a talk on drug-taking and alcoholism and probably a visit to the Crichton Hospital, and a discussion on how to make youth clubs more interesting.

The final part of the course is held at Carberry Towers in Edinburgh when the South-West members will meet up with young people from all over Scotland. This is also a weekend course and will be held in March.

The January meeting of Langholm Floral Art Club was held in the Lesser Buccleuch Hall when Mrs Harkness presided over a good attendance of members and guests.

A demonstration on floral arrangements was given by Mrs Harkness, Mrs F Barnfather, Mrs Fisher, Mrs R Little and Mrs Armstrong, all club members.

The competition for the evening was an arrangement of three blooms with accessories allowed and the prize-winners were 1 Mrs F Barnfather, 2 Mrs J Fisher, 3 Mrs Murray.

75 County Council: Use of electricity

1948

The cost of maintenance of pre-fab houses was the subject of discussion at a meeting of Dumfries County Council when Mr J Kirkpatrick, chairman of the Housing Committee, gave the figures for the past eight months which revealed a consideration variation in several areas.

The chairman of the Electricity Committee, Mr WM Bell-Macdonald, appealed for great care in the use of electricity, gas and coal.

Mr Bell-Macdonald said that in the past year he had pushed electricity, but now he was turning around and he asked them to go slow.

They were in a difficult position he also gave a warning note in regard to tariffs. The price of electricity, like many other things, would go up a little higher yet.

School meals

Mr William Brown convenor of the Education Committee, said he regretted that the progress in regard to the feeding of school children was disappointingly slow. Each day they were sending out four thousand meals from the Dornock and Dumfries centres and they hoped before long that centres at Lockerbie and Thornhill would be in operation. Representations had been made to the department on the subject.

Police pension

The Police Committee agreed to award Sergeant William Irving as from and after the 6th day of October 1947, when he retired from the county police force, a pension for life of £286 per annum in terms and subject to the provisions of the Police Pensions Act 1921.



C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday 12th January 2023

C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 8,983 sheep comprising of 4,596 prime hogs and 4,387 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown on **Thursday 12th January 2023**.

A small mixed entry of cattle were forward to the usual competitive ring-side of buyers. Yet again all classes remain very much in demand with more numbers required on a weekly basis. The sale topped at £1,533 for an Angus from W Skilling, Cara View, Campbeltown. Limousin cows sold to 160p from D F Crew, Gall Farm, Lockerbie.

A very mixed show of **4,596 prime hogs** were forward to the same ring of competitive purchasers. Lean lambs are urged to be marketed in the store market here on a Tuesday to realise their true potential. Better bred hogs that were well finished proved good to sell whilst heavy hogs harder work on the week

Top price per head of £154 for Texel hogs shown by R & N Barclay, South Road, Aberdeen.

Top per kilo of 306p for Beltex hogs from H & DM Forster, East

Wharmley, Hexham.

Achieving an overall average 222.1p (SQQ 223.7p)

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Beltex 306p East Wharmley, 294p, 290p Oswie, 282p Slealands, 278p Lurgan.

Texel 277p Lingey Field, 271p The Ash, 265p Cadgillhead, 260p Slealands.

Suffolk 240p High Stenries & Barnglies, 235p Foulshiels & Nethertofts, 233p South Road, 232p Greengatehouse & Achamore.

Cheviot 240p Orthwaite Hall, 239p Potholm, 230p Meadowside.

Charollais 237p Saddell Home, 235p Kelly Barns.

Cheviot Mule 230p Douglas Square, 225p Marwhim, 222p Loanhead.

Mule 227p High Cattadale & Banks, 223p Chapel, 222p Killeonan, 221p West Deanraw.

North Country Cheviot 221p, 219p South Road.

Easycare 221p Stockholm.

Herdwick 220p Orthwaite Hall.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

Texel £154, £150 South Road, £142, £140 Kirkton of Crawford, £140 South Road, £139 Park House.

Beltex £144, £142 Whitstonehill, £140 Swallows Barn & South Road, £135 East Wharmley.

Cheviot £136 Cleuchhead.

Suffolk £134, £128 South Road, £126.50 Overton of Knaven, £126 Guardsmill & South Road.

Cheviot Mule £129 Loanhead, £128 Becks.

Charollais £124 Overton of Knaven, £120 Dunnabie House.

Mule £113.50 Fardingjames, £113 Dodgsonstown, £111.50 Overton of Knaven, £110 Meadowside.

A much larger show of **4,387 cast ewes and rams** was forward.

Heavy ewes and best Texel/Beltex ewes in demand whilst leaner ewes proved harder to cash.

Texel ewes topped at £300 for a pen of 3 very well bred Texel ewes from Messrs Duncan, West Croft, Aberdeen, who's run of 73 pure bred Texel ewes averaged £221

and his run of heavy 146 Continental bred and Cheviot Mule ewes averaged £179.

Hill ewes to £100 for Cheviots from Bridgewater & Wood, Potholm, Langholm.

Rams sold to £245 for Texels from A & T Wilson, Baryerrock, Whauphill.

As ewe numbers look set to tighten, quantities of ewes are actively sought after for the coming weeks sales. Please do not hesitate to contact our auctioneers, who will be pleased to take your calls for all further enquiries or entries.

John Walton 07880 527 066

Nick Woodmass 07854 200 489

Sam Hogg 07584 207 323

Norman Douglas 07786 366 833

HEAVY EWES

Texel £300 West Croft, £260 Maulscastle, £255 Todholes, £250 West Croft, Sharplaw & Belzies, £245 Fiddleton Bank End.

Charollais £190 Loanhead, £160 Beckfoot.

Beltex £165 Lairdlaugh.

Suffolk £160 West Croft & Faugh

Beeches, £145 Kilford Croft & Beckfoot, £140 Colmslie Hill.

Blue Texel £142 Maulscastle.

Oxford £138 Guards.

Bluefaced Leicester £132 Benmore Street.

Cheviot Mule £130 Colmslie Hill, £129 Loanhead, £128 Ghyll Brae, Loanhead & West Croft.

North Country Cheviot £124 Whitton, £122 Drumwalt.

Mule £123 Millriggs, £119 Baryerrock, £118 Kirranrae, £113 Cleughbraemill, £112 Faugh Beeches.

LIGHT EWES

Cheviot £100 Potholm, £94 Main-side, £90 Meadowside & Townfoot, £88 Potholm, £86 Meadowside.

Blackface £84 Grindon Hill, £79 Longyester, £78 Kildalloig, £74 South Road & Newton Cottage.

Swaledale £84 Whitton, £76 Horsley Hill, £75 Hollin Close.

Easycare £84 Haresteads.

Lonk £82 Achamore.

RAMS

Texel £245 Baryerrock, £225, £218 Loanhead.

Suffolk £172 Baryerrock, £168 Loanhead.

Charollais £160 Beckfoot, £158 Thackwood, £155 Viewley.

Bluefaced Leicester £148 Colmslie Hill, £140 Upper Hindhope, £138 Gibbs Hill.

Lleyn £140 Loanhead.

North Country Cheviot £132

White Knowe, £120 Drumwalt.

Cheviot £128 Stirrfield, £120

Cleuchhead.

Averages:

Hoggs

Light to 263.0p (195.6p)

Standard to 294.0p (218.9p)

Medium to 306.0p (229.4p)

Heavy to 269.0p (220.1p)

Shearlings to 139.0p (132.1p)

Ewes

Light to £100.00 (£57.01)

Heavy to £300.00 (£109.31)

Rams to £245.00 (£106.51)



The E&L Gallery



The second of the aerial photos Stuart Tedham came across. This time, a fabulous aerial view of Langholm Old Town from April 3, 1950. Eric Edwards digitally enhanced the photo From NCAP - National Collection of Aerial Photography

Brandon back at The Buccleuch

It is just over 14 years since Brandon McPhee ventured his first notes on the button Box at his grandad's Donald's knee. A good listener and keen pupil, he was soon playing "The Dark Island" competently, a waltz which remains one of his favourites and globally most requested tunes.

Within a year of taking up the Button Accordion Brandon had begun his collection of competition trophies, beginning at the 2007 Caithness Music Festival, Lairg Music Festival, Royal National Mod Victories and followed by a variety of Junior Championships. Senior national successes followed, culminating in winning the All Scotland Senior Traditional Accordion Solo Championship in 2014, the first time a Button Box Accordion had won the title in 27 Years and one of only a hand selected few Button Accordionists to ever win the title in its history. Since then Brandon has focussed on developing his recording and

stage-show career.

A decade from his first few notes, Brandon has achieved phenomenal success both as a Champion Accordionist and made his mark on the Country/Irish music scene. He has worked with the cream of the country music world from Daniel O'Donnell and Philomena Begley to Foster & Allen! The Brandon McPhee Experience feature highly regarded and successful musicians who have many years of experience in the music industry. It says a great deal that Brandon is surrounded by such talented (and dare one say, mature) artists.

Brandon has a growing catalogue of both Traditional Scottish and Country Music Albums (Pan Record label) which has led to multiple songs reaching charted levels in the Joyce Ramgatie Country Music Chart and prior European Country Music Chart.

After a performance at Buckingham Palace Prince

Charles was forced to remark: "I don't know how you move your fingers so fast. It's quite incredible".

Of course, peer pressure was never far away, but Brandon stuck to his guns and became more immersed in Scottish and Country music. He recorded his first album at 11 years of age (A Starr Is Born). Brandon purchased a second-hand accordion from Ireland on which he recorded the album, the iconic three row Will Starr's 'Shand Morino' accordion. He then went on to win first place at the Caithness Music Festival on button key accordion, first place in his age group at the Lairg Music Festival and on to first place in the All Scotland Junior, and eventually Senior Scottish Accordion Championship.

Brandon makes a return to The Buccleuch Centre, Langholm on Friday 17th February 2023 Call 013873 81196 or



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WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

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Thu 19th	Langholm Rotary Club Burns Supper	Eskdale Hotel
Thu 26th	Canonbie Public Hall AGM	Canonbie Public Hall 7.30pm
	The Eskdale Foundation AGM	Eskdale Hotel 7pm Members only
	Langholm Ladies' Burns Club Burns Supper	The Buccleuch Centre 6pm
Fri 27th	Gilnockie Burns Supper	Gilnockie Hall 7.30pm 013873 71701 for tickets
Sat 28th	Canonbie Church Soup Kitchen & Table Top Sale	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1.00pm
Wed 1st Feb	The Jersey Beats 'Oh, What a Nite!'	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Fri 17th	The BRANDON McPhee Show	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm



Girls serve up goal feast for loyal fans

Langholm junior tournament proves a huge success

Girls Football

There was a great turnout to watch the girls' football at the weekend, and the fans weren't let down with some superb performances across the board.

Langholm U10's team played their first club fixtures against Heston Rovers Belles from Dumfries. With Heston bringing two teams a mini round robin format was possible, and there was some excellent football on display and lots of good goals for the large turnout of spectators to enjoy.

The young team from

Langholm played exceptionally well, winning both of their games 3-0 and 5-2 and are looking forward to the return game in Dumfries. Goal scorers for Langholm were Charlie-Jane Wilson, Freya Elliot, Ciara McKinnel and Hannah Imrie.

In the second game of the day, the Under 12s took on Queen of the South from Dumfries, their biggest test to date. The game proved to be highly competitive, with some excellent football being played by both teams, ebbing and flowing from end to end with lots of chances and some excellent saves by both keepers.

The goalkeeper from Queen

of the South in particular made some exceptional saves and was awarded their player of the match.

In a highly entertaining game, the spoils were shared in a 3-3 draw, and the girls now look forward to the journey to Dumfries to play a return fixture.

Well done to Tia Hetherington for scoring all three goals and her first hat-trick for the club.

Organisers Calum Graham said: "Thanks must go to Stevie Ellwood for volunteering to referee the Queen of the South Game and for both Heston and Queen of the South for making the journey over from Dumfries.

"Both the U10s and U12s team



played some excellent football. We are seeing progress every time they play which is great recognition of the work being done by the coaches. It was also great to see a large turnout of spectators to watch the games during the day."

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Open success



TEAM WOOD: Father and son Ryan and Chris Wood won at Jedburgh

Carpet Bowling

By Luke Tolson

There has been more success from Langholm bowlers in the past couple of weeks at open competitions within the area.

Father and son team Chris and Ryan Wood won the open pairs tournament held at Jedburgh rugby club. Facing tough competition from local bowlers they beat Jimmy King and Jimmy Renwick in the final.

Luke Tolson and Roy Park had a successful night at Moffat Water Hall, making the final of the pairs tournament – and sharing the money with Ryan Simpson and Dominic Murray as there was no cup to play for.

Luke and Roy beat Brian McDonald and Lee Beauy from Dumfries in the semi-final to earn their place as joint winners of the tournament.

Langholm girls are No 1



STARS: l to r Matilda Brockley, Ava Bell and Antonia Brockley have started 2023 as they left off last year

Three young girls from Langholm currently sit atop of the pile in three different athletics events in Scotland.

At the recent Glasgow Athletics Association New Year Bash at Glasgow's Emirates Arena, which was for jumps and throws,

Matilda Brockley, Antonia Brockley and Ava Bell all set new personal bests in their respective events – and uniquely are now all ranked No1 in Scotland.

Matilda Brockley is at the top of the Power of 10 with a 10.69m jump in the Under 17 Triple

Jump. Antonia Brockley sat at No1 with a jump of 4.59m in the Under 15 Long Jump and Ava Bell at No1 with a jump of 8.94m in the U15 Triple Jump.

All three athletes received funding through the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards.

WELCOME to LANGHOLM
FUTURE CHAMPIONS AWARDS



Champagne on ice for Langholm

Defeat ends winning run, but single point needed could come on Saturday

Rugby

Corstophine 19
Langholm 7

By Kenneth Pool

Langholm's magnificent nine-game unbeaten record came to an end on Saturday, as closest rivals Corstophine squeezed a narrow victory from a hard-fought match in Edinburgh.

Even then, promotion was still a distinct possibility – until the result of the Dunbar v Dalkeith match came in. Dalkieth's try bonus means the Milntown men must now wait another week to uncork the champagne.

The conditions were wet and windy and very heavy underfoot, which made kicking and running rugby difficult, and made for a very hard 80 minutes. Langholm started well when scrum-half Jonathan Wilkes opened the score after 11 minutes with a well worked try, converted by skipper Nathan Smith.

But Corstophine were quick to reply, with a



FINISHING LINE: Skipper Nathan Smith in action

penalty by Adam Pilkington – and it was the same player who went over for the home side's first try after 26 minutes. A mistake by Langholm allowed the hosts in for another try just five minutes before the break.

Trailing 13-7 at half-time, Langholm were quickly on the back foot in the second half when Pilkington kicked a prodigious penalty from the half way line, followed by another on 61 minutes which took the score to 19-7.

Siege

With promotion on the line, Langholm threw everything at the home side in the last quarter and were rewarded when Wilkes went over for his second try. Smith was wide with the conversion, however, and despite laying siege to the Corstophine line in the dying minutes it was not to be against a rock-solid home defence.

Saturday's results leave Langholm just a single point short of winning the league – but sets up a terrific occasion at Milntown this weekend for the visit of Hawick Linden.

The kick-off is at 2pm, and a packed house is expected for what promises to be a well-deserved day of celebration in Langholm.

HOW THEY STAND

TENNENT'S EAST REGION LEAGUE DIVISION 2

	Pld	Pts
Langholm	10	44
Dalkeith	9	29
Corstophine	9	28
Livingstone	10	27
Penicuik	9	22
Dunbar	9	16
Hawick Linden	8	1

Borthwicks turn on the style

Father and son combine as Legion hit five to start 2023 with a bang

Football

Langholm Legion 5
Stow 2

Langholm sealed their first win of 2023 with a vastly improved performance from their heavy defeat the previous week.

With a strong squad to choose from, manager Jock Thomson opted for a change in formation, with a focus on defence being key to Legion securing the three points

Both teams started strongly, Langholm trying to spread the ball along the back line and work the ball into the opponent's half, whilst Stow opted for a direct approach and looked to play the ball over the top of the defence.

Legion soon found their opener, as having come close to scoring from a corner twice Finley Dell was finally able to convert another headed effort for the season.

A second was to follow not long after Ali Little was able to pick up on a loose pass from the Stow midfielder and evaded a challenge before crossing the ball into the box for Brian Mattinson to finesse

the ball past the keeper.

Any confidence Langholm gained from this goal was short-lived as Stow swiftly responded. A quickly taken corner left Langholm scrambling to pick up their men, and a lack of organisation left an easy header to allow Stow back into the game just before half-time.

The second half started with what seemed like a shift in momentum. Stow were putting Langholm under a little bit of pressure and they were quickly rewarded. Not learning their lesson from the first goal, another quick corner was taken and despatched in a similar manner to the first.

Langholm, not to be disheartened, stuck at their game plan. Cole Hamilton scored, his pace allowing him to latch on to a bouncing ball after a miscommunication between the Stow keeper and his defender left them both in no-man's land.

Langholm restored their two-goal lead as another fantastic Cuthbert corner was met by captain Lee Irving, who rose above the Stow defence and nodded the ball downwards leaving the keeper with little chance.

The final goal for Langholm would

make for a proud Borthwick household on Saturday. Veteran David Borthwick's quick feet allowed him to dance through the defence before chipping the ball through and assisting his son, Ben Borthwick, who powered the ball into the back of the net for his first goal for the club.

A monumental hug between father and son was soon interrupted by the rest of the team, celebrating what they knew was the goal that would seal the win.

Team: D Johnson, C Pool, F Dell, L Irving, C Grieve, A Little, C Cuthbert, R Johnstone, D Winter, C Hamilton, B Mattinson

Subs used: B Winter, T Henderson, A Whittal, B Borthwick, D Borthwick



HOW THEY STAND

BORDERS AMATEUR LEAGUE A

	Pld	Pts
Duns Amateurs	9	21
Chirside Utd	10	20
Langlee Ams	9	19
Hawick Waverley	12	17
Langholm Legion	14	17
Stow	11	11
Tweeddale Rovers	11	11
Newtown	10	11
Tweedmouth Ams	12	10
Greenlaw	7	6

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