

A monumental man

Sir John Malcolm remembered

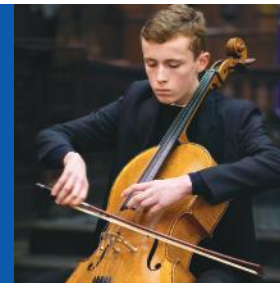
SEE PAGE 12



Hitting the high notes

More success for cellist Will

PAGE 2



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8488

Established May 1848

Thursday February 23, 2023

www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

D-Day for Erskine campaigners

- Council chief to visit Langholm Eyesore
- Hundreds sign petition demanding action

By Nick Brownlee

Campaigners in Langholm have vowed they won't be fobbed off in their quest for answers about the future of the Erskine Church.

Members of the Erskine Church Stakeholders Group are today handing a petition to the deputy leader of D&G council, demanding action over the 150-year-old building.

Richard Brodie's visit to the church is the first by a senior council official since the campaign began in earnest last year – although planning officers will not be present.

Dubbed "The Eyesore", the steeple of derelict church has been clad in scaffolding and netting for more than 20 years, while the rest of the structure has fallen into such a state of disrepair that people living nearby fear it could collapse on their homes.

They include Anna Irving, whose daughter Denise Irving-Lang is leading the campaign.

"We are asking the council to hold the Erskine Church's landowners to account, and also to genuinely look at the building and its long-term future," Denise said.

"There has been a continuous cycle of the property changing hands, disingenuous developers buying it online, not having looked at. It sits on their asset sheets and they don't do anything about it."

The current owners of the church are understood to be a development company based



CRUSADER: Denise Irving-Lang will present the petition to the council's deputy leader at Erskine Church today

in the Hebrides. They bought the building at an online auction last year, but have so far done nothing with it.

"They have failed in their obligations as landlord to the degree that the council is having to step up and commission experts to come in and review the protective measures on a

regular basis," said Denise.

"We want to know what efforts have been made to contact the owners. And this current arrangement can't continue – Langholm residents are paying for steeplejacks from Edinburgh to come down. That's not value for money."

It's the first time the Stake-

holders Group will have met a senior council official face-to-face, after months of sending Freedom of Information requests, and Denise says hundreds of people have signed the petition. But she says she is disappointed that officers from the planning department will not be there.

"They've given no reason, but it's not surprising because throughout this whole campaign there has been a lot of stonewalling around FOI responses. They've basically tried to wash their hands of it."

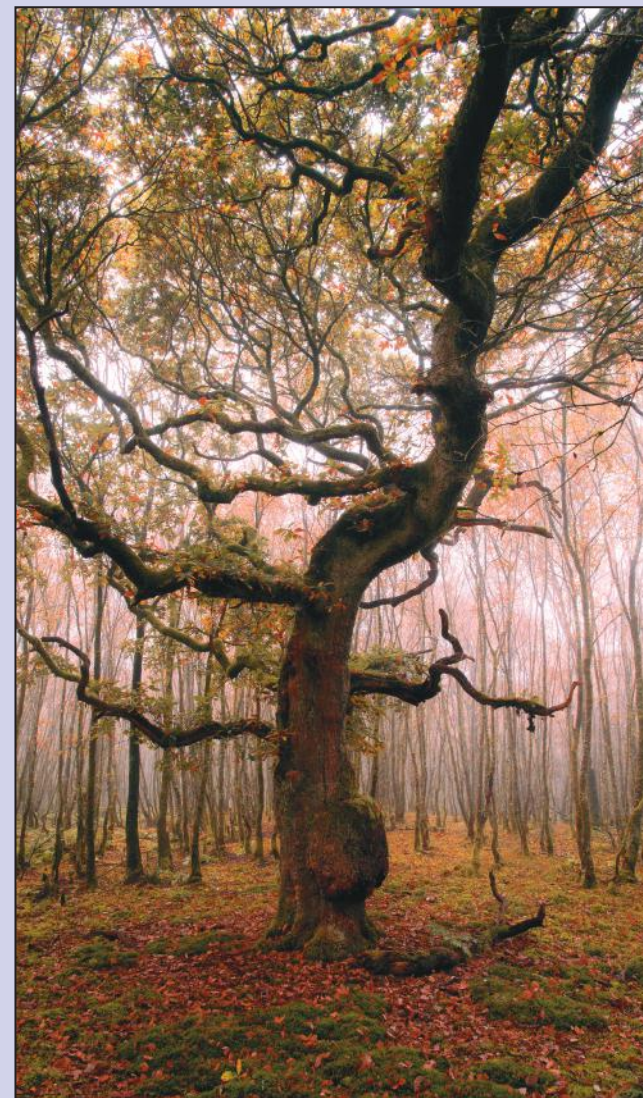
Denise, 44, grew up in her mother's house and says she remembers playing inside the church as a child.

"Even then it was riddled with dry rot – but my concern is that nobody has been in recently to check on the condition of the building. I'm just wondering what is keeping the steeple up."

The council have consistently argued that, while they will continue to make remedial repairs, ultimate responsibility for the upkeep of the church belongs to the owners.

"They want us to go away but we're not going to be fobbed off," Denise said. "There's a lot of momentum behind this campaign and this is only the beginning."

"With Grenfell it took a catastrophic incident make people aware of it." The woman on a mission to tackle the Langholm Eyesore – CENTRE PAGES



Heart of oak

Standing proud in the forest, as it has for hundreds of years, this mighty oak seems almost disdainful of those around it. Yet it, like others in the ancient woodlands of Longwood, in the Tarras Valley, are under threat from relative newcomers – in the form of birch trees which are slowly starving the oaks of light. Now the team at Tarras Valley are taking steps to ensure that these magnificent trees will survive for many more years.

• FULL STORY, p5

Family Announcements

Thanks for Sympathy

HOTSON, Jimmy

The family of the late Jimmy Hotson would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the flowers, cards and kind words received following their sad loss.

Special thanks to Langholm Health Centre and staff at Thomas Hope Hospital for the care given to Jimmy.

Also thanks to Rev Morag Crossan for the memorial service, and to all who attended and so kindly donated to the collection for Thomas Hope Hospital in memory of Jimmy - this was very much appreciated.

In Memoriam

Reid

In loving memory of John Reid who passed away on 23rd February 2020

*Unseen, unheard, but always near,
So loved and missed, so very dear.*

Love from Betty, Julia and Kevin

Funeral Services

Funeral Directors

Undertaker & Monumental Service
New Memorials supplied
Additional Inscriptions and Cleaning

David W. Erskine

Briery Bank, Ewes, Langholm
Tel: 013873 81251 or 07710 906257

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

For a Personal Service
Shaun Turnbull

Please call: 0789 655 7941



James Rae & Sons
Headstones and Memorials

- Headstones
- Memorials
- Children's Memorials
- Desks and Vases
- Memorial Design
- Memorial Restoration



11a George Street • Annan
01461 202083 • www.jraeandsonshadstones.co.uk

Church Notices

CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

Liddesdale and Canonbie Churches welcome you to Sunday worship
10am Liddesdale
11.30am Canonbie

Rev Morag Crossan
07861 736071 or email
mrossan@churchofscotland.org.uk

LANGHOLM, ESKDALEMUIR, EWES & WESTERKIRK PARISH CHURCHES

Church Services
Sunday 26th February
Langholm 10am

Contact us for transport
0744 885 8818.

Tel: 013873 73755.

Charity no. SCO11946

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

47A High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH

Time to call time on the Erskine Eyesore

It promises to be quite a showdown in downtown Langholm today – and not before time.

Led by the redoubtable Denise Irving-Lang, campaigners calling for action to be taken to solve the problem of the so-called Erskine Eyesore will finally come face to face with the deputy leader of the council. Richard Brodie will receive a petition, but also face some awkward questions about why the Victorian church has been allowed to rot away on the town's skyline.

After more than 20 years, the town deserves answers. Moreover, it urgently needs a decision. The time for prevarication on this matter is over.

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012

Editor Nick Brownlee, Features Editor Gilly Fraser

All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Cellist Will hits the right note

Award-winning Langholm cellist Will Archibald has added another title to his impressive roster of success.

The 14-year-old won the Rotary Young Musician area final, where he was up against musicians representing Rotary Clubs from throughout the whole of south west Scotland.

He now goes on to the district finals which are to be held in Heriot Watt university in Edinburgh.

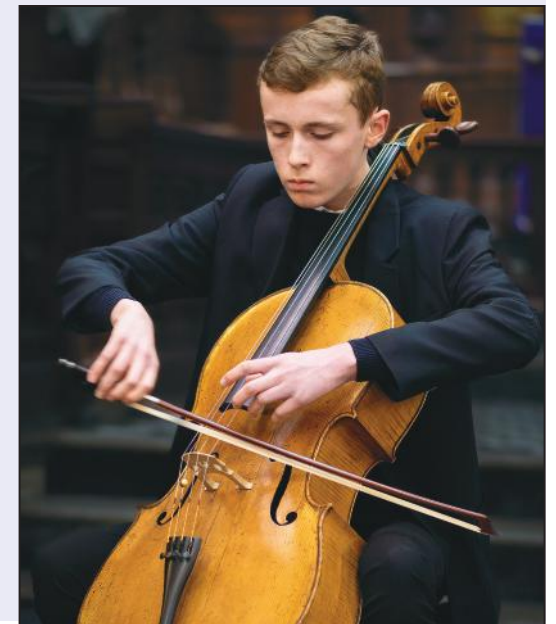
Born in Stirling, Will moved to Eskdale as a child and took up the cello at the age of seven.

He has already racked up

an impressive tally of titles, winning at both the Perform in Dumfries Music Festival and the Carlisle Music Festival last year.

He also won the Beatrice Huntington Award and played in the Edinburgh Competition Festival too, and competed in the Scottish Young Musician of the Year.

A pupil at Langholm Academy, Will attends cello classes in Annan with Alex McQuiston, who himself trained as a cellist at Chetham's School of Music, the RNCM and the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana.



Sturgeon tributes but sideswipe at Humza

Politicians in our region have been giving their verdict on Nicola Sturgeon's shock resignation.

The SNP leader and Scottish First Minister unexpectedly announced she would be stepping down last week, after eight years at the top of the country's political tree.

South Scotland MSP Colin Smyth said: "Frontline politics comes with a heavy burden, in particular for your family and friends, and I wish her the best in whatever she does next.

"To lead your country for so long and deliver such success at the ballot box is a political achievement that will secure Nicola Sturgeon's place in history.

"But ultimately what matters now is delivering better schools,



hospitals and a stronger, greener economy, as the challenges for our country are mounting. She is a shrewd politician and I suspect chose the time she wanted to go before, like most leaders, that no longer became her decision."

And Rachael Hamilton MSP said: "It's the right time for Nicola Sturgeon to resign. Her record has not lived up to people's expectations. Her focus on another

independence referendum and divisive politics is not what the people of the Scottish Borders need.

"Despite her assertion that short term issues did not play a part in her downfall, it's clear her recent disastrous policy strategy choices have. I hope we can now come together as a country and focus on people's real priorities, especially supporting our NHS and rebuilding our public services"

The front-runners in the race to replace Ms Sturgeon include Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care Humza Yusef.

But paying tribute to Ms Sturgeon, Scottish Borders MP John Lamont urged Mr Yusef not to stand, claiming handling of the health service as Cabinet Secretary had been "horrendous" and

demonstrated that he was "unfit" to lead the country.

"Despite our political differences, Nicola Sturgeon has been a formidable First Minister for many years," he said. "He has been the worst health secretary since devolution began, which demonstrates clearly that he is unfit to lead the country.

"Scotland's NHS has suffered immense damage on Mr Yousaf's watch. His failures have left Borders residents waiting far too long for vital treatment and healthcare.

"Mr Yousaf cannot be allowed to damage our public services the way he has run down our health service.

"He must drop his leadership bid and focus on fixing the problems he has created in Scotland's NHS."

Fugitive Neville caught after a week on the run

Canonbie conspirator finally apprehended by police in Durham

A Canonbie car dealer, who helped two killers flee the country, is behind bars today after attempting to escape justice himself.

Ross Neville went on the run last week after his original community service sentence was increased to 22 months' imprisonment by the Appeal Court.

After nearly a week, the 32-year-old was arrested more than 80 miles away in Durham.

Neville was initially given a non-custodial punishment when sentenced with two other people for their part in events following the death of Ryan Kirkpatrick, 24, in Carlisle.

This followed the sentencing of Kane Hull and Liam Porter, who were both jailed for life in October for the murder of Mr Kirkpatrick.

The two men had gone on the run after Mr Kirkpatrick was stabbed to death in an "execution-style" killing on a night out in September 2021.

Neville, along with Michael Celmins, 32, and 22-year-old Olivia Memmory, 22, admitted

giving assistance as the men tried to evade police. Carlisle Crown Court heard that he helped the killers with accommodation and transport to help them travel undetected by the police.

But there was uproar in the court when Neville walked free after being sentenced to a one-year community payback order, which included 200 hours of unpaid work.

It later emerged that he had more than 40 previous convictions

The sentence was referred to the appeal court by the Attorney General, and last week they increased it to one year and 10 months under the Unduly Lenient Scheme.

Barrister William Emlyn Jones KC told the court that the original sentences failed to reflect the seriousness of the murder, or achieve a sufficient "deterrent effect" for those tempted to frustrate the administration of justice.

He said: "It was Neville to whom the murderers turned

first. He was the first offender who put them up safely." He provided an untraceable car for Hull and Porter, which they used to move to new accommodation north of Carlisle and then at Alston.

The pair then fled to the Republic of Ireland, where they were subsequently arrested.

Following the Appeal Court ruling, Neville was ordered to report to police in Carlisle – but did not turn up, sparking a police appeal.

It is not known whether his sentence will be affected by the fact that he sought to evade justice.



CAUGHT: Ross Neville, of Broadmeadows Farm House, fled to the North-East after his original sentence was increased by the Appeal Court



NEWS IN BRIEF

Festival returns

Scotland's largest rural performing arts festival is back in venues across Dumfries and Galloway from 20th – 28th May 2023.

For 44 years, the D&G Arts Festival has brought world-class theatre, music, dance, comedy and spoken word to the heart of communities across the region. It's a celebration of local and national artists and its wide ranging 2023 programme of events will be announced on March 22.

Bridge results

February 10

1 Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2 Nancy Mclure & Anne Ferguson, 3 Doug Dixon & Doreen Taylor, 4 Alison Mullock & Jim Muir, 5 Derek Scott & Scott Muir, 6 Tricia Reynolds & Richard Von Slicher.

February 17

N/S - 1 Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2 Derek Scott & Avril Bannatyne, 3= Jan Dunckley & Aileen Graham and Ann Smart & Barbara Addison. E/W - 1 Doreen Taylor & Lesley McCartney, 2= Jim Muir & Alison Mullock and Tricia Reynolds & Richard Von Slicher.

Anger over Canonbie speed sign damage

Investigations are underway after a safety speed sign outside Canonbie school was smashed.

The sign was hit with sufficient force not only to damage the display casing of the LED sign, but also to bend the pole.

Anyone travelling on the B6357, passing Canonbie school, who witnessed a vehicle mounting the verge and hitting the sign, is asked to come forward. Dashcam footage would also be useful.

A spokesman said: "This Vehicle Activated Speed sign serves as a reminder to drivers of the need for special care over their speed. Such a sign is particularly important at this site, where parents and children regularly walk to and from school.

Replacement of the much-appreciated sign will cost over £3,750. It is a staggering amount of money. Worse, it is money that can only come through applications to the wind farms.

"This means that the total



SPEED: The sign near to Canonbie School was knocked off by what appears to be a careless motorist

available funds for our district in 2023, is likely to be reduced from £10,000 to £6,000.

"In other words, the available

funding for community groups in our area will be reduced by 40 percent this year."

In addition to the damaged

sign, there is evidence of a tractor mounting the kerb and running along the grass verge for a short distance.

Book your eyetest today
 Personal care and attention from your first appointment with us.
 Spectacles and Contact Lenses to suit all budgets



ERIC HAGAN
 OPTICIANS
www.erichaganopticians.co.uk

Longtown
 Tel: 01228 791664
 Brampton
 Tel: 016977 42703

TO ADVERTISE IN THE E&L ADVERTISER
 please call
 013873 80012
 or email
alan@eladvertiser.co.uk



The E&L Advertiser
 47a High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH
 t. 013873 80012
 e. newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk for stories and editor
 e. alan@eladvertiser.co.uk for advertising and admin
 e. yuliana@eladvertiser.co.uk for accounts



Future secure for thriving Hub

Windfarm funds to keep local centre going for next three years

The future of a local community Hub has been secured – thanks to the latest windfarm funding windfall.

The Old School Hub & Café in Eskdalemuir has been given a share of £300,000 from the Crossdykes Community Benefit Fund.

This will support core running costs such as wages, water, electricity and fuel to ensure the hub keeps going over the next three years.

“The hub, like everyone, has seen massive increases in electricity, food, fuel and other bought in goods,” said operational development manager Lara Porter.

“For example our monthly electricity bill has gone from £450 to £1,200 in the last year. Our wood pellets have more than doubled in price, and repairs and maintenance have seen an increase due to cost of fuel.

“We are very remote so we struggle to get suppliers to come out here, so we cannot shop around like other organisations who are in more accessible areas. Such massive increases were not foreseen, and are crippling for a charity.

“Wages are one of our key costs, without which we would not be able to function.”

The Hub has been stated as the number one reason Eskdalemuir has been chosen

over other Scottish rural locations as a place to live.

It’s run by the Upper Eskdale Development Group, who will receive funding for three years to establish the sustainability ethos, increase awareness of the benefits of the Hub, and develop the remit of the hub in line with community needs.

In the last 12 months it has developed a community library, formed a community garden, hosted a warm hub, and staged

plays, dances, music and art exhibitions. Organisers hope to develop the venue for weddings, conferences, events and weekend courses.

“Covid lockdowns have highlighted the importance of rural community spaces like the Hub,” said Lara.

“It’s the key to providing preventative services to keep the community healthier for longer and cared for in times of need.”



RURAL: Hub manager Lara Porter says Covid highlighted the importance of places like the Hub

All systems go at Teviothead

Hall unveils new look, with events planned for 2023

The team at Teviothead Hall have revealed extensive behind-the-scenes work at the Eskdale venue.

In recent months improvements have been carried out, including the addition of a new sound system, drop-down cinema screen and provision for internet access.

Other work is planned for this year which will see the bathrooms being refurbished and the addition of a new entrance porch.

Meanwhile a number of successful workshops have been organized, resulting in the formation of a weaving group. Six portable tabletop looms have been purchased and local people will now have the opportunity to learn this traditional craft together with excellent instruction from Jan Beadle from Carlisle.

The next event organised by the

Hall Committee is a concert on Saturday featuring popular folk band Other Roads. A light supper will be provided but people are asked to bring their own refreshments.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held next Monday at 7pm, and anyone interested in contributing to the ongoing work done to support the community is more than welcome.

A spokesman said: “It is the intention of the Hall committee to change the charity status of the Hall and move to a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation).”

“The main advantage of doing this is to offer a higher degree of protection to those running the hall

and all those involved with it.”

Many of the improvements to the hall have been made possible through funding from the Federation of Village Halls, Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council and the Langhope Rig Wind Farm fund.

Details of more events planned for this coming year can be found on the new Teviothead Hall website www.teviotheadhall.org

Anyone wishing to join the weaving group should send a message to 07718088299

Tickets for Other Roads will be available on the door but for further information please contact Caroline on 07521500690 or Pat on 07718088299



REFURBISHED: Teviothead Hall, top
LIVE MUSIC: Other Roads appear at the hall this Saturday

20mph speed limit is 'vital for High Street'

Plan to ban parked cars will encourage speeding, says campaigner

A Langholm road safety campaigner has renewed his calls for a 20mph speed limit to be imposed throughout the town.

Bill Telfer says that the limit should have been included in new proposals which will see parking restrictions introduced in the busy High Street.

And Mr Telfer also claims that by banning parked cars along the A7, traffic chiefs are encouraging motorists to speed through the built-up area, which is currently limited to 30mph.

"Removal of car parking on Langholm High Street, without reducing the speed limit to 20mph, will increase the speed of traffic and make the street more stressful and dangerous for everyone, including drivers, and passengers, as well as the more vulnerable road users, the pedestrians, cyclists, mothers with prams, older children going to school, the elderly, and mobility impaired," he said.

"Perhaps we should be grateful that sometimes drivers at present have to slow down a bit to negotiate parked cars. If parked cars are to be cleared from the street, it will be eminently sensible to introduce a speed of 20mph limit.

"Therefore we, believe that a 20mph speed limit is vital for the High Street.



CONCERN: Campaigners want to see a 20 mph speed limit introduced in Langholm

This will enable everyone to share the street safely and fairly, regardless whether or not parking is retained." Mr Telfer, who lives in Caroline Street

and has been a long-time advocate of the "20 Is Plenty" campaign, has organised a petition of concerned local residents which currently has over 100 signatures.

"We would agree with proposals to restrict parking in the High Street if this would make the street safer," he said.

"However removal of the parked cars could make the street more dangerous. It is entirely foreseeable that removing the parked cars will allow 40-tonne trucks to barrel through the town at speeds up to 30mph."

Mr Telfer is also calling for the 20mph limit to include residential streets in Langholm – and says that similar schemes have already been introduced successfully in other Borders towns.

"It will provide a quieter, healthier environment for the residents, traders, and shoppers making the High Street a more pleasant place and improve the quality of life for all of the town's inhabitants," he added.

A spokesman for Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council said: "Dumfries & Galloway Council have adopted a 20mph speed limit in town like they have in the Borders. The order will be rolled out town by town and it is likely Langholm will be the last."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Covid cost to NHS

Covid cost NHS Dumfries & Galloway "a decade's worth of progress" in cutting waiting times for hospital operations.

The full impact of the pandemic and associated lockdowns which caused unprecedented disruption to the delivery of health and care services in the region has been revealed.

The health board has gone from making inroads on waiting lists to seeing the creation of significant backlogs.

In addition, unscheduled care teams have been put under huge pressure due to difficulties in reducing hospital occupancy to appropriate levels.

The board has now drawn up a 14-point action plan in a bid to improve the situation.

And according to the chief executive, Jeff Ace, it will have to create "a radically different model" going forward.

Lease of life for ancient oaks

Work begins to clear space for Longwood trees

The Tarras Valley Longwood ancient woodlands are an incredibly special habitat with the infamous veteran oak trees, which are hundreds of years old.

These wonderful old trees have their own unique ecosystem and can provide a home for hundreds of other different species like fungi, mosses, insects and birds.

To really thrive, however, these trees need lots of space and light to keep growing to a grand old age – some ancient oaks can live for more than 1,000 years.

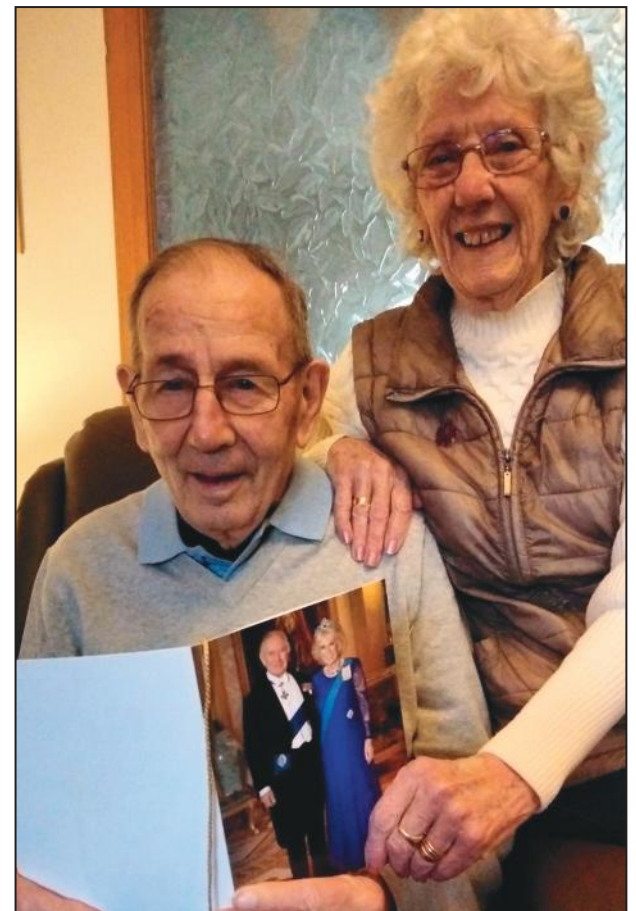
At the moment, these stunning veterans are being crowded by younger birch trees which are blocking light, casting heavy shade and this is causing the oaks to decline with lower branches starting to die back.

The Tarras Valley team are busy working with the Woodland Trust to plan some birch thinning over the coming year (outside of bird nesting season).

You might have already noticed some marked trees in Longwood that have been identified for removal. This is all so that these magnificent trees get the light and space they desperately need so they can be conserved for many hundreds of years to come.



STUNNING: But the ancient oak trees at Longwood are being slowly crowded out by resurgent birch



A Langholm couple have received a card from the King to celebrate 60 wonderful years of marriage. Adrienne and Eric Maxwell married in 1963 and have been inseparable since.

The card, which features a photo of King Charles and the Queen Consort, has a message inside which reads: "My wife and I were so pleased to hear that you are celebrating your Diamond Wedding anniversary on February 9 2023."

Farming on the Border

In association with

C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



Cheviot champ

Langholm farmer Jim Robertson of the Becks has added to his already impressive tally of trophies and silverware by retaining the coveted Clenries Salver for best Cheviot flock of the year.

It was presented at the Cheviot Sheep Society AGM after the Becks flock achieved a total score of 141 points – an impressive 13 more than runner-up Common and Son's Crossdykes flock from Lockerbie. Jim last won the award in 2019 before Covid came along.

Jim's a third-generation farmer, but the first of his family at The Becks hill farm, having taken on the tenancy in 1980 at the age of just 20. He says he was fortunate to have great neighbours who were always on hand when he needed help or advice. The Becks now runs a hefted flock of 1000 South Country Cheviots as well as Texels and Galloway Cattle.

Jim's no stranger to coming



BECKS IS BEST: Jim Robertson

out on top – among his many triumphs he can count winning the Young Farmers shearing competition at the Royal Highland in 1985 and lifting the Supreme Champion Cheviot title at the Royal Highland Show in 2019. However, he has also known some very tough times, especially in 2001 when he lost his flock to Foot and Mouth.

Conscious of the need for his farm to do its bit for the climate, Jim has planted over 1400 metres of mixed hedges and trees along with ten acres of mixed woodland to help soak up carbon.

For peat's sake!

Ban on sales to reduce overall carbon emissions

It's used for gardening, fuel and whisky production and covers a total area of more than 2 million hectares in Scotland – but the sale of peat looks set to be banned.

The move is being made as part of wider plans to protect peatlands and reduce carbon emissions.

Scottish peatlands store 1.7 billion tonnes of carbon, which equates to 140 years' worth of the country's total annual greenhouse gas emissions.

However, much of it is in poor condition which means it can become a source of carbon emissions.

That's why the Scottish government has invested £250 million to restore 250,000 hectares of peatlands over a 10 year period to 2030.

Now it has launched a consultation to hear the opinions of gardeners, commercial growers and other peat users.

The intention is to ban the retail sale of peat for home



RESTORATION: The Scottish government has invested £250 million to restore 250,000 hectares of peatlands over a 10 year period to 2030.

gardening first, before considering how a wider ban would affect commercial users.

Integral

Environment Minister Mairi McAllan described peatlands as an integral part of Scotland's cultural and natural heritage.

"Restoring Scotland's peatlands can help us fight climate

change, support biodiversity and provide good, green jobs – often in rural communities," she said. "Hand in hand with our efforts to restore degraded peatlands, we must also do all we can to protect them. This means we must consider how to stop using peat, whether extracted in Scotland or elsewhere."

The Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh stopped using peat more than twenty years ago with no negative impacts. Director of Horticulture Raoul Curtis-Machin says it's not difficult to find alternatives.

"Materials like milled pine bark and other fibrous woody material have proved to be a successful alternative to peat,"

SOLWAY AGRICULTURE LIMITED

Glasgow Road Lockerbie Dumfriesshire DG11 2SE

Tel. Lockerbie (01576) 204124

Fax. Lockerbie (01576) 203806

Beet Pulp Pellets
Barley Grains
NB Grains Wheat Grains
Rolled Barley
Wheatfeed Rapemeal
Hi Pro Soya etc.

Can be mixed to your requirements

Collect or deliver ex Laurmar, Heathall Ind. Est., Dumfries

Bekina Wellingtons
Waterproof Leggings & Jackets Boiler Suits etc

FOR ALL LAMBING REQUIREMENTS
lamb colostrum, lambs milk bottles, teats, lammacs castration rings and pliers marking sprays etc.

Rowan Glen takeover gets back on track

New details have emerged about the take-over of Dumfriesshire-based yoghurt-makers Rowan Glen.

It was announced in January that the Palnure plant was under new ownership following the decision by Belfast-based owners Dale Farm to pull out.

At the time the parent company said it had made the move because Rowan Glen was operating in a market characterised by "excess capacity and declining demand for their primary products," and that the site required major investment in order to remain viable.

Now it's been confirmed that there's been a management buy-out backed by South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) with a £285,000 grant and what's been described as "extensive guidance during the negotiations".

Ten jobs have been created with plans to increase the workforce to 25 by the end of this year, with hopes of getting back to former staff levels of around 45 by its fifth year.

The new company's Managing Director is longtime Rowan Glen employee Alan Baxter. He says gearing up for a restart has been challenging but rewarding.

"I am very passionate about the Rowan Glen people, brand, products and factory," he said. "There is a lot to do and a long way to go, however the team over the years have been very committed and loyal and by taking this on there will once again be an opportunity for local employment within the new company of Rowan Glen Limited. We will start small and grow quickly."



SAVED: The Rowan Glen Plant in Palnure has plans to increase jobs to 25

SOSE Chief Executive Jane Morrison-Ross said negotiations had not been easy.

"It has been a difficult period for all involved at Rowan Glen but SOSE and our partners have been committed to helping find a solution through providing

support to the negotiations and now a significant grant to assist with the purchase of the site," she said. "I look forward to seeing Rowan Glen Limited grow in the coming months and years."

Cycle route will help put Langholm firmly on the map

250-mile coast-to-coast project will boost business and tourism

Langholm is to be a staging post for a new long-distance cycle route, which could bring in £14 million annually to the local economy in the south of Scotland.

Running 250 miles from Eyemouth to Portpatrick, and through some of the country's most scenic areas, the coast-to-coast route is described as "a new challenge for experienced cyclists."

The route – one of the longest in the UK – is a further boost to the area's growing reputation as a cycling destination, and it aims to attract up to 175,000 new visitors to the region.

It's due to be open in time for the UCI Cycling World Championships this summer, with three of the 13 Championships taking place in the South of Scotland in August.

Scottish Tourism Minister Ivan McKee said: "The South of Scotland, with its abundance of biking trails and road routes, is already a popular destination for cycling enthusiasts."

"The creation of this cycling route will help strengthen the



TWO WHEELS GOOD: The new coast-to-coast cycle route is expected to bring £14m to the local economy in the south of Scotland

south's cycling offer and inspire many more visitors to the region, supporting the recovery of the tourism industry while promoting sustainable travel experiences to the benefit of visitors, communities and our environment.

"As we countdown to next year's UCI Cycling World Championships, with the region set to host key events, there is no better time to celebrate the power of the bike and ensure it plays a greater part in strengthening the economy of the south."

Next month, community representatives, cycling clubs and businesses along the route are being invited to attend an online seminar to find out how they can benefit from this new opportunity.

It's being hosted by South of

Scotland Enterprise, who have overseen the project in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway and Scottish Borders councils, Destination Alliance, Sustrans Scotland and VisitScotland.

VisitScotland Regional Direc-

tor Annique Armstrong said: "The project is expected to deliver new economic, environmental and community benefits and will be ready in time for Scotland to host the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships this summer."

Caught...on carcass-cam!

Golden eagles filmed enjoying a feast in Tarras Valley



A trio of golden eagles have been spotted in Tarras Valley.

The birds, from the South of Scotland Golden Eagle project, were filmed this week feasting on a carcass.

Their names are Wren and Thomas, with the third called Tarras after the reserve itself. Wren and Tarras were translocated from the Highlands of Scotland in 2021 while Thomas fledged from a nest in the South of Scotland in 2022.

"Eagles, like many kinds of prey, make use of carrion of all kinds in the winter months although mostly, the South of Scotland golden eagles are hunting for themselves and finding their own food," said Jenny Barlow, estate manager at the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

"We are very excited that these wonderful birds of prey have been visiting the area between Langholm and Newcastleton. There are no signs

DINNERTIME: The golden eagles like nothing better than a tasty repast of carrion, courtesy of Forest and Land Scotland in the Tarras Valley

of them settling here yet but we are hopeful they might do in the future."

The carcass cameras, which have been set up in the Tarras Valley, help identify any untagged eagles in the area.

They aren't intended as supplementary food for the eagles but are helpful in showing the differences in plumage, progress of moult and feather wear and can help identify individuals from a distance.

The carcasses, often deer, are shot by Forest and Land Scotland as part of ongoing forestry management on their land and are set up along with the cameras in remote locations by licensed South of Scotland Golden Eagle staff.

Online subscriptions to the

Eskdale & Liddesdale
Advertiser

are now available at
www.eladvertiser.co.uk

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

GREAT IDEA FOR A GIFT!



‘With Grenfell everyone knew there was a problem ... then it was too late’

By Nick Brownlee

Denise Irving-Lang is a force of nature. But then sometimes a force of nature is what you need to make things happen.

And, marching along Langholm High Street in her bright yellow coat and red velvet boots on a cold February day, there can be no doubt that the diminutive 44-year-old means business.

We're heading to the house where Denise grew up and where her mum Anna still lives. You can't miss it – it's directly adjacent to the Erskine Church, otherwise known as The Eyesore.

In fact the house is so close to this crumbling, 150-year-old monolith that slates and masonry from its dilapidated roof regularly crash down into the back yard. From the back door you can almost reach out and touch the slimy damp walls and the warped, chipboard hoardings that cover the windows.

A few months ago, while visiting her mum, Denise heard the sound of gushing water coming from somewhere inside the rotting guts of the building.

“It sounded like a torrent,” she says, “and because it also sounded like it was underground we thought there'd been some structural collapse. In the end it turned out to be a burst water pipe, but goodness knows what damage that caused.”

It was at that moment that Denise decided enough was enough. Returning to her home in Manchester she set up a Facebook page called the Erskine Church Stakeholders Group and – more importantly – she started to demand answers.

It's a mission which has historical resonance for Denise.

“People think it's been like this for 20 years, but my mum has lived there for more than 40 years and it's always been rotten. When I was a wee girl we used to play in the church – you could get inside in those days – and it was riddled with dry rot and in a really poor condition.

“That was more than 30 years ago. What really worries me now is when was the last time anyone went in? What condition is it in now? How long will it be before the whole thing collapses?”

In her immediate sights is Dumfries & Galloway council. Today, Denise is presenting a petition to the deputy leader with hundreds of signatures demanding action is taken against the church's current owners, a business based in the Hebrides.

It comes on the back of a series of Freedom of Information requests which, she says, have been routinely batted away by the authority.

Speaking to her, though, it's clear that what really motivates Denise is a cold fury at the detrimental effect The Eyesore is having on Langholm and its people.

“This town has so much going for it, and there are so many really committed folk here who only want the best for it. It should be the jewel in the crown of the borders, yet the first thing visitors see is the scaffolding.

“It's unfair – and what's worse is that the inertia that has been shown about dealing with it is an insult to the people of Langholm. It's unfair and they deserve so much better.”

It's more than 20 years since Denise left Langholm – but the former Academy pupil smiles when she talks about the Muckle Toon.

“It's a warm, welcoming town with a community that cares for each other and for Langholm.”

She admits that she's “a bit of a nomad”. After studying sports science at Falkirk College, she spent two years travelling the world. After returning briefly to Langholm, she moved to Manchester where she settled down with husband Chris. The couple have a five-year-old son, Alexander, and Denise has a high-powered job in the leisure service department of Manchester City Council – which gives her a valuable insight into the workings, or otherwise, of local authority bureaucracy.

“I understand the pressures councils are under,” she says. “But what I'm concerned about with the church is what does it take before the council genuinely decide there's an issue?”

“My mum lives in fear. Living there on her own it's genuinely scary when it's windy, living next door to this massive structure, and thinking that at any moment the steeple could come crashing down on top of her.

“With Grenfell everyone knew there was dodgy cladding, but it took a catastrophic incident before anything was done. If that steeple comes down, there's not only a risk to life and limb, but the A7 is a major highway. You'd be cutting off the town, and just think of the economic impact.”

Denise knows that today's petition presentation is unlikely to uproot any trees. Local government is too unwieldy a beast – but nevertheless she is determined to keep prodding it.

“Ideally they want us to go away, but we won't be fobbed off,” she says. “We have a lot of momentum, and we're only getting started.”

We walk back up the High Street, in the direction of the Langholm Alliance office. Denise is hoping to catch Denis Male, the local councillor, who is a prominent supporter of the cause and has done much at the Langholm end to ensure the council don't forget about The Eyesore. They make a formidable partnership, as the council are quickly learning.

We turn and gaze back at the ugly scaffolded steeple that dominates the skyline, and I ask her what, in an ideal world, she'd like to see happen to the church.

“I'd get that steeple down to start with,” she says. “After that – well, that's for the people of Langholm to decide. This is their town, and despite it all the church still has a special place in their hearts.”

CAMPAIGNER: With the ugly silhouette of the Erskine Church dominating the Langholm skyline behind her, Denise Irving-Lang is determined to get answers about the future of the crumbling Victorian building

Born and bred in Langholm, Denise Irving-Lang has returned home with a mission: to rid the town of the Erskine Eyesore once and for all.

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 hours 01896 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.bearsco.com

POST OFFICES

Newcastleton 013873 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
Newcastleton 013873 75100
Canonbie ..013873 71313
NHS24111

CHURCHES

Langholm, Eskdalemuir Ewes
and Westerkirk Parish churches
Ms Joy Lunn
Session clerk 07584 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

New faces on Langholm Social Club committee

AGM hears of successful year after lengthy Covid disruption

Langholm Social Club held its AGM this week – and celebrated the first full year of uninterrupted trading following the impact of Covid.

Outgoing chairman David Patterson told members the club had an annual turnover of £75k, and commended treasurer Christine Johnstone for the dedicated manner in which she carries out her duties.

Donations to the club have allowed improvements to be made. The main bar has been redecorated, and a new smart TV has also been

installed. The outside fencing has been repainted and there are two more outdoor tables.

LED lighting is currently being installed around the club, which will help to reduce the £1,000-per-month cost of electricity.

Facilities

Meanwhile the carpet bowling club continues to go from strength to strength with a membership of around 50. The number of under 18s is the envy of other clubs, while fellow bowlers are always commenting on



MEETING: Members of Langholm Social Club heard that 2022 had been a successful year

the great facilities and venue.

The facilities have been used by Langholm's sewing and camera club, as well as Kate's Kitchen, Youth Excel and others. The Accordion and Fiddle Club is also making a welcome return.

In summing up on the previous year the chair expressed his gratitude to club steward Ian Patterson for his hard work and his willingness to go the extra mile, extending his thanks to other staff who help keep the club operating.

He also paid tribute to Avril Grieve, who is

standing down after a number of years of dedicated service to the club.

Chairman

Following a vote Robert Grieve will remain as president, Neil Campbell moves from vice chair to chair, Fiona Patterson takes on the role of secretary and Christine Johnstone has agreed to remain as Treasurer.

Eileen Beattie, Janie Warwick and Robert Davidson have joined the committee along with David Ryan, Eddie Fisher, Luke Tolson and Kate Turk.

Happy first birthday to Buccleuch House

Copshaw folk have been saying Happy Birthday this week – not to a person, but a place.

The Enterprise Learning and Outreach Centre was officially opened on February 21 last year marking the start of a whole new era for a building originally given to the village by the 6th Duke of Buccleuch in 1896 to be

used as "an amenity for working men." Buccleuch House certainly fulfilled that role and went on to provide a base for many different groups, businesses and get-togethers, but over the years, time had taken its toll, leaving the building badly in need of a facelift and a new purpose in life. It got both, thanks to funding from the Scottish

Government, Scottish Borders Council, Borders College, the National Lottery, Border Caring Services, Muirhall Energy and the Newcastleton and District Community Trust.

Much of the initial funding was spent on making the building not only fit for purpose, but environmentally friendly to a very high standard. It was fitted

with solar panels, an air-source heat pump, under-floor heating, and top-class insulation.

Money also came from the Prince's Countryside Grant Fund and the Robertson Trust, specifically to help enhance community wellbeing through practical and emotional support.

Following major renova-

tion, refurbishment and redesign, the Centre now has several rooms where groups of different sizes can meet or have one-to-one support. It's equipped with modern video-conferencing equipment to allow remote learning and also has a 14-bed Bunkhouse as well as a commercial laundry.

In its first year it has

played host to art groups, cinema screenings, music and singing, craftwork lessons, exhibitions, drop-in sessions, cookery classes and much more besides.

It may still be in its infancy but the Centre has become hugely important to many in the village and the organisers say they're always keen to hear suggestions and ideas.

Knee deep in peat bogs!

WI speaker enthralled with tales of wild animals

Canonbie WI president Liz Walters welcomed a good turnout of ladies to the February meeting. She introduced local girl, ecologist Ashleigh Hope Wylie, who gave an insight into her work with Scotland's mammals.

After studying zoology and working as an eco-consultant in Glasgow, Ashleigh moved on to work for Network Rail and now spends a lot of time crawling through undergrowth and up to her knees in peat bogs.

Not a glamorous job but she loves it!

She mentioned otters, squirrels, marine mammals, wild cats, deer, beavers and much more,

and told of the challenge from beavers building dams which threatened to flood parts of the railway line and badgers with setts under the railway lines which caused bumpy rides for train passengers. This involved having to build them a new, safer sett.

Nicola Donald thanked Ashleigh for her enthusiastic talk, and after tea the Open Night and March Mini Show were discussed.

Competition winners for the foliage arrangement: 1st Liz Walters, 2nd Dorothy Watson.

The wild animal ornament winner was Gill Bailey, with Gillian Lamont as runner-up.



WILD THING: Gill Bailey's display won her first prize in the wild animal ornament display at Canonbie WI as judged by Ashleigh Hope Wylie

Kids say thanks

Pupils from a Glasgow primary school said thanks in style after a visit to the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

The youngsters, who attend Sunnyside Primary School, sent a selection of lovely gifts to show their appreciation for a great day out. They included models of the Lòchran Lighthouse, a Polar Pebble and a Tree Cookie.

Meanwhile the Langholm Initiative has secured funding from the Investment Ready Nature Scotland to employ a property development manager.

The posting is initially for one year and the role will involve looking at making the best use of some of the Initiative's land and buildings to help generate income to support the future of the reserve.

Anyone interested - or if you know anyone who might be



WORKS OF ART: Thank-you gifts from youngsters at Sunnyside Primary in Glasgow

interested – can find details on the Langholm Initiative website or contact Angela on 07516 054717 for more info.

Closing date is 5pm on February 15.

£500k for repairs to storm hit roads

Barra damage has left council with huge repair bill



CRATERS: Potholes like this have become a common sight on the roads in our region, and have been made worse by damage caused by two severe storms last year

Last year's storms have left D&G council with a roads repair bill of nearly £500,000.

The worst floods in 40 years hammered our region in December, with businesses and homes being hit with rising water levels causing tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage.

And council chiefs have confirmed that the extreme flooding followed by cold weather has "accelerated" the deterioration

of roads surfaces this winter.

It's the second time the council has been left counting the cost of severe flooding in the last five months.

Storm Arwen occurred at the end of October, followed by Storm Barra two months later.

Both the Diamond Jubilee and Cuthbertson Memorial bridges were washed away on the River Annan as water levels hit a record high in October.

The Bellwin scheme has been opened by the Scottish Government to help councils who have been significantly impacted as a result of these storms.

Threshold

However at a meeting this week finance chiefs said they did not believe that Dumfries and Galloway would incur costs that meet the funding threshold of nearly £700,000 to be eligible

for financial assistance.

The council currently has a severe weather emergency fund of £500,000 set aside within service reserves to address these type of events.

Steven Herriott, the council's head of roads and infrastructure, said: "The roads service has progressed a number of works to roads and carriageways strengthening works, which have been undertaken or are just about

to be undertaken, as emergency works following the flood events and earlier cold weather events accelerating deterioration of the carriageway surface.

"At the next meeting of the committee we will provide full details of those works. Some of them are revenue funded, some of them are capital funded.

"But we are looking at almost half a million pounds worth of works."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Good news for tenants

Tenants of Loreburn Housing Association in Langholm could receive help with a third round of grant funding secured by the social landlord to support its tenants in the cost-of-living crisis.

Loreburn's earlier bids to the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund, administered by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, had previously secured a total of £112,000 which was used to provide targeted support to tenants including direct financial support.

The funding allowed the Association's Community Teams to provide a range of practical help, from essential warmth items such as Winter duvets to low-cost cooking equipment and slow cookers.

The latest award will see Loreburn's eligible tenants benefit from a further £25,000 from the Federation's Winter Hardship Fund. The funding is to be issued as supermarket vouchers, helping almost 400 families across the region to meet food and household bills.

Loreburn's tenants will not need to claim the vouchers. Anyone eligible will be contacted directly.

Clare Burns, Loreburn's Community Team Manager in the West of the region said: "We know the support is having a positive impact on those we've been able to help.

"We've supported tenants of all ages."

Hardware store on the market

By Gilly Fraser

A popular Newcastleton shop is to go under the hammer next month.

Holm Hardware and the one-bedroom flat above it are to be sold at auction in Glasgow.

Auction House Scotland say the starting bid will be £80,000.

The shop on South Hermitage Street sells hardware, paints and home decorating, as well as gifts and stationery. It also operates as a parcel drop off and collection point with a leading courier. It will be sold as seen with all stock and shop fittings.

The flat above the shop has a double bedroom, three-piece bathroom and living room with open plan kitchen.

The auction will take place at 2pm on March 23 at the Radisson RED hotel on Tunnel Street.

It will also be live streamed allowing interested bidders the option to watch and bid online.



FOR SALE: Bids of £80,000 and above are expected for Newcastleton's popular hardware store, when it goes under the hammer in an online auction



Looking back...

Famous Eskdale Men

Sir John Malcolm

By David J Beattie, FSA (Scot)

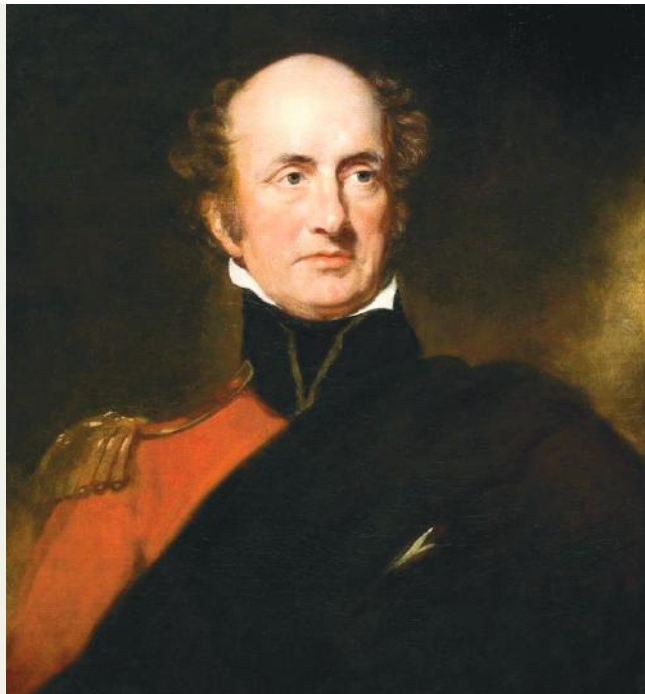
From the E&L Advertiser of
February 27, 1948

The latter part of the eighteenth century in Eskdale was singularly fruitful in producing men destined to become eminent in the affairs of our nation.

One of the most illustrious of these men was Sir John Malcolm, who had a long and distinguished career. Many high honours were conferred upon him and a statue by Chantry was erected in his memory in Westminster Abbey.

A circumstance in the birth on May 2nd, 1760 of this notable soldier and diplomatist is worthy of remark since it took place the day after the birth of the Duke of Wellington, and in the same year that Napoleon was born.

At the early age of 13 John was sent to sea in the service of the East India Company. How this came about is an interesting story. The boy's uncle, John Pasley, a prosperous merchant in London, happened to be on a visit to Burnfoot in Eskdale. The rearing of the high spirited Jock, who was rarely out of some scrape or other, had become a parental problem, and it was decided that he should go to London with his uncle, who was hopeful of placing the boy in the East India service. He was sent to school for a short time and on



HIGH ACHIEVER: Sir John Malcolm was, arguably, the pre-eminent son of Eskdale

Mr Pasley procuring a nomination he took the boy before the directors. That interview, as we shall see, became famous. On seeing the country-bred, ruddy-faced boy, the directors were for refusing a commission in their army to a child not yet 13. "Why, my little man," said one playfully, "and what would you do if you met Hyder Ali?" "Cut off his heid," was the laconic reply.

John Malcolm was passed at once and his commission made out and dated October 1781. He remained at school some months longer, and sailed for India in the autumn of the year following. Later he obtained a cadetship in the Indian Army and shortly after

joining his regiment he received his baptism of fire in action against Tippoo Tib

Idleness

After a few years spent in comparative idleness and even folly, young Malcolm applied himself with great energy not only to the study of his professional duties, but to the acquisition of the Persian language and of a thorough knowledge of the manners, laws, and politics of India.

In the years that followed John Malcolm acquitted himself with marked diligence in the duties assigned to him, which attracted the attention of the Governor General of India, Lord Wellesley.

He afterwards held various important positions, including that of assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, where he received high commendation for his firm yet tactful handling of a difficult situation in which he succeeded in the suppression of a mutiny.

The year following, when Malcolm was just 30, the future Iron Duke sent him as envoy to the Persian Court to arrange an alliance. He arranged very favourable treaties at Tehran and returned to Bombay by way of Baghdad, in May 1801. Soon afterwards Malcolm acted as Private Secretary to the Governor-General and was later appointed to the Residency of Mysore.

During the years following he carried through several diplomatic missions with eminent success and on the completion of his second mission to Persia, Malcolm was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to that country. On his return to England in the year 1815, General Malcolm's distinguished services as Soldier, Diplomatist and Administrator earned for him the thanks of Parliament, together with the honour of Knight Commander of the Bath.

It was during Sir John's visit to England at this time that his "History of Persia" (in two volumes), the author's most ambitious literary achievement, was published. His return to India two years later marked a period of active military service and he took a distinguished part in the decisive victory of Medhidpur, as also in the subsequent work of securing a peaceful settlement of the disordered state of the country, following these

operations.

Sir John's appointment in 1827 as Governor-General of Bombay, where a national monument was afterwards erected to his memory, was influential in the promotion of various economical reforms and useful administrative measures, which ultimately proved to be of incalculable value in the future administration of India.

Malcolm left India for the last time in 1830, loaded with all manner of distinctions by his countrymen and by natives in the Bombay Presidency. Already he had received from the Court of Directors a grant of £1000 a year in addition to his retiring allowances. On his arrival in England Sir John entered Parliament as a Member for Launceston. Malcolm's brief career in the House of Commons – for he died on May 30th 1833 – is notable for his vigorous opposition to the Reform Bill.



LANGHOLM: The Malcolm Monument

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday 16th February 2023

PRIMESTOCK

C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 11,090 sheep comprising of 6,061 prime hogs and 5,029 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown on Thursday 16th February 2023.

Cast cows continue to sell at recent high rates of return with all buyers keen to purchase. More numbers are required on a weekly basis to satisfy demand. The sale topped at £1,406 for an Angus from TN Cavers & Co., Sorbie, Langholm with top price per kilo of 206p for Luings from J & M Turner, Kildalloig, Campbeltown. Please do not hesitate to contact Sam Hogg 07584 207323 who will be pleased to take your calls.

A much larger show of 6,061 prime hogs were forward. Another mixed show of hogs, handy weight hogs and export hogs were the trade of the day whilst heavier hogs proved slightly harder to place. Well finished hogs are still wanted

every week here at Longtown.

Top price per head of £168 for Texel hogs shown by JR & CJ Ward, Whitstonehill, Tundergarth.

Top per kilo of 333p for Beltex hogs from B Storey, New Hummerbecks, Co Durham.

Achieving an overall average 232.9p (SQQ 235.8p)

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Beltex 333p New Hummerbecks, 322p Finnierness, 320p Crawthat, 300p New Hummerbecks.

Texel 298p Kirkhouse, 293p Langdyke Cottage, 288p Lingey Field, 273p Shethin, 271p Ballochgair & Raggetsyke.

Bleu du Maine 266p Lurgan.

Blue Texel 265p Kilnford Croft.

Charollais 258p Thackwood, 248p Cleongart, 238p Tinnishall.

Herdwick 250p Orthwaite Hall.

Romney 250p Pearsby Hall.

Cheviot 249p Oswie, 242p Catslackburn & High House, 241p Catslackburn, 240p Oswie & Kilnford Croft.

Suffolk 247p High House, 245p Archerbeck, 244p Kimmeter Green, 243p, 242p Eastside, 242p North House.

North Country Cheviot 243p Cleughbrae, 242p Whitecroft Mains.

Blackface 240p Longrigg & Bragleenmore, 238p Sorbie, 236p Larg, 235p Todsykehead.

Mule 236p Prestrie, 232p Todsykehead, 229p Archerbeck, 228p Whitcastles, Patties Hill & Westernhopeburn.

Cheviot Mule 235p, 232p, 229p Fold Head, 228p Oswie, 226p Marwhim & Granton.

Easycare 231p Cleongart.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

Texel £168 Whitstonehill, £158 Falla, £138 South Bogbain, £134

Cleughbrae, £133 Cleongart, Awhirk & Raggetsyke.

Suffolk £158 Falla, £142

Archerbeck, £130 Hallees, £128

Kilnford Croft.

Beltex £149 Finnierness, £144, £142

Drumcairn, £142 Finnierness, £136

High Stenries, £135 New

Hummerbecks

Charollais £132 Kilnford Croft.

Blue Texel £130 Kilnford Croft.

Cheviot £127 Kirkhouse.

Mule £117.50, £115.50 Finnierness, £114 Archerbeck, £112 Finnierness, £110.50 Culquhasen.

North Country Cheviot £116.50

Park House.

Blackface £114 Corsebank, £112 Whiteside, £111 Allanfauld.

Swaledale £104 Low Stokoe.

A larger show of 5,029 cast ewes and rams forward. All classes of ewes maintained last week's high rates of return as customers flock from all over the British Isles to take advantage of the competitive ring of purchasers here at Longtown.

Texel ewes topped at £250 from Messrs Wales, Thackwood, Raughton Head.

Hill ewes to £116 for Blackfaces from K Spence, North Corriellaw, Corrie.

Rams sold to £200 for Charollais from Heathergleng.

As ewe numbers have eased trade is warming up nicely and quantities of all breeds and classes 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 £250 Thackwood, £245 Newtonfield, £225, £218

Heathergleng, £215 High House, £205

Viewley.

Bluefaced Leicester £175

Linkshead.

Charollais £172, £170 Thackwood, £170 Beckfoot, £155 High House, £150 Thackwood.

Suffolk £170 Eastside, £162

Archerbeck, £149 Viewley, £146

Beckfoot.

Blue Texel £160 Shethin & Townfoot.

North Country Cheviot £128

Ballinloan, £124 Viewley & Newseat

of Tolquhon, £120 Viewley &

Beckfoot.

Cheviot Mule £124 Mossband, £123

Wedderlie & Priestthaugh.

Mule £122 Grainhead, £120

Ellerslea, £119 Nuncleugh &

Linkshead, £118 Birch Bush & North

Corriellaw.

LIGHT EWES

Blackface £116 North Corriellaw,

£102 Linkshead & Minsca, £92

Linkshead.

Cheviot £110 Tarrasfoot &

Garvilland, £108 Wedderlie,

Allfornaught & Lagalgarve, £107

High House.

Easycare £84 Harwood on Teviot.

Swaledale £81 Sheepriggs.

Herdwick £68 Hill House.

RAMS

Charollais £200 Heathergleng, £185

Viewley.

Suffolk £180 Viewley & Eastside,

£168 Tarrasfoot.

Texel £175 Falla, £170 Hutlerburn,

£165 Priestthaugh, £150

Whitstonehill & Falla.

Beltex £170 Minsca.

Bluefaced Leicester £150

Linkshead, £145 Leafield.

Cheviot £136 Potholm, £122

Berryfell.

Dorset £135 Eastside.

Romney £130 Pearsby Hall.

North Country Cheviot £128

Viewley.

Averages:

Hogs

Light to 273.0p (217.5p)

Standard to 333.0p (236.5p)

Medium to 322.0p (237.8p)

Heavy to 298.0p (226.3p)

Ewes

Light to £116.00 (£62.20)





The E&L Gallery

A beautiful show of snowdrops near Langholm photographed by Martina Molenaars of Canonbie

Camera: Nikon CoolPix p900

Mountaineer pitches up in Langholm

'It's All Mental' is record-breaking aviator, adventurer and author James Ketchell's second UK tour. The only person on the planet to have climbed Everest, cycled around the world AND rowed an ocean, will be sharing his mind-set and the mentality needed to achieve difficult, and what sometimes feel like unattainable, goals. Having experienced stratospheric highs around the world, to crushing lows in the oceans, James is well prepared to share his experience and advice. This entertaining evening promises to leave you feeling energised and motivated to set your own goals and start realising your dreams.

James Ketchell appears at The Buccleuch Centre on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 7.30pm

www.buccleuchcentre.com | 013873 81196



E&L CLASSIFIEDS

The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser
47A High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH
013873 80012 • alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

PLUMBING & HEATING



COMMISSIONING
▪
SERVICING
▪
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

6 Riverside Park
Canonbie
DG14 0UY
t. 013873 71773
m. 07801 658561

CHIMNEY SWEEP

MARK FRASER
CHIMNEY SWEEP

Chimneys and
Stove Flues swept.

Wood Burning
Stoves Serviced.

t. 01228 791617
m. 07810 023819

SCRAP METAL

CUMBRIA METALS
FARM SCRAP
URGENTLY
WANTED

Wire • Tin
Machinery • Lorries
Cars • Vans
and all other scrap metal
Big or small
we remove it all
Registered Dealer
Call Patrick: 07979 877391

E&L JOB SPOT

CLERICAL OFFICER AT LANGHOLM HEALTH CENTRE

We are looking for an enthusiastic person to undertake general reception and clerical duties as part of the Health Centre Team. Computer literacy, audio-typing and ability to relate well to the general public are all desirable skills. Flexibility is important. You would be required to work 15.5 hours per week- this will be a Monday and a Thursday or Friday and to cover holiday and sickness absence, up to a maximum of 37.5 hours per week.

For informal inquiries and applications,
please e-mail or telephone
Jackie Henderson jackie.henderson@nhs.scot
013873 83101
Aileen Cavers aileen.cavers@nhs.scot
013873 83102

Closing date for applications Monday 6th March 2023

AUTO SERVICES



BORDER AUTO SERVICES

LIDDESDALE GARAGE • NEWCASTLETON
A VILLAGE GARAGE OFFERING A 21st CENTURY SERVICE!

MOT Tests Body Repairs inc Insurance Work
Servicing / Repairs • Quotations available
We can carry out services
without affecting manufacturers' warranties.
Tyres • Exhausts • Batteries
Diagnostics • Air Conditioning.

Bert Leishman Phone: 013873 75341 email: robert.leishm@btinternet.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

**(B709 LANGHOLM – ETTERICK - INNERLEITHEN)
(TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER)
ORDER 2023**

The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close the B709 at Davington, Eskdalemuir from 8am – 5pm on 08/03/23. The closure is necessary to facilitate Openreach pole replacement works. Alternative route available via B709, B711, A7, B709 and vice versa.
Pedestrian access will be maintained.

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

TO LET

**LANGHOLM POP-UP SHOP
March 2023**

- **Mon 6th -Sat 11th March** (74 High Street)
Shabby & Pretty Boutique, Phigella & The Paper Carver
- **Tue 14th-Wed 15th March** (74 High Street)
Eden of Hawick

To book a space: Call Sharon Irving on 07862 367209
or email: sharon@ashleybank.co.uk

BLINDS

DATS BLINDS

3 Blinds for £120
(70 x 50)

Your local manufacturer of top quality blinds
FAST EFFICIENT SERVICE

Special Offers on Conservatory Blinds **Perfect fit blinds ideal for tilt & turn windows**

Vertical • Venetian • Roller • Roman • Blackout
Wooden Venetians • Pleated • Velux • Fly Screens

For a free, no obligation survey and to view our extensive range, call
01461 20 48 42 or
01461 20 61 48
or text your name and contact number to
077 382 192 88
www.datsblinds.co.uk

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Advertise in the E & L Advertiser
you'll be surprised how little it costs!

An advert this size, 5cm x 2 columns,
will only cost **£15 + VAT** each for 12 inserts.
This can include your logo or other graphic and
can be designed in-house.

Contact **013873 80012** for details.

Post Office **LANGHOLM TOWN HALL (inside)** **Post Office**

WEDNESDAYS 10am - 3.30pm
FRIDAYS 9am - 2pm
Access through rear door

ROYAL BANK MOBILE VAN **RBS**

Day Centre car park
Thursdays
11:45am - 12:25pm

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

To advertise in the **E & L Advertiser** please call **013873 80012**

MILK DELIVERY



BH DOORSTEP MILK DELIVERIES

Fresh Milk delivered to your doorstep before 7.30am

- Whole, Semi & Skimmed milk in 1 pint glass bottles
- Whole, Semi & Skimmed milk in 2L Poly Jugs
- Fresh Orange in 1 pint glass bottles
- Flavoured milk in 550ml glass bottles
- Apple, Orange & Cranberry in 1 Litre Cartons
- Single & Double Cream (250ml & 500ml)
- 250g Salted Butter
- Rich and Cream & Low-Fat yoghurts (various flavours)
- Free Range Eggs

Deliveries to:
Chapelknowe, Midtown, Evertown, Canonbie, Rowanburn, Harelaw, Kershopfoot, Newcastleton, Claygate & The Hollows
Tuesday & Friday
Langholm - Wednesday & Saturday
Westerkirk & Bentpath - Saturday

Telephone or Message on 07720 958680 or 013873 81614 Email: bhmilk@outlook.com

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

Councillors Cox & Richards



Councillor Jane Cox
Hawick & Hermitage
Tel. 0300 100 0220
jane.cox@scotborders.gov.uk



Councillor Neil Richards
Hawick & Denholm
Tel. 0300 100 0220
neil.richards@scotborders.gov.uk

**will hold
a Joint Surgery
at the
Newcastleton Community Trust Building
on Saturday, 25th February 2023
From 11am until 1pm**

Canonbie United Parish Church

SOUP KITCHEN and TABLE TOP SALE

Canonbie Public Hall
Saturday February 25th
11.30am- 1.00pm
*clothes collection in aid of
Great North Air Ambulance*
Phone 013873 71274 for information



Eskdale Gardening Club

MEETING

Canonbie Church Café
Friday 24th February
2.30pm



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

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

Sat 25th	Canonbie United Church Soup Kitchen & Table Top Sale	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1.30pm
March Sat 4th	Love Langholm Local Market	The Buccleuch Centre 9am-1pm
	Bob Drury's Viva Neil Diamond	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Mon 6th	Langholm Golf Club AGM	Golf Clubhouse 7pm
Wed 8th	Painting for Pleasure	The Studio, Maxwell Place 1-3pm every Wednesday
	Conversational Cafe & re-launch of Citizens Advice	Langholm Social Club 6.30-8.30pm
Thu 30th	Newcastleton LLAGS Borders Distillery Tasting Evening	Newcastleton Village Hall 7.30pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

.....answers next week

- 1) Which footballer won the first ever Football Writers Player of the Year in 1948?
- 2) In terms of health, what does CJD mean?
- 3) Arthur Wynne is credited as inventing which type of entertainment that has been a staple for newspapers and magazines for generations?
- 4) Barbara Bach, who played Anya Amasova in the Bond film 'The Spy Who Loved Me' married which musician in 1981?
- 5) Which singer was known as the 'Forces Sweetheart' during and after WWII?
- 6) What stage name did actor and dancer Frederick Austerlitz adopt to make himself sound less foreign even though he was born in the USA?
- 7) What is the term for women's breeches that hang like a skirt but have separate legs?
- 8) Baku is the capital of which western asian country?
- 9) Based on the definition of a desert as being an area that gets less than 10 inches of precipitation a year, what is the world's largest desert?
- 10) Which London building consists of three identical arches and is situated where the Mall leads to Trafalgar Square?
- 11) When you agree with someone about a matter you are said to see what?
- 12) In what decade did Page 3 girls appear in the Sun newspaper?
- 13) Who were the first winners of the First Division of the Football League in 1889?
- 14) Doris Lessing won a Nobel prize in 2007 in which category?
- 15) The Knesset is the legislative chamber in which country?
- 16) Which famous diarist wrote 'and so to bed'?
- 17) To what does the chemical element symbol 'Cu' refer?
- 18) Who became Prime Minister after Alexander Douglas-Home?
- 19) What was Said Aouita the first man to do in under 13 minutes?
- 20) Pete Duel played Hanibal Hayes and Ben Murphy played Jed 'Kid' Curry in which buddy cowboy series?





Another soaring success for Matilda & Co

Langholm girls smash personal bests at national athletics meet



SPRING IN HER STEP: Langholm's Matilda Brockley leaps her way to a new personal best in the Triple Jump

Athletics

A trio of Langholm athletes were on sparkling form when they competed at a major event in Glasgow at the weekend.

Matilda Brockley, Antonia Brockley and Ava Bell were taking part in the Scottish

athletics National Athletics Championship on Saturday at the Emirates Arena.

And Matilda maintained her recent run of successes when she set a new personal best in the Triple Jump of 11.12m to win the U20 title, to add to the U17 Scottish National Triple Jump and the U17 Scottish Schools Triple Jump titles.

Her younger sister Antonia also set a new personal best in the Under 15 60m sprint. Her time of 8.06 seconds was enough to add the Scottish National Under 15 60m bronze medal to the bronze medal she won at the same event in the Scottish Schools Championships.

Ava Bell was also competing

in the U15 Triple Jump, where she jumped excellently and narrowly missed out on a medal finishing in fourth place. She also reached the semi-finals of the very competitive Under 15 60m sprint.

All three girls receive support through the Welcome to Langholm Future Champions Awards.



Ellis on the ball

Rugby

HONOURS FOR ELLIS: Ellis Dirom, an S4 pupil at Langholm Academy, has been selected to play for the East of Scotland U-16 rugby squad! Ellis has been hugely committed to his sport, putting in the training hours for many years and showing real determination to reach the top.

Bowling bonanza as Langholm beats Canonbie and Luke wins Benty battle

Carpet Bowling

The results of the results of the recent Canonbie singles and rinks tournament were as follows:

Rinks: The Black Park team of J Mair, W Mair, C Kirk and W Kirk beat the Stapleton four of R Fox, J Denby, P Gardener, and C Calvert.

Singles: K Johnstone of Langholm/Copshaw beat M Hall from Canonbie.

Well done for all the people who turned up over the weekend, and thanks to all the people who helped to move the boards and worked to make the event a success.



CANONBIE: Kieran Johnstone receives the trophy from Shane Richardson

Meanwhile, the Benty Hall was a hive of activity last Friday night, with 48 bowlers from far and near competing in the club's annual single hand tournament.

The winner was local lad Luke Tolson who beat Ryan Simpson from Traquair in the final.

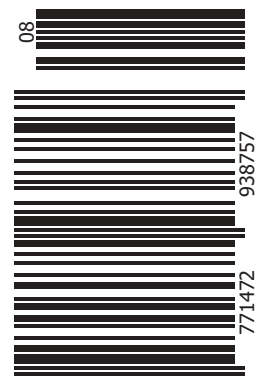
Luke beat Grant Buchanan in the semi-final and Ryan won his game against his mother Lesley in the other semi-final.

Thanks went to everyone who entered the competition, to Anne and Val who sold food, to Stewart for manning the bar, Wag for selling raffle tickets and to John and Amy for running the tournament.



BENTY: Langholm's Luke Tolson beat the far-travelled Ryan Simpson from Traquair

E&L SPORT



9