

There's a bright, golden haze...

LAODS prepare for trip to Oklahoma!

SEE PAGE 10



Langholm Youth Rugby Festival

Over 300 players compete in Milntown event

SEE PAGE 15



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8538

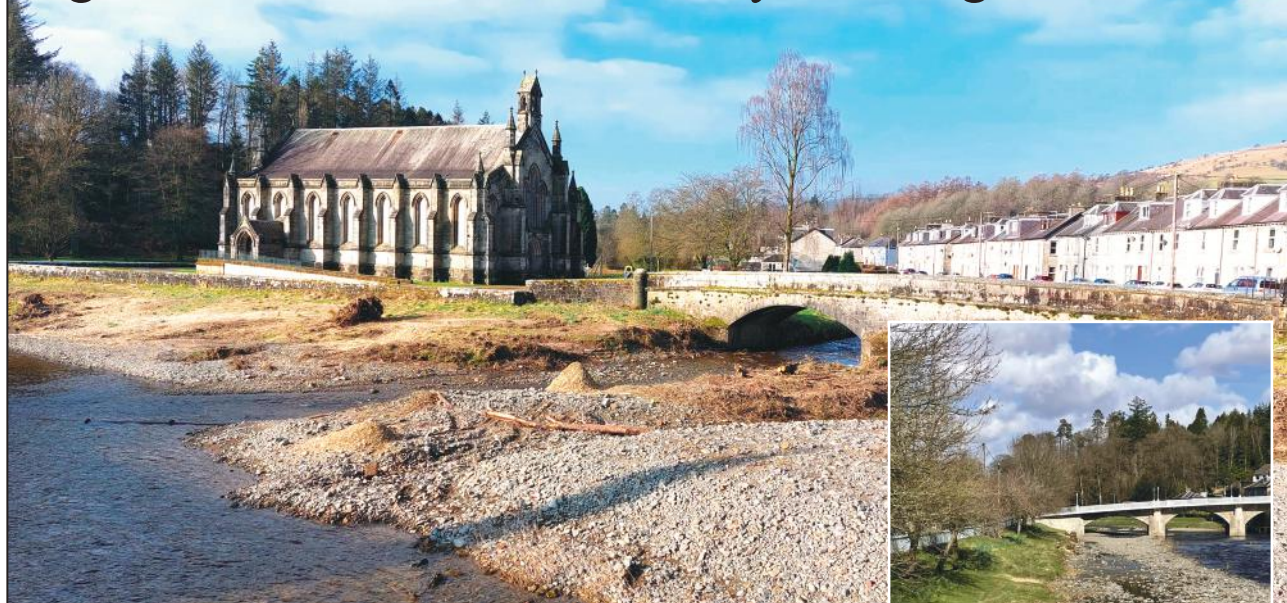
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A good old tidy up, or is it environmental vandalism?

As the banks of the River Esk are cleared of overgrown vegetation some, but not all, say 'thank goodness'



SPRUCED UP: The Kirk Brig and the confluence of the Wauchope and Esk receive a trim (above)
The banks of the Esk between the bridges has also had its overgrown vegetation removed (left)

A few weeks ago, the E&L published, in its 'Ee mei, good question' column, that a number of people had complained about the state of the banks of the River Esk in the town especially in relation to the overgrown vegetation.

D&G operatives have now tackled this problem and cut down much of the offending willow bushes between the bridges and along by the church (as seen above).

However, not everyone is happy about this. The nature-lovers have complained that the removal of these bushes amounts to 'environmental vandalism' as the natural habitat

of birds and insects is destroyed.

Others say that the bushes are holding the banks together and preventing more erosion, which has been identified as another riparian problem, highlighted during periods of flooding.

The counter-argument to this is, in comments from the public: "It's a lot tidier and makes the town look much better if we are trying to attract visitors".

"The birds and the bees have plenty of other places to go, it's not as if Langholm is short of green space".

Happy medium

"We have to strike a happy medium between the environ-

ment and people's way of life, there is abundant habitat for wildlife all around us".

"This is a step in the right direction, now we need rid of some of the gravel"

The E&L asked Councillor Denis Male for a comment and he replied as follows:

"I am delighted that they have finally got round to clearing the riverbanks but I am concerned that they are still unable to clear the debris from the last flood that is jammed against the Church Bridge on each side.

"Hopefully, now the morphological study has been

completed, there can be some progress with the removal of the excess gravel."

If you have a strong opinion on this course of action, from either side of the opinion divide, please write in to the E&L and we'd be happy to publish your response.

Either drop your letter in to the office at 47A High Street or email the editor newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk



Let's hear it for the girls!

Today is International Women's Day and we take a look at some of the main players in and around Langholm.

From jewellers to tourism officers and artists to environmentalists, Eskdale has its share of clever and capable women.

See Pages 8 & 9

Family Announcements

Deaths

GRAHAM, John James

John James Graham of Tympanheck Farm Chapelknowe on 27th February aged 86. Born and died in the home he loved. Husband of Aileen, dad to Jimmy and Victoria, father-in-law of Joanne and Iain, loved grandad and great grandad. Funeral service to take place on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 12 noon in Roucan Loch Crematorium to which all family and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please.

TAUDEVIN, Ernest Michael

At home on the 27th February 2024, Michael aged 83 years. Much loved husband of Anne, loving father of Chris, Jeanne and David, father-in-law of Iliana, Paul and Hannah, beloved grandpa of Emily, Morag, Alexander and Caitlyn, cherished brother, uncle and friend to many. Funeral service to be held at Langholm Parish Church on Monday 11th March at 11:00 am followed by interment at Langholm Cemetery. Friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only, donations if so desired will be for Langholm Day Centre. All Enquires to Nicholson's FD 01228 791098.

Thanks for Sympathy

BARBOUR, Jean

Bill and Robert would like to thank everyone for the many lovely cards, flowers and messages received following the very sad loss of Jean. Thanks also to everyone who attended the graveside service and Rev. Morag Crossan for conducting the service. To Dr Rose and all the staff at Canonbie Surgery and the D & G Ambulance crews for all their care over the years and to Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors for their support and the Eskdale Hotel for their catering and to all who donated to Canonbie Surgery.

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Church Notices

CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

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

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

LANGHOLM, ESKDALEMUIR, EWES & WESTERKIRK PARISH CHURCHES

Church Services
Sunday 10th March
Langholm 10am

Contact us for transport
0744 885 8818.

Tel: 013873 73755.

Charity no. SCO11946

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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

Langholm Town Band off to contest in Perth



BEST OF LUCK: Langholm Town Band were given some tips and tuition by members of Whitburn Band

Langholm Town Band held a Training Day on Saturday 3rd March to help them prepare for the Scottish Championships which will be held in Perth Concert Hall this weekend.

A massive thanks to Whitburn Band mentors: Chris Bradley, LTB MD (Cornets and Soprano), Evelyn Bradley (Euphoniums, Basses, and Percussion), Charlie Farren

(Trombones), and Caroline Farren (Horns and Baritones). They've played a crucial role in bringing out the very best in the band ahead of the competition next week.

Funders

Special appreciation must go to the band's sponsors - The Stevenson Trust, Arthur Bell Trust, Bowman Little Trust Fund, Stoneypath Trust and the

Ainslie Charitable Trust for making this possible.

Fifty bands in all will be competing in this year's Scottish Championships.

On Saturday, the Third, Second and First sections will compete in that order while on the next day, the Fourth section bands will take to the stage ahead of three entries in the non-contesting Section 4b and then the Championship section.

Hopefully the gravel is next!



Canonbie updated on Post Office take-over

Healthy turnout hears about legal structures of the Community Benefit Society

The meeting on Tuesday was attended by 49 people in Canonbie Hall. Mary Waitt, chairperson of the newly formed Community Benefit Society (CBS) welcomed everyone and told the meeting that the CBS had been very busy since the last public meeting. She introduced the committee of 11 members and three advisors.

Di Badham then told the meeting that the CBS had been formed with guidance from the Plunkett Foundation, a charity which advises and supports communities on taking over and running all types of local businesses across the UK.

Different types of legal structures had been considered but the CBS was felt to be the best fit for the take-over of the Post Office and shop. It is an organisation which runs businesses for the benefit of the community and enables local people to buy shares in their local enterprises and become members. It has a one member one vote rule, so all shareholders have an equal say in how the business is run. Di then went on to describe two businesses in Scotland who had been sup-

ported by Plunkett to take over their local shops/Post Offices. She and Su had visited one in Auchencairn which they had found very inspiring.

Survey

Alistair Paisley took the meeting through the results of the community survey which members of the team had hand delivered to 654 households. More surveys had been picked up from the Post Office and it had also been available online. The estimated distribution was 750 with the response being 39% which was an excellent response from the community.

Alistair, Lindsay and Jamie did a great job on analysing the results and Alistair showed the meeting some slides of pie and bar charts graphically showing the results.

Debbie Axon the treasurer for the CBS showed a slide detailing the funding received to date - £570 from the Canonbie Community Council to pay for Plunkett membership and register with the FCA as a CBS, £600 from local funders and money from the village hall supported by the funders forum to carry out a feasibility study. She told



the meeting that the group had been able to apply for a bank account since becoming registered and this should be open soon.

Janet Carson the secretary for the CBS showed a slide of a timeline which has been created for the project showing the sequence of planned events and how they depend on each other. She explained that the group had progressed well and were now waiting for financial

information from Mr Scott so that a business valuation could be carried out. This would enable funding to be applied for and a process known as onboarding to be entered into with the Post Office.

Shares

The meeting was then opened for questions. People asked about how community shares would work and it was explained that a share price e.g.

£10 would be set and a strict process followed for a community share issue. It was questioned whether it was sensible to stay in the current premises which are very small and Mary said anything was possible in the future but the group would walk before it ran and see how the shop operated in its current premises.

Mary thanked everyone for attending.

Entire QoS Board to step down

Billy Hewitson, Chairman of Queen of the South Football Club made the following announcement to Shareholders at last week's AGM on behalf of the Board of Directors of the club.

"I am here to inform you that the current Board will be stepping down at the end of the season. "After service of a combined 57 years, we feel it is time to allow for new direction and fresh blood to continue propelling the football club forward.

"The Club is in a healthy financial position, with key capital projects not needing to be undertaken for several years.

"We will work with the new board to ensure a smooth transition and will remain in place until the end of the season."

The Chairman along with fellow directors, Mark Blount and Craig Paterson added that, as fans of the club, they will continue to support the team.

Bridge results

N/S - 1 Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2 Nancy McLure & Tom Stothart, 3 George & Brenda Bullamore E/W - 1 Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop, 2 Scott Muir & Doreen Taylor, 3 Jean Wingfield & John Packer

Ladies' Burns Club welcomes Young Burnnsians

President Nancy McLure welcomed members to the February meeting of Langholm Ladies Burns Club.

Two of the three children who won the P7 Burns poetry competition joined the meeting. The school competition was judged by Nancy McLure and Barbara Addison who said how very well all the children had done and that it had been difficult to decide on the outcome. First was Roisin Hanley who recited "I dreamed I lay". Second was Erin Grant with "Tae a Moose". Third with "Out over the Forth" was Caisen Martin who was unable to attend.

Guest speaker was Donna Hislop CEM of Langholm Alliance. Donna gave an inspirational talk and presentation of the work and progress of the Alliance. She showed plans for the proposed redevelopment of the old primary school as well as all the many other strands of the Alliance work.

Aileen Armstrong gave the vote of thanks, and the raffle was drawn at the close of the meeting.

The final meeting of the session is the AGM on 28th March at 2.30pm. A good attendance of members to discuss next year's programme is important. There will be entertainment after the official business.



WINNERS: Roisin Hanley (right) and Erin Grant

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Canonbie Probus

Once again, the members of Canonbie Probus Club much enjoyed the talk given at their meeting held last Wednesday in the Cross Keys Hotel.

The guest speaker was Chris Harrison, Director of the Langholm Distillery, and the Canonbie members and guests were treated to an informative and interesting talk about the production of fine quality contemporary drinks. Initially Chris gave a brief resume of his working life from years with Ansells Brewery in Birmingham, to managing 75 pubs for the pub company Pubmaster. He also spent a few years in France where he ran a 10-acre campsite alongside producing ciders and some distillates. He then returned to Bentpath where his parents were living at the time and established Waulkmill Cider which won awards in both national and local competitions.

The problems and challenges of establishing a successful and forward-thinking company producing high quality drinks were all discussed. This provided an instructive guide to the difficulties of running a successful small company in the current economic climate.

Some tasty samples were enjoyed before Peter McManus gave a vote of thanks and President John Mitchell closed the meeting.

Subsidies for commercial forestry should be redirected

Royal Society publishes report on impacts of financial support

Last week the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) published a report on the environmental and social impacts of public subsidies for the forestry sector in Scotland. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is Scotland's National Academy and was established in 1783 for "the advancement of learning and useful knowledge".

Its present-day mission remains the same – the deployment of knowledge for public good.

The report was compiled following a public consultation, incorporating input from industry, researchers, organisations, charities, communities and individuals."

The report makes a series of recommendations for how public financial support for tree planting in Scotland can be reorganised to better serve Scotland's people, environment, forestry industry, and public purse.

Professor Ian Wall FRSE, who chaired the group which compiled the report, said:

"The health of the population,

and the health of the planet, is reliant on a robust, biologically diverse environment. The role of trees – the right trees in the right place – in improving biodiversity, carbon-capture, and wellbeing in both urban and rural environments cannot be overstated.

"That is why the main recommendation of the report, is that subsidies for commercial forestry, which are poorer at delivering these needs should be redirected to long term, mixed native tree planting and other benefits.

The report concludes that commercial conifer forestry, which benefits from 100% tax relief, no longer needs public subsidies that distort the market, reflected in the rapid increase in the price of land for tree planting and that the money should be redirected to maximise the common good."

Professor Pat Monaghan Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh added:

"Our scarce public funds must be used to maximise benefits for both the public and our environment. We now face the



HEALTH OF POPULATION: Professor Ian Wall FRSE

twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

"We must ensure that our investments in tree planting are done in ways that reduce our carbon emissions without reducing our precious and fragile biodiversity.

"We urgently need a coherent

strategy to manage the planting of trees in Scotland. The right trees, planted in the right way, in the right places will benefit our climate, our biodiversity and our economy. Getting this wrong will cause damage that we will deeply regret."

"The report raises concerns

about the fact that Environmental Impact Assessments are rarely required in practice. If, the report says, the EIA process was to be bolstered, it would help the forestry industry, environmental specialists and communities to prepare better planting schemes."

Fellow Professor Des Thompson said

"This report shows that there is untapped potential in the forestry sector. Not only is it vital in environmental terms, but in terms of jobs and wide social services. We need to expand educational opportunities in forestry science and practice to ensure that we seize important opportunities for enhancing rural and urban environments.

"Scotland produces more timber than any other UK nation, and there is untapped potential for job creation, production of a broader range of timber products and crucially, carbon sequestration."

Whether the findings and advice are taken on board by the Scottish Government remains to be seen.

Plans afoot to make Newcastleton Forest more inviting to more people

By Gilly Fraser

Creating facilities that will appeal to mountain-bikers, horse-riders and walkers and be accessible to people with disabilities sounds like no small task, but that's the ambition for Newcastleton Forest.

Plans to make the forest more inviting to a greater range of people were put on display in a special exhibition in the village's Buccleuch House for several days last week. It was organised by Forestry and Land Scotland as part of its plans to further develop its popular 7stanes centres.

FLS say the aim is to transform what are currently predominantly mountain biking centres to make them appeal to a wider section of the community.

This follows the success of

the Masterplan at the Glentress mountain-biking centre near Peebles, which was designed to create new recreation opportunities and holiday accommodation to benefit the local community and businesses, and to attract visitors from around the world as well as supporting regional tourism.

FLS National Visitor Services Manager Stuart Chalmers who was on hand to answer queries at Buccleuch House, says they want to look at both long-term and short-term possibilities.

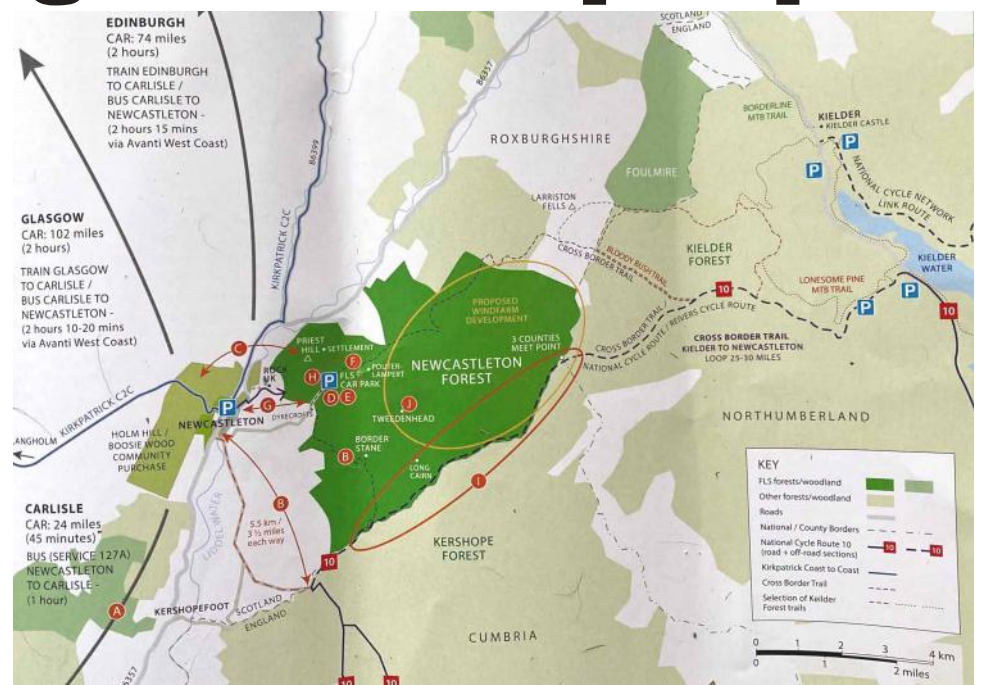
"We're focused on visitors and the local community using the forest and looking to establish what the future visitor offer could be over the next twenty-odd years. We're seeing this as a framework for investment so once the plan has been consulted with stakeholders including the community, we will produce a

final plan. That will contain some things we can afford to do now and some we perhaps can't afford until we work with other partners in the future.

"We'll be looking at the current trails, car-parking, accommodation, events programmes and also looking at how the forest connects with the wider area including Kielder.

"We have potential for money through the Borderlands project as part of the 7stanes redevelopment but we're not limiting ourselves to that one source.

"Feedback received during this stage of the consultation will be taken into account in the drawing up of the next stage of the concept. The team will then return to Newcastleton in April with a fully laid-out plan for further consultation and hope to finalise plans by the end of May."



TRANSFORM: Forestry and Land Scotland organised an exhibition in Buccleuch House in Newcastleton

£13.8 million of levelling-up to decarbonise D&G roads

News has just broken of some more great funding announcements for Dumfries and Galloway this week.

£200 million of investments in Scotland have been made through the UK-wide Levelling Up Fund and the UK Government's Levelling Up Partnerships programme, with Dumfries and Galloway set to benefit twice over.

On Monday, it was announced that the region was successful in the first of its Levelling Up Fund bids, receiving £13.8 million to decarbonise Dumfries & Galloway's transport network, based on sustainable connectivity across the region. The council has set out that it will seek to expand the availability of clean energy transport for residents, including increasing the use of electric buses, improving bus infrastructure on key routes and providing electric vehicle hubs – helping to improve access to local town centres.

The region will also benefit from a £22.8 million Levelling Up Fund bid made jointly between Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South

anarkshire councils, aimed at promoting the south of Scotland's visitor and tourism economy.

In Dumfries and Galloway, this will see funding for regeneration work in Annan focused around the town's harbour. The development will include converting derelict facilities such as the B-listed Collett's Building into a new visitor attraction with community and event space, as well as a workshop for heritage boat craft skills and a new café. Other harbourside improvement works will include a new pedestrian footbridge and extensive landscaping work – in line with the aspirations set out by Annan Harbour Trust over recent years and aimed at providing real and enduring regeneration around the town.

This builds on £20 million announced last month for Dumfries as part of the UK Government's long-term plan for towns, as well as £17.7 million going toward Reactivating Galloway, the region's other Levelling Up Fund project announced earlier this year, to open up new cultural and leisure



POINT IN QUESTION: The current roadworks on Langholm High Street won't be helping D&G's carbon footprint

activities.

Delighted with this news are Local Recovery supporters in the region who have been actively campaigning to build support for the region accessing the UK-wide investments and ensuring that local priorities in Dumfries and Galloway are reflected in government decisions.

In response to this information being released, Eskdale Coun-

cillor Denis Male made a very good point:

"How does the isolated Community of Eskdale become involved in this transport initiative? There are no direct public services into the rest of Dumfries and Galloway including no access to DGRI or Annan Hospital where all the day hospital treatments are based. Taxis to DGRI cost anything up to £90 for a return and £30 to

Annan.

Residents who have to attend the unemployment centre need to go to Carlisle to get a bus to Annan. The commercial service from Galashiels to Carlisle has now been reduced to every two hours and this makes getting into DG even harder. Transport help is urgently needed in the Esk Valley.

Dementia Café offers support

Come and join us at Langholm Day Centre for a friendly, supportive Dementia Advisor lead meeting.

Meet friends, gain peer support, and find out more information to help with any cognitive disabilities and your dementia journey. All with people experiencing similar issues, and in the lovely relaxing atmosphere of Langholm Day Centre.

This year, Alzheimer Scotland's winter campaign focuses on research and some of the wonderful people we support and work with that give their time to dementia research.

In our 'We're All In' campaign, we celebrate the idea that each of us, in our own unique way, can contribute to dementia research. Find out more at

www.research.alzscot.org

Together, we're the change – are you in?



Didn't they have a lovely time, the day they came from Bangor?



VETERAN OAKS: The Bangor University students on their field study trip with TVNR staff

Last week, the Tarras Valley team hosted 40 students from Bangor University Forestry Masters Course for the third year running as part of their annual Scottish field study trip.

The students were a mixed group with most already working in the woodlands and forestry industry from organisations like Forestry England, Forestry Commission and Scottish Woodlands.

The group had a walking tour of the newly planted woodland

at Hallpath and through Longwood to see the management works to halo thin birch trees around the veteran oaks across the ancient woodlands.

Annual trip

The group were interested in community land ownership, woodlands, habitat restoration and future business planning activities which would help make the reserve sustainable in the long term.

The University plans to return again next year with the next

cohort of students on the course.

The Langholm Initiative also attended an event organised at the Eskdale Hotel by the Institute of Chartered Foresters and Tillhill this week to discuss the felling and restoration works at the Tarras Strip plantation.

The Institute had been interested in hearing more about community ownership, community engagement and management of woodlands after reading about the felling works online.

Oh what a beautiful day!

Langholm Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society presents
in association with Concord Theatricals

Oklahoma!

by Rodgers & Hammerstein



in The Buccleuch Centre, Langholm
Tue 19th - Fri 22nd March 2024 at 7.30pm | Sat 23rd March at 2.30pm
Tickets £15/£12 available from
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Farming on the Border



In association with
C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



Farming with Gilly Fraser

Regenerative farming, fad or future?

Podcasts always benefit from having a catchy title – one that's intriguing enough to make the listener want to find out more.

This month's podcast choice fits that bill – Crop It Like It's Hot first hit the airwaves in April 2020. It's produced by the Arable Farming magazine and presented by Alice Dyer who describes herself as a Journalist by day and a Farmer by night.

The very first episode digs deep into no-till agriculture, a subject which seems to arouse heated debate on both sides. Many believe it's just not suited to the UK climate or indeed its soil, while others staunchly maintain it's the way of the future. Perfect fodder for a podcast.

Since then the podcast has appeared monthly, featuring a wide range of soil-associated subjects and speakers.

They've looked at carbon capture and how to get to grips with it; the pros and cons of



introducing livestock into arable rotation; gene edited crops and whether they can be regarded as anything more than a quick fix; fitting fruit and veg into the arable rotation. Never averse to a bit of controversy they also pitch in to regenerative farming with the question "Fad or future?"

The most recent edition has a roundtable discussion with three newly-elected, arable-focused Nuffield Farming Scholars who are just about to head off on global travels to see what agricultural knowledge they can gain from other countries.

It also looks at the scholarship application process as well as the scholars' individual projects, travel plans and hopes for the next 18 months.

Conster-national Park

Both D&G and Borders farmers oppose the projects

Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders have both been shortlisted to host Scotland's newest National Park.

That's despite considerable criticism and opposition, not least from farming communities in both regions.

NFU Scotland vice-President Alasdair Macnab has promised the union support for those farmers and crofters who oppose the creation of a new national park in their area.

"Our opposition is based on the experience of many farmers and crofters currently living and working in either the Cairngorms National Park or the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park," he said.

"In recent consultation with them, it was clear that existing parks had failed to make a positive contribution to farming and crofting."

The Dumfries and Galloway bid did at least win the backing of its local authority. Scottish Borders Council dismissed the



D&G Council support Galloway's bid but Scottish Borders Council said their bid was 'half-baked and incoherent'

proposals for its patch as being "half-baked" and incoherent and voted 27 to 2 against supporting the plan.

Lochaber, Loch Awe and Tay Forest are also on the shortlist and all five will now be looked at in detail by the Scottish Government. But even when they make their choice, that's still not the end of the long-

running saga, because another consultation will then be held. Supporters of national parks say they support the economy and preserve the area's landscape and cultural heritage.

Opponents point to increased house prices, additional bureaucracy and pressures on infrastructure and services.

John Thomson, the Chair of

the Scottish Campaign for National Parks says the process has revealed widespread aspiration and interest.

"It's a strong signal that this should be the start of a process for creating a suite of national parks in Scotland, so that communities can build on the fruitful discussions they have had," he said.

Jack takes 3rd in Paris

Dumfriesshire young farmer Jack Cuthbertson really flew the flag for his home country when he became the very first competitor from the UK to secure a place in the top three in a highly prestigious agricultural show in France.

Jack, who's an SRUC Barony Campus HND Agricultural student and member of the Crossroads Young Farmers, placed third in the animal judging and classification competition at the 2024 Concours General Agricole Show in Paris.

He was up against 65 representatives aged between 15 and 25 from 30 different countries who competed against each other by classifying two dairy and two beef cattle.

Jack bagged his chance to represent Scotland through SRUC, when he won the inaugural Stock Judging Competition at the Barony Campus Winter Show before top trainer and judge Willie Fleming.

This year the internationally renowned Fair found itself at the centre of global headlines for all the wrong reasons when hundreds of angry farmers stormed police barricades to confront the French President Emanuel Macron after he officially opened the event.

It was the latest in a series of protests by



Jack Cuthbertson in Paris

farmers who are angry over several issues including what they see as an unfair increase in bureaucracy due to EU regulations, as well as stringent controls on pesticide use, rising fuel costs and unfair competition from abroad.

The previous day, a convoy of farmers driving tractors had held up rush hour traffic on the busy Paris ring road, another group in the south-east dumped manure in front of the local authority building, and others blocked supermarkets.

Bid to retrieve meadows

A new initiative to restore lost hay meadowland in the Borders will see cattle brought in to graze small paddocks near a popular tourist spot.

Neidpath Castle once provided bed and board for Mary Queen of Scots but is now preparing to play host to very different guests in a bid to boost biodiversity.

The Tweed Meadows Project Initiative will reintroduce mowing and grazing management regimes to create habitat for wildflowers, insects and birds. The UK as a whole is believed to have lost 99% of its meadows but the total in the Borders is higher still.

Last November, the Merlindale Nature project which oversees the initiative was granted £140,416 from a Scottish Government nature fund to restore flower-rich meadow habitat across 19 sites in the Borders.

Clydesdale horses were brought in to harrow a number of the sites which have also now been seeded with wildflower seed from Northumberland.

Biodiversity minister Lorna Slater says she's delighted the government's Nature Restoration Fund is supporting a diverse range of projects that showcase the wide-ranging benefits of nature restoration, for people and communities.

"Our ambitious biodiversity strategy sets out



Tweed Meadows Project at Neidpath Castle

our goal to be nature positive – halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and reversing declines by 2045," she said.

The fund was first established during Cop26 in Glasgow and so far 150 projects throughout Scotland have shared in £30m of investment.

Work on a five year Delivery Plan on how to implement the Scottish Government's Biodiversity plan is also continuing, with a consultation underway.

Accordion and Fiddle Club packed to the gunwhales



As an appropriate term for a young gentleman who wears Royal Navy Reserve uniform, I can say our guest band leader Ewan Galloway had the building 'filled to the gunwhales'.

I like to be on time myself when arriving at club meetings, but the line of cars decanting their passengers to attend our musical extravaganza had me queued right back to the Bells Mill corner! Local and other visiting players arrived good numbers too, with bowed fiddles, whistling flutes, 'sooked and blawn moothies', tinkled piano keyboards and boxes well squeezed, as indeed was the Great Highland Bagpipe of yours truly.

Harry Lauder's timeless songs such as 'Roamin in The Gloamin' were the theme for Norman Swainson's opening accordion selection, together with a few Irish marches. Very nicely delivered.

Jimmy Little from near Alnwick (That's in Englandshire) was next up with some bouncy Northumberland hornpipes on the Harmonica. Very technical tunes sweetly played.

Continuing the cross-border raid, Ian Woods brought his new fiddle from o'er Hadrians



MARVELLOUS: The Ewan Galloway Band

Wall to entertain nicely with some Scandinavian tunes played by a Northumbrian - Viking genes I wonder? The new fiddle incidentally sounds sweeter than the 'auld yin'! (But then it cost more too).

Fighting back for the Scots borderers came Gus Lowrie of Selkirk with lovely playing of two of my favourite slow airs / waltzes 'The Waters of Kylesku'

and 'Leaving Lismore', that wee island in the Sound of Mull, where I have family buried. Gus tugged a heart string there!

After leaving Lismore, we landed o'er in Ulster for the 'Star of the Co. Down' aired on the tin whistle by club regular Willie Little. He followed that with a jaunty 'Irish Rover'.

Davie Bell of Linstock entertained us on the vintage Ranco

accordion with some catchy & difficult wee polkas, plus P/Maj. Donald MacLeod's famous march 'Flett frae Flotta'. Composed by 'wee Donald' as he rocked to the rhythm of a train in a railway goods van whilst escorting the regimental silver southward along with fellow soldier Flett.... who came frae Flotta!

I had a quick tune or two my-

self on bagpipe with 'The Conundrum', 'Pte. Richard Maybin and the jig 'P/Maj. Joe Wilson', after which seasoned regular, Newby Park of Carlisle came to centre stage and gently lulled our audience with 'Amazing Grace' and 'Dark Island'.

Next up, we were pleased to welcome George McLarty down from Livingstone. Playing a very sweet sounding Hohner. He certainly entertained with the Gaelic air 'Mo Mhathair' (My Mother) and also some pipe retreat marches 'I See Mull' and the 'Heights of Dargai'.

Box player Barbara Fisher, of Dumfries wowed us all with 'Blue Eyes Crying in The Rain' and Johnny Cash's famous '40 shades Of Green'. We were most grateful to drummers Robert Willens and Jock Thomson, together with piano keyboard player Brian Forrest in providing excellent backing for the players above.

OH AYE! And our guests - THE EWAN GALLOWAY BAND. They were absolutely marvellous! Such a professional and musically exciting quartet comprising of Ian Graham on drums, Jim Nichol on piano, Andrew Knight on fiddle and

of course Ewan himself on Hohner accordion.

Variety was certainly the spice of life, with catchy tunes like 'The Rucke Polka' and the 'North Coast Shuffle', 6/8 pipe marches such as 'Glendaruel Highlanders' and 'Dovecote Park'. The band then slowed down a wee bit with beautiful airs and Shetland waltzes, 'The Heroes of Longhope' and 'Starry Night In Shetland' before going full steam ahead into some great jigs like 'Pet O' The Pipers'. The repertoire was immense from wee French numbers to 2/4 military pipe marches like 'El Alamein' and Iain MacPhails famous 'Ivy Cottage Two Step'. It was all in all a great afternoon of entertainment and a showcase for what Langholm can deliver.

On Sunday 31st March we are delighted to host GORDON HADDOW and NICOLA BRAID as our top of the bill guest artistes and offer a warm welcome to all traditional players and music lovers for 2pm sharp at LANGHOLM SOCIAL CLUB DG13 0DN

Copshaw's thoughts turn Tub-wards

It's that time of year again when thoughts in Copshaw turn Tub-wards.

The village's popular Common Riding may still be a few months away, but it will soon be time for Tub 2023 Sophie Mitchell to hand over the Pureous Bunkumus flag to her lucky successor. Nominations are being sought for the highly coveted position now.

Copshaw being Copshaw, the criteria for selection bear very little resemblance to those of other Common Ridings.

In the words of the committee, the event is an equal opportunities event and 99% fat free. Applicants don't have to live in the village and in fact two previous Tubs have been Ootbyers.

However they must be over 18 and under 124 on their next birthday. They must have a working pulse - and this will be checked for validity by the CCR legend, nurse/artist and former Tub Paula Downey. The winner must also be available for local functions throughout the year.

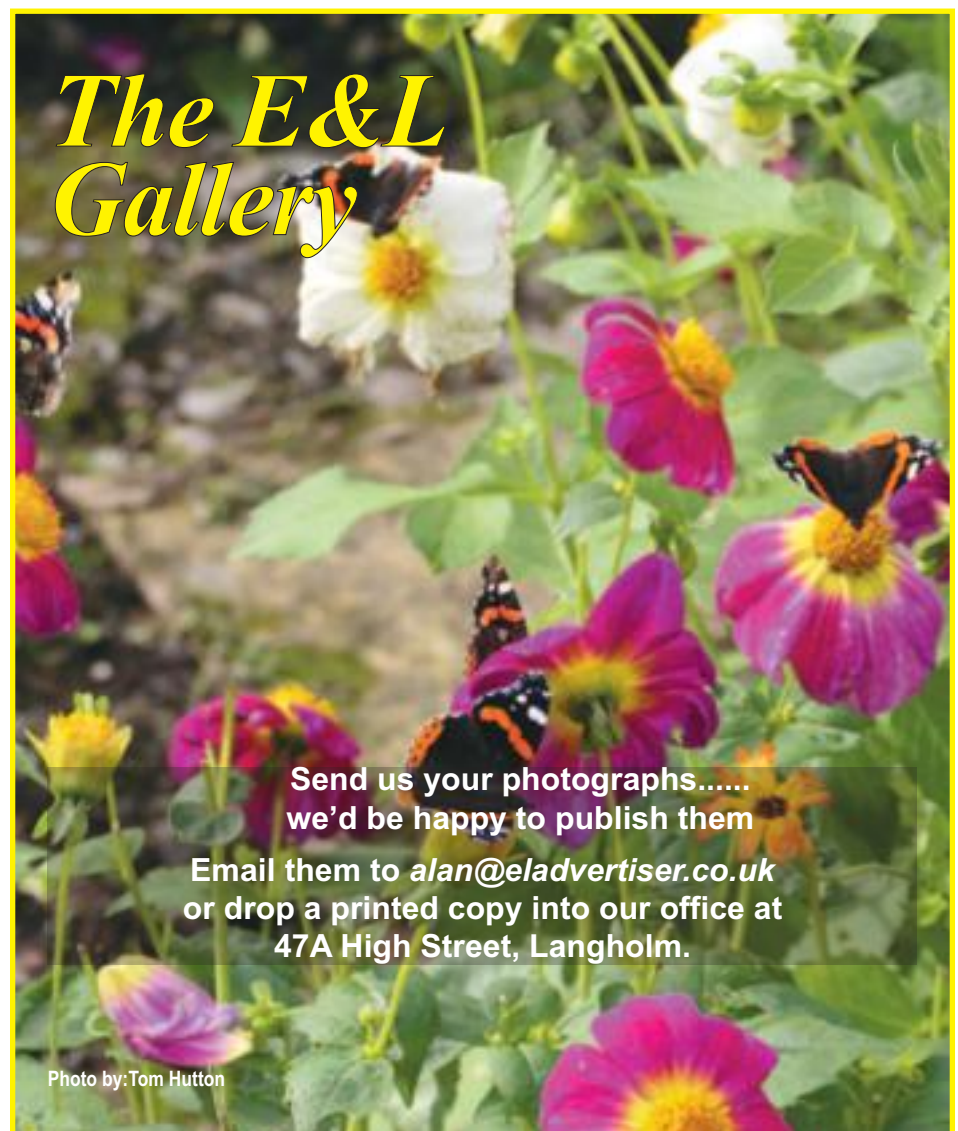
Application forms are available from any CCR Committee member.



PUREOUS BUNKUMUS Tub 2023 Sophie Mitchell

Voting will take place at the Tub's Ball on 11th May at Legends Function Suite.

And the Big Day itself, Copshaw Common Riding 2024, will take place on Saturday 6th July.



The E&L Gallery

Send us your photographs.....
we'd be happy to publish them

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

Photo by: Tom Hutton

Let's hear it for the girls on International Womens' Day

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. One of the United Nations themes for IWD 2024 is that of moving towards a green economy, as the current economic system exacerbates poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized groups.

On International Women's Day the E & L is celebrating the achievements of a number of women in Langholm, each working to have a positive effect on people and planet.

Lisa Rothwell-Young Goldsmith



Many of you will recognise Lisa as a familiar face in Langholm. Originally from Lancashire, Lisa moved to Scotland in 2000, establishing Cut the Mustard Gallery on Langholm's High Street, and now focussing solely on her work as a goldsmith from her workshop and studio on Langholm's Henry Street.

She has served as Vice Chair of Upland Arts (the organisation that runs Spring Fling open studios event), was nominated for the Dumfries and Galloway Life Awards Visual Artist/Maker of the Year in 2023, is a mentor for other artists and makers and a member of Fair Luxury - a collaboration of jewellery industry changemakers with a vision for a responsible and sustainable future.

Lisa works solely with 100% recycled, Fairmined or Fairtrade precious metals. She insists on only using traceable diamonds and gemstones, saying that the Kimberly Process for diamonds doesn't go far enough and that you must have traceability if you want to make sure miners aren't being exploited, that the environment isn't being damaged and that these materials aren't supporting wars and civil unrest. Lisa has put many things in place to ensure her business is as sustainable and

environmentally friendly as possible, from her electricity supplier (100% renewable) to a water supplier who builds wells in developing countries, to 100% recycled paper products, sourcing alternatives to traditional workshop chemicals and using an ethical bank that doesn't fund damaging industries.

Her workshop and jewellery is vegan and cruelty free. She prioritises buying gemstones from artisan miners, (many of whom are female) or from charitable projects such as Moyo Gems and encourages her customers to remodel jewellery they already own as it's far more sustainable.

Find out more about Lisa at www.lisarothwell-young.co.uk



Lucy McLeod OutPost Arts

Until 2018, Lucy had been working as an Illustrator and Educator for almost two decades, often commissioned to create visuals for high profile clients - something she enjoyed but ultimately felt lacked true meaning.

Seeking to have a more positive impact at a human level, Lucy co-founded OutPost Arts in 2018 and in her role as Director, Lucy has driven forward the organisation's vision to increase creative wellbeing opportunities in Dumfries & Galloway - linking the arts in the region with the health sector, and impacting on people struggling with issues such as depression, anxiety, stress, trauma and illness.

The 'DG Creative Wellbeing' project is the result of the past three years work. Its three strands powerfully impact on the health and wellbeing of people across healthcare sites and beyond - touching people's lives in their own communities... The Art in Healthcare programme has allowed OutPost Arts to share the work of professional artists and work produced through workshops by patients, NHS staff, community participants and partner organisation's service users. It's provided opportunities to make clinical spaces less intimidating and more uplifting - to offer positive distraction in frightening and stressful environments.

The project's community programme has been particularly impactful at supporting the wellbeing of females. The 2023 Art Journal Project - a 16 week programme of creative activities - saw 30

adult women and eight young women taking part. The project allowed these participants - many of whom were struggling under the pressure of caring roles - to carve out time for themselves; exploring their creative selves in a safe, supportive environment. Through a graduate program, participants are encouraged to explore wider creative opportunities available to them, broadening their horizons and carving out new pathways, and this has led to several new creative businesses and enterprises.

She says "It's been a huge honour to develop and direct the DG Creative Wellbeing project - watching people's lives be transformed through participation in the arts is unbelievably rewarding. By connecting the arts with health more formally in Dumfries & Galloway, we've also seen incredible new opportunities emerge as a result that will continue to ripple through time. An in-patient taking part in one of our MidPark sessions remarked - 'I didn't know I was an Artist - now I know I am'. It's these moments that keep me going - I shall keep banging the drum as loudly as possible!"



More info: www.dgcreativewellbeing.co.uk
Portfolio website: www.lucymacleod.co.uk



International Women's Day

Emma Duncan Creation Mill CIC



Meet Emma Duncan, Founder and Creative Director of Creation Mill CIC.

Emma and her wife, Leanne, set up Creation Mill to provide training and workshop opportunities to the local community. They are both passionate about the textile industry and want to promote Langholm's heritage as much as possible and take the textile industry into Langholm's future.

Emma and Leanne have a background in working in the fashion and textile industry and found themselves looking for more sustainable ways of working instead of the high street model of buy lots and buy cheap.

Creation Mill supports caring for the environment and sustainability by providing a Textile Scrap Store in their office in Langholm.

They take in donations from the community and industry partners and incorporate them into their Reuse, Recycle, Recreate program of workshops, after school clubs and school sessions. They also produce DIY kits and sell items in their Scrap Store. This encourages a

circular way of thinking about textile waste and how to reduce the amounts of new fabrics and haberdashery they buy.

Creation Mill also run a Mending Monday session (1-3pm every Monday) which allows the community to learn about how to mend and adjust clothes or household textiles rather than putting them in the bin. Mending a garment can extend its life by 6-12months.

Find out more about Creation Mill



Sharon Tolson The Langholm Alliance



For the past 10 years, Sharon Tolson has worked in the community, from the Eskdalemuir Hub to the E&L, our local community owned newspaper and now as Tourism Officer for the Langholm Alliance.

After a training course at Borders College in Tourism, Hospitality and Event Marketing, she knew there was an opportunity to promote Langholm and its wonderful assets to visitors especially as tourism is a growth industry in Scotland. Saying: "We have the potential to help regenerate the town and area into a welcoming place for visitors and locals alike, though it's not without its challenges".

In Langholm and Eskdale, Sharon works to support tourism-related businesses by bringing people together to network and share ideas to help promote their projects and business. This in turn helps promote the town and encourages people to stay here and "live like a local". As part of her role, Sharon has fed into the South of Scotland Destination Alliance on their Responsible Tourism Strategy, which is key to ensuring we attract visitors who respect our landscape while out exploring our many waymarked walks.

She supports the aims of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve with their plans for sustainable nature-based tourism, promotes workshops with organisations and events at The Buccleuch Centre to encourage visitors to stay longer and get a real taste of Langholm life. Working with D&G Council Active Travel, the introduction of additional bike racks

and an outdoor top up water tap encourage cyclists to stop and visit cafes now that Langholm is on the Coast-to-Coast cycle route.

She says that the majority of businesses and organisations locally are run by women, from Eskdalemuir Hub to Canonbie Community Cafe. Langholm's cafe's, shops, beauticians, hairdressers - are all run by hard-working women who multi-task every day to keep their work/life balance in motion. These female-founded businesses are all working together to support other female led businesses. Creation Mill CIC are working with Hebbs Alpacs - a new agri-tourism business at Canonbie. Fern Ceramics at Hag-on-Esk owned by Jackie Zehnder produces ceramics using locally sourced sustainable materials. Her jugs, cups, vases etc are bought by the many holiday cottages in the area and used for guest rooms. All but two of Langholm's accommodation providers are run by women, all supporting each other - business to business. Sharon says the area is full of inspirational and supportive women championing each other to succeed in their own way, whilst also helping Langholm and Eskdale thrive.

If anyone would like to get involved with the regeneration of Langholm to become a better place to live, work and visit, contact: The Langholm Alliance. donna@langholm-alliance.co.uk and sharon@langholm-alliance.co.uk



International Women's Day

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve



For some fine examples of women doing their bit for people, nature, climate and sustainability look no further than the Langholm Initiative/Tarras Valley Nature Reserve team. The Langholm Initiative staff are led by Office Manager Joyce Ireland, Tarras Valley Nature Reserve is headed by Jenny Barlow the Estate Manager, her co-worker Angela Williams who is Development Manager and youngest member of the team, Kat Mayer, who is the Environmental Education Officer & Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Mairi Telford Jammeh recently became Chair of the Langholm Initiative and has been involved with the buyout since 2020. From 2020 - 2022 she studied for an MSc in Sustainable Rural Development which focused on Scottish rural environments and communities. She says that she found this very useful and it has given her a better understanding of the big issues facing rural communities and rural land use in the context of global warming. She says "What we are doing at Tarras Valley is going to take time and there are no quick fixes, but we have a strong team with a mix of skills and experience, a good community and supportive volunteers. Over time I believe we can make an impact on

people, climate, and nature in a sustainable way".

- Amongst their priorities are:
- Peatland restoration, increasing their ability to absorb carbon emissions.
- Reforestation using native species trees - creating new habitats, enhancing the biodiversity of the estate.
- While first and foremost, balancing people, planet and profit - to create a legacy for future generations!

To find out more about the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, head to www.tarrasvalleynaturereserve.org



An Oklahoma Hello!

Langholm's am-drammers gear up for another blockbuster musical offering



PLAYING HARD TO GET: Leona Mason as Laurey Williams



BRIGHT GOLDEN HAZE: Nathan Yelder as Curly McLain



DUBIOUS CHARACTER: Billy Young as Jud Fry



Jackie Beckett (left) as Ado Annie and Leona Mason lead the ladies' chorus in "Out of your dreams"



FARMERS AND COWMEN: Michael Clarke, Eric Hislop, Ian Ludlam and Alan Weatherstone



SHORT OF CASH: John Innes as Will Parker



TOP TEAM: Henry Jeffrey, Anne Halliday, Nicole Weatherstone and Judith Johnson make up the production team



MAN DOON!: Mag Latimer as Aunt Eller sorts out Les Murray as Ali Hakim

This is LAODS' 101st year of providing Langholm with some first-class musical theatre. For 2024 the Society is presenting Rodgers and Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA! One of the most popular Broadway musicals of all time, will be on the Langholm stage at The Buccleuch Centre from 19th - 23rd March and tickets are selling well, so get yours before it's too late!

All photos by Eve Parkin

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK W/C 11th March 2024			
Day	What	Time	Where
Mon	Scrap Store	12-2	CM Space DG13 oES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches	12-2	Village Hall DG14 oUX
	After School Club	4-5:30	CM Space DG13 oES
Wed	Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-12	Victoria Hall DG11 3AU
	Welcome Wednesday & Scrap Store	10-3	CM Space DG13 oES
Fri	Scrap Store	10-12	CM Space DG13 oES
	Langholm In Stitches	1-3	Social Club DG13 oDN
Sat	Make a Scrappy Rabbit Fully Booked	10-4	CM Space DG13 oES
Sun	Patchwork Bag	10-4	CM Space DG13 oES

Booking required - visit www.creationmill.org/2024-events

Langholm Agricultural Show

QUIZ NIGHT

Waterbeck Village Hall
Friday 8th March 2024
6.45 for 7pm start
£10 per team of four
(inc table nibbles)
Bar/Raffle

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

Advertise on the
NOTICEBOARD
this size 5cm x 2col
only
£20

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Fri 8th	Langholm Show Quiz Night	Waterbeck Village Hall 6.45 for 7pm start
Sun 17th	Teviotdale Steel Bonnets	Gilnockie Tower, The Hollows, Canonbie 10am - 4pm
19th to 23rd	LAODS presents OKLAHOMA!	The Buccleuch Centre Tue - Fri 7.30pm Sat - 2.30pm
Wed 27th	Langholm Baby & Toddlers Group	The Studio Easter Holiday Activities open to schoolchildren
Sat 30th	Canonbie Parish Church Soup & Sweet Lunches	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1.30pm

The E&L Scottish TV Trivia Quiz

No. 2409 answers next week

- Which British novelist wrote the espionage thrillers "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" and "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold"?
a) Ian Fleming b) John le Carré c) Michael Crichton
- "An Inspector Calls", a play often studied in British schools, was written by which playwright?
a) Harold Pinter b) J.B. Priestley c) Tom Stoppard
- Which British actress starred in the films "The Queen" and "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie", winning Academy Awards for both roles?
a) Helen Mirren b) Judi Dench c) Bette Midler
- The classic children's television series featuring a bear from Peru is titled what?
a) Bear in the Big Blue Sky b) The Bear and the Piano c) The Bear and the Toothbrush
- Which English city is known as the birthplace of The Beatles? a) Manchester b) Birmingham c) Liverpool
- Which English author penned the dystopian novel "Brave New World"? The historical TV drama "Poldark" is set in which British county?
a) Cornwall b) Devon c) Dorset
- Which British fashion icon is the former editor-in-chief of "Vogue" UK and the current European editor-at-large for the American "Vogue"?
a) Anna Wintour b) Kate Moss c) Hamish Bowles
- Which British radio station, founded in 1967, primarily targets the 15-29 age group and has played a major role in promoting new music in the UK?
a) Radio 1 b) Radio 2 c) Radio X

- Which British actor is best known for his roles in the "Harry Potter" films, "Die Hard", and "Love Actually"?
a) Daniel Craig b) Matt Damon c) Hugh Jackman
- More than half of the United States entire coastline is situated in which state?
a) California b) Florida c) Texas
- Which Brazilian rainforest produces over 20% of the world's oxygen supply?
a) Amazon b) Congo c) Borneo
- Which city is the only city in the world to be located on two separate continents?
a) Istanbul b) London c) Sydney
- What is the world's smallest island with country status?
a) Niue b) Tokelau c) Cook Islands
- The Kola Superdeep Borehole, the deepest hole ever drilled by man, reached a depth of over 12km but in which country was it located?
a) Russia b) USA c) China
- Angel Falls is the world's highest waterfall. In which country is it located?
a) Venezuela b) Canada c) USA
- Superior is the largest lake in which continent?
a) North America b) Europe c) Asia
- The Great Bear lake pans over 12,000 square miles. In which country is it located?
a) Canada b) USA c) Russia
- Which continent is the world's second-smallest by size but also has the second-largest population?
a) Asia b) Europe c) Africa
- What is the capital city of the Republic of Ireland?
a) Dublin b) London c) Paris



Crossword Solutions from last week

Scottish TV Quiz 2408

- St Andrews
- Portree, Skye
- Strontian (strontianite, strontium)
- Dundee
- Ballater
- Macpherson
- Glen Lyon
- The River Earn
- Ayr
- Inverness
- James Ramsay MacDonald
- Lerwick
- Pitlochry
- Birnam
- Edinburgh
- Saltcoats
- The Moray Firth
- Fort William
- Peterhead
- North Berwick

Crossword 2408

Across: 7 One or the other, 9 Mourn, 10 Laid out, 11 Col, 12 Chan, 14 Intends, 17 Cyanide, 19 Lags, 22 Paw, 24 Stuck-up, 25 Helix, 26 Entrepreneurs.

Down: 1 Cosmic, 2 Beluga, 3 Franc, 4 Chilli Peppers, 5 Thrown, 6 Brutes, 8 Opiate, 13 Hey!, 15 Dug, 16 Fickle, 17 Cashed, 18 Acuity, 20 All but, 21 Sexism, 23 Whine.

Never a Crossword!

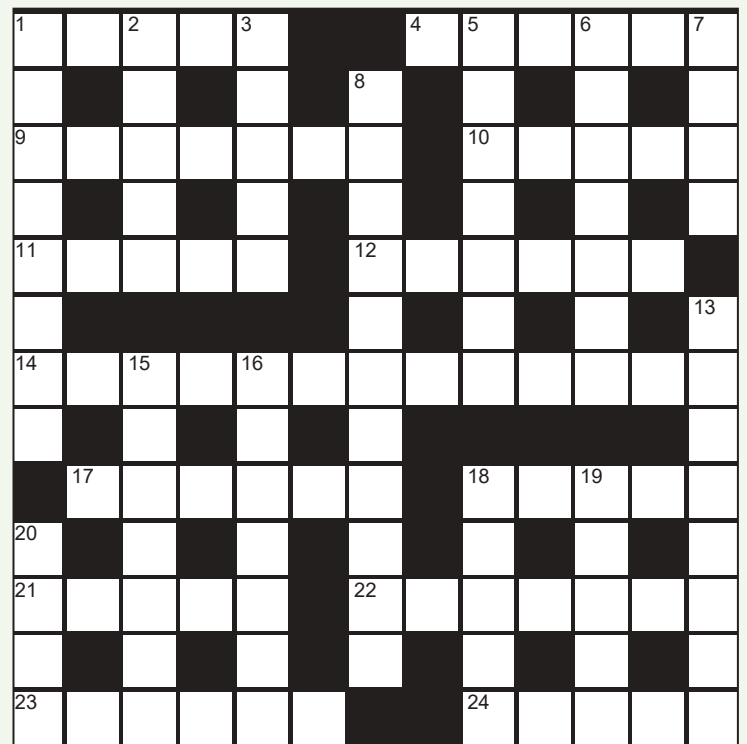
No. 2409...answers next week

A wee mix of cryptic and general knowledge puzzles to get the grey cells moving!

- Headquartered (5)
- Where trapeze artists connect (3-3)
- Tidy CIA mall to find a Duchess (7)
- Examine the books (5)
- Soft (5)
- Cool (6)
- Accretions (13)
- It would have been 105 pence (6)
- Landing site (5)
- Fright (5)
- Look over (7)
- Hands down (6)
- With regret (5)

Down

- Insolent rejoinder (8)
- Large Japanese wrestlers (5)
- Diver Tom --- (5)
- Puzzle solver's exclamation (1,4,2)
- Supplemented (5,2)
- Grasses (4)
- Political crown of thorns wearer (5,6)
- In an advantageous way (8)
- Mountain lions (7)
- Barely adequate (7)
- Hebdomads (5)
- Give on merit (5)
- Disconcert (4)





Looking back...

Langholm As it Was a further foray into feuding families

The Battle of Arkinholm was, therefore, an event of great importance in determining the future of Eskdale, for by it, in addition to the establishment of the Beatties and Glendinnings, the Scotts were given a firm footing in the district and the Maxwells were also brought into immediate prominence.

It is the fifth Lord of Maxwell, Robert, that the interest of Eskdale people chiefly attaches.

In 1540 Maxwell obtained from the Prior of Canonby, a lease of the glebe land of Wauchope, for a period of five years at five marks per annum which indicates a position of great responsibility and power, and Maxwell's task was not made any easier by the distractions on the Borders.

The Government did not seem to fear that the disturbances on the Borders jeopardised in any way the patriotism of Eskdale and the other dales but, being at peace with England, seemed to have left the Border clans free to engage in something akin to civil war.

To help pacify the "brokenmen" Maxwell, in 1525, had granted to "my lovit friend" John Armstrong – on the principle of appointing the most unruly boy of the school to be prefect – a charter of certain lands in Eskdale – "the lands of Mylgill and Eriswood with the pertinents lying in the lordship of Eskdale". In November of the same year, John



Armstrong of Gilnockie gave to Maxwell a bond of man-rent, undertaking to yield him "in man-rent and service first and before all others, myne allegiance to our soverane lord the King allanerly excepted and to be trewe, gude and lele servantis to my said Lord". In return for this bond and under the same date, Robert, Lord Maxwell, bestowed on Armstrong the lands of "Dalbeth, Schield, Dalblane, Stapilgortoun, Langholme and Crawsnoue" with the pertinents." Armstrong accepted the bond with his hand at the pen and by affixing his seal. In 1529 Armstrong resigned the lands of Langholm in favour of Lord Maxwell.

It seems fairly well agreed that

if Maxwell did not actually instigate many of the raids made by the Armstrongs, he at any rate winked at them and in the presence of Lord Dacre, the English Warden, he sometimes resisted, not always passively, the attempts to bring them to justice.

Of course he was bound, as their feudal superior, to defend them from unjust attacks and false accusations, but there is ground for the suspicion that his protection amounted to something beyond that.

Good faith

In connection with Johnie Armstrong's death in 1529, when he was entrapped and murdered by the King at Carlinrig in

Teviotdale, some doubt has been expressed concerning Lord Maxwell's good faith. It seems to be based on the fact that, three days after Armstrong's murder, Maxwell received an absolute grant to himself of the lands Armstrong had held under the bond of man-rent. Probably, however, the grant was only a legal formality. It will be remembered that when James V, contemplated the decoying of the Armstrongs he took the precaution of first inviting Maxwell, Buccleuch and other Border chiefs to Edinburgh where he had them securely imprisoned before he set out for the Borders.

And in after-years the clan of the Armstrongs loyally served the

heirs of Maxwell which they would never have done had they suspected him of being privy to the contemplated treachery and guilty of breaking his word – a sin heinous above all others in the eyes of the Borderers.

In 1536 Maxwell was entrusted by the King with a mission of a very delicate nature. He was sent to France to arrange the marriage of the King to Mary of Guise. On the successful completion of the mission (though the princess died soon after her arrival at Leith), James is said to have given Maxwell the advowson of the Five Kirks of Eskdale.

In 1542 Lord Maxwell had an adventure of a more exciting kind. At the Battle of Solway Moss, he, with many other Scottish nobles, was taken prisoner, as were also his brothers John and Henry and the son of his traditional enemy, the laird of Johnstone. Maxwell was liberated the following year but in 1544 his parole was cancelled and he was commanded to go to London, his son being appointed in his stead as Warden of the West March. One day, as he was going to Stakeheuch to arrest some freebooters, he was waylaid by certain Armstrongs, probably from the English Border whither many of the clan had fled after the murder of John of Gilnockie, at Yellowsike head, near the farm of Blough in Wauchopedale, and was sent to London where he was imprisoned.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday, 29th February 2024



C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 10,024 comprising of 5,549 prime hogs and 4,475 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 29th February 2024.

A smaller offering of cattle forward although more quality on offer and trade remains buoyant for all classes. The sale topped at £1,633 for an Angus cow from TN Cavers & Co., Sorbie, Langholm with Galloways to £1,456 from J Tullie, Fenwick, Hawick. Simmentals sold to £1,443 and £1,380 from SG Adin, Upper Rigg, Thornhill, which also topped the pence per kilo at 238p and 222p. Galloways peaked at 233p from Fenwick and Angus to 198p from Sorbie. Entries are sought after for the weekly sale here at Longtown, take advantage of the capped commission and payment on the day. Please contact Sam Hogg who will be pleased to take your calls.

A larger show of 5,549 hogs were forward and handled with ease. More well finished hogs of all breeds and weights could be sold to vendor advantage at this venue. The prices speak for themselves.

The overall average of 343ppk includes an entry of 3,084 hill bred hogs providing a very good cross section of the hogg trade. Lowland hogs over 44kg went on to average an unrivalled £172.38 per head. Keep them coming.

Hogs topped at £227 for Texels from Harehead Farms, Cranshaws, Duns with top per kilo of 452p for Beltex from Townfoot.

Lightweight hogs 32-37kg were no exception in the trade being on fire. Countless runs of hill bred smalls going through 340-360ppk, with the best bred

continental hogs sailing over 400ppk. Quantities are wanted for next week's sale.

All classes of well finished hogs are wanted here at Longtown on a weekly basis to satisfy an ever-growing demand, as numbers increase so do purchasers. Prime stock travel from all four corners of the United Kingdom to take advantage of the 19 active, competitive purchasers who operate on a weekly basis providing a very transparent and competitive market place here at Longtown. Haulage can be arranged easily and efficiently, so please do not hesitate to contact our auctioneers who will be pleased to take your calls and assist you and your business in any way possible. Overall average 343.7p (SQQ 347.3p)

John Walton 07880 527 066

(Prime Sheep Auctioneer)

Daniel Lynn 07584 200 489

(Prime Sheep Auctioneer)

Sam Hogg 07584 207 323

(Prime Cattle & Cast Cow Auctioneer)

Norman Douglas 07786 366 833 (Fields Person)

Helen Rickard 07741 313 029

(Fields Person)

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Beltex 452p Townfoot, 433p Killoccraw,

432p Townfoot, 430p Lurgan, 427p

Braehead, 424p Killoccraw, 420p

Walkerdyke, 417p Crawthatch & Lurgan, 415p

Shieldhill.

Texel 417p Netherthorn, 410p Byreburnside,

402p Galleywreay, 397p The Flatt, 395p

Killipol & Cambeckhill.

Millenium Blue 389p, 380p, 378p

Baldrydie.

Suffolk 382p Low Dunashery, 368p West

Glengyre, 365p Hallees & Cambeckhill,

362p Colliam.

Dorset 381p Knock & Maize.

Cheviot 369p Mainside, 365p, 363p, 361p,

359p Glendearg, 354p Catslackburn.

Blackface 366p Galleywreay, 359p Killipol,

358p Sorbie, 353p Craigen, 351p Arnicle,

Mouldyhill & Longburgh Fauld.

Herdwick 366p Orthwaite Hall.

North Country Cheviot 364p, 360p

Whitecroft Mains, 360p Machariorch &

Aucharua, 359p Yett.

Charollais 363p Tinnishall, 361p West

Hillhead.

Mule 361p Killipol, 350p Kirkhouse, 349p

Cara View, 348p Camphill, 345p Craig

Farm.

Dutch Spotted 347p Lowfield House, 340p

Westernhopeburn.

Cheviot Mule 346p, 345p, 339p Kirkland of

Longcastle, 330p Machribeg.

Blue Texel 343p Wydon Eals.

Lleyn 329p Gatehousecote.

Swaledale 302p Hollin Close.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

Texel £227 Harehead, £225 South View,

£224 Chesters Brae, £218 Linnhead, £210

Druidhall.

Suffolk £216 Druidhall, £206 Chesters

Brae, £204 Viewley & Archerbeck, £202

Kirkhouse, £198 Westhill.

Beltex £207 Drumcairn, £200 Wood, £198

Drumcairn, £196 Lurgan, £192 Braehead,

£190 Drumcairn & Hillside.

Bluefaced Leicester £200 Old Police

House.

North Country Cheviot £196, £184

Humbleheugh, £180 Plan, £176

Humbleheugh, £175 Yett & Clatequoy.

Mule £188 Lingey Field, £180, £175

Kirkhouse, £172 Low Dunashery, £162

Overton of Knaven & Wydon Eals.

Millenium Blue £184, £179, £175

Baldrydie.

Hampshire £182 Dyke.

Cheviot Mule £178 Heathery Knowe, £169

Kirkland of Longcastle.

Romney £176 Marygate.

Charollais £174 Culquhasen, £168

Towiemore, £165 Archerbeck.

Blackface £168 Milnmark, £167 Kirkhouse,

£166 Cowden Burn & Black Craig, £164

Merkland.

Cheviot £165 Becks, £163 Kirkton, £161

Becks, £156 Old Gas House.

Blue Texel £165 Wydon Eals.

Dorset £160 Knock & Maize.

Dutch Spotted £153 Westernhopeburn.

Herdwick £143 Linton.

Swaledale £139 Hollin Close, £136

Hillside.

A similar show of 4,475 ewes were

forward, to an increased ring of

purchasers, who came out very keen for

ewes, being £10-£12 dearer across the

board once again. Numbers wanted for

next week's bonanza.

The sale topped at £315 for superb Texel ewes

from Lower Reiss Farms, Lower Reiss, Wick.

Hill ewes to £130 for Cheviots consigned

by Stirkfield Farms, Stirkfield, Biggar.

Rams topped at £170 for Texels from G &

CE Edminson, Middle Farm, Carlisle and for

Beltex from A Clark & Son, West Glengyre,

Leswalt.

Early entries are appreciated and for all further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team as listed below.

HEAVY EWES

Texel £315 Lower Reiss, £300 Rowan

Garth, £295 Lower Reiss & Somerfield

House, £280 Lairdlaugh.

Beltex £230, £200 Lairdlaugh, £200

School, £198 Baldrydie, £195 Sorbie, £190

Woodhead.

Suffolk £220, £192 Wood, £180 Linton &

Beckfoot, £178 West Farm, £175 Viewley &

Beckfoot.

Charollais £210 Kimmeter Green, £198

Baldrydie.

Bluefaced Leicester £155 Dallowie, £152

Merkland.

North Country Cheviot £152

Humbleheugh, £150 High Moat, £140

Aimshaugh.

Millenium Blue £150 Orton Rigg.

Cheviot Mule £148 Chesters Brae, £138

Druidhall, £130 Chesters Brae.

Mule £146 Nether Pinn, £138 Keil, £136

Marygate, £135 Allfornaught, £134

Druidhall, £130 Chesters Brae.

Blue Texel £142 Aimshaugh.

LIGHT EWES

Cheviot £130 Stirkfield, £128 Keppochan,

£122 Mount Bengier & Humbleheugh, £120

Walkerdyke & Humbleheugh.

Blackface £121 Whitehill £118 Beckfoot,

£114 Beckhall, £112 Tullochallum &

Ingleston, £109 Blackcraig.

Lleyn £114 Marygate.

Kendal Rough £112 Church View.

Swaledale £99 Whitton, £88 Longlea, £82

Whitton, £80 Spittal Sheilds.

Shetland £94 Dallowie.

Jacob £90 Northpark.

Welsh Mule £80 Allfornaught.

RAMS

Texel £170 Middle Farm, £155 Shittington

Hall £150 Rowan Garth.

Beltex £170 West Glengyre.

Bluefaced Leicester £158 Shittington Hall,

£156 Cowden Burn, £152 Knarr, £150

Nunscleugh.

North Country Cheviot £138 Viewley,

£130 Rowanburnfoot, £128 Bradley.

Blackface £135 Cowden Burn, £122

Milnmark.

Suffolk £135 Beckfoot.

Cheviot £122 Carlenrigg & Stirkfield, £120

Harehead.

Swaledale £115 Nunscleugh.

Averages:

Hoggs

Light to 374.0p (309.3p)

Standard to 452.0p (344.5p)

Medium to 433.0p (353.9p)

Heavy to 417.0p (338.1p)

Ewes

Light to £130.00 (£82.53)

Heavy to £315.00 (£125.75)

Rams to £170.00 (£107.76)

The E&L Gallery



Kim Jones of Langholm captured this unusual pastoral scene on Sunday morning

Camera: Apple iPhone 6S

Hawick Sings and it was 'gie guid!'

By Alan Weatherstone

A contingent of Hawick's best musicians entertained in The Buccleuch Centre in Langholm on Sunday to a very appreciative audience.

The concert, arranged by the centre, was the first in a series under the title 'Best of the Borders' which, it is hoped, will continue next season with singers from another Borders town.

During the Covid lockdowns, many of us in Langholm were kept entertained by the well-executed on-line concerts provided by Hawick and many of the singers we saw during those concerts were in Langholm for this event.

Holding things together was accomplished compère Bernie Armstrong.

The afternoon began with Robert Scott and his wife, Rebecca Jackson performing a selection of solos and duets; both have fine voices and sang their solos well but their rendition of Burns' 'Oh wert thou in

the cauld blast' was remarkable and very beautifully harmonised.

Doyenne of the Hawick singing circuit, Joyce Tinlin, was next to entertain and this she did in her own, unique way. Joyce is an excellent soprano and sang a selection of songs by The Carpenters, New Seekers, and some more traditional numbers. All beautifully executed.

Michael Aitken took to the stage next, and his powerful baritone voice powered through war songs and Hawick songs however, it fairly blew some minds to hear Hawick's Official Song Singer ending with a surprising rendition of Lionel Richie's 'Hello'.

The accompanist for the afternoon was Drew Gibb, a familiar face in all things musical in Hawick and all over the Borders. He played keyboard and guitar to accompany the singers. However, Drew is also an excellent vocalist and treated the gathering to two or three songs including a masterful cover of Dean Martin's 'Little old wine drinker me'.

Joyce was then joined by Deborah Lyons and together they sang some beautifully harmonious duets including Robert Laidlaw's 'Auld Hawick, my dreams'.

The afternoon was drawn to a close with the group 3D comprising Deborah, Drew and singer-songwriter Dave Finnie. The trio sang a number of Dave's self-penned songs ending with the popular 'Auld Mill Town'.

All in all, a fabulous afternoon's entertainment; thank you Hawick.



Husband and wife team Rebecca Jackson and Robert Scott



Dave Finnie, Deborah Lyons, Joyce Tinlin, Bernie Armstrong, Michael Aitken with Drew Gibb at the keyboard

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Behind: Matt Hall and Danny Hotson, runners-up
Front: Ryan Wood and Layton Foster, winners

Carpet Bowling

On Sunday evening, Langholm Social Club Carpet Bowling held their Junior Pairs tournament in the Social Club. Eight pairs took part in a Round Robin format with two groups of four playing three games and the top two of each group qualifying through to the semi-finals.

Beaten semi finalists were Mark Goodfellow and Ellis Dirom and Aaron Wood and Jack Hotson. Runners up were Danny Hotson and Matt Hall. Winners were Ryan Wood and Layton Foster. Thanks to all who sponsored the event, it was a good wee tournament with some great bowling.

Report by Paul Warwick
Photos courtesy of Tracey Goodfellow.

Skill, endurance and flair at Rugby Festival

Over 300 players attend Milntown youth event

Youth Rugby

By Caroline Jardine

Langholm Youth Rugby held their annual Borders Rugby Festival at Milntown last Sunday, with seven Borders clubs in attendance. Various teams from P3-P7 from Langholm, Hawick, Selkirk, Gala, Kelso, Jed and Peebles took part in a fantastic morning of rugby.

There was a lot of skill, endurance, flair, and determination from all the 300+ players who took part. A credit to all the coaches with lots of games being played.

The tournament was kindly sponsored by "Wm Armstrongs" of Longtown, who have shown great support over the years to the "Lions" by backing the event and the club would like to thank Armstrongs for their continued support.

Participation medals were presented to all P3 players in front of the Armstrong's lorry which was on show on the day.

A big well done to the winners and runners-up of each age group who all received a medal. Our very own Langholm P6 team collected the silver medal, well done boys!

Inside there were cups of tea and coffee with hot rolls served by the numerous volunteering parents and helpers. A raffle was run throughout the morning with Mrs Tait and her helpers. There were some lovely prizes to be won.



ALL SMILES: Langholm's P6 boys pick up a silver medal at their home tournament

The cake and candy stall never stopped under the expert eye of Val Elliot and helpers, that kept the kids (and some parents) very happy.

The additional bonus of having a tournament is the little bit of fundraising that goes alongside, with all the proceeds helping run the club and securing the future of such events.

Volunteers

A huge thank you must go to ALL the volunteers. People setting up the pitches and putting

bins out, the car park attendants, the admin clerks, the coaches, players and referees, the pitch managers and runners, the numerous kitchen staff, the dozens of "home bakers" who donated to the cake stall, the runners of the stall and the people who helped tidy up after the event. Huge thanks to Archie Dryburgh for being medical man not just today but over the years and we hope you enjoy your retirement. And to all those who go that extra mile, not just on

the day but the weeks leading up to the event and contributing to the success that it was!!

We are losing a few parent helpers as their children move on so if anyone would like to help in any way they can please get in touch. You don't have to coach rugby, any admin skills great or small would be much appreciated. Lots of help is needed to make this club run as successfully as it does.

Many, many thanks again. Until next year...!





Linlithgow capitalise on Langholm yellow cards

40 minutes with fewer than 15 players seal home side's fate

Rugby

By Kenneth Pool

Langholm 13 Linlithgow 34

Langholm played Linlithgow RFC at Milntown on Saturday in the 3rd round of the Scottish Shield. Before the kick-off a minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for club stalwart Zander Turnbull who sadly passed away recently,

Langholm started the match in determined fashion and were soon on the scoreboard when prop Tom Hope crashed over for a good try which Nathan Smith converted. Linlithgow were a well drilled and organised squad and started to put pressure on the home side with some strong runs into the Langholm half, a break by the Linlithgow winger after 15 minutes, resulted in a tackle by Callum



Chris Tait on the charge aided by Calum Henderson and Murray Rose

Helling which was deemed high and he was yellow carded by the ref. Linlithgow capitalised on this and scored a converted try to make the score 7-7 after 20 minutes. Langholm however were still playing in determined fashion and

created a number of chances, but another try eluded them and they had to settle for a penalty slotted by Smith to make the score 10-7. The visitors struck back with a penalty and then a converted try to take a 7-point lead and finished the first half

with another penalty to make the score 10-20,

Langholm were first on the scoresheet in the second half when Smith slotted another penalty but then the home side's discipline fell apart and yellow cards were issued firstly to Jon Wilkes and then to Chris Tait in quick succession. Linlithgow pressed their advantage and scored two converted tries to take the match away from Langholm, they suffered another yellow card when Hughie Donaldson was dismissed for the last 10 minutes of the match. Final score 13-34,

Langholm were disappointed that they didn't make more of their first half performance when at least two tries were on the cards but just didn't happen. The four yellow cards resulted in 40 minutes being played with less than 15 players and this was well exploited by Linlithgow on the day.

Canonbie gymnasts make it to finals



Canonbie Primary's Emily, Lexi, Murren and Eliza will compete in the Regional Schools Gymnastics final in June

Gymnastics

Over 300 gymnasts from schools across Dumfries and Galloway made their way to the DG1 leisure complex in Dumfries on Sunday for the Regional Schools Gymnastics Competition.

With so many gymnasts taking part in level 1, the competition ran from 9.00am until nearly 6.00pm in the evening with 26 teams competing in Level 1 alone.

The team from Canonbie Primary comprising Emily, Lexi, Murren and Eliza performed extremely well on their floor and vault routines to secure the silver medal and qualification to the Scottish Schools Gymnastics Finals in June later this year.

A big well done also goes to Bridgette, Sally, Kimmie and Callie who competed in the Pre-Level 1 category in their very first gymnastics competition and in front of a large crowd of spectators they did fantastically well.

A special mention to Mrs Brockley, Mrs Wilson and S5 pupil Matilda Brockley for their efforts in preparing the girls and with practice for Sunday's event.

Disappointment as Legion exit Border cup

Football

By Martin Thomlinson

A very disappointing result on Saturday saw the Legion exiting the Border cup at the quarter final stage.

In what's been a recurring theme throughout the season, chances were missed with poor goals conceded at the other end.

With Finley Dell banned, Iain Little injured, Craig Pool unavailable and Captain Lee Irving missing the kick off due to work we were missing some big players but should still have had enough to get a result. New signing young

Ryan Thomson was available for the first time and he showed well when he was introduced.

Ryan Johnstone scored the only goal with a deflected free kick to equalise in the first half and was unlucky later in the half with another that came off the bar.

Hawick scored again just before the break to take a half time lead and again fifteen minutes into the second half.

With no fixtures for the next two weeks, it's time to recharge and reassess then tackle the last five matches left of what's been another difficult season.

Many thanks to match and match ball sponsor Davy Lacey.

A Little C Grieve A Paisley C Ireland A Hogg C Cuthbert K Reid R Johnstone C Hamilton D Winter and A Whittall.

Subs L Irving B Mattinson R Thomson B Borthwick and D Borthwick.



Photo by Stan Wilson



E&L SPORT

