

The HAWICK PAPER

OWNED & EDITED LOCALLY  www.thehawickpaper.co.uk



NEW GYM OPEN
GLENMAC MILL
Teviot Crescent
next to Teviot Medical Centre
Call Jake
07988 868576
Full Year Membership - £180 or £20 per month

Emtelle jobs set to be axed

By **DEREK FORREST**
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Workers at one of the town's major employers are set to lose their jobs.

Haughhead-based Emtelle this week announced that "a small number of people" would be affected, although the firm, which describes itself as a "global manufacturer of pre-connectorised, blown fibre cable and ducted network solutions", wouldn't be drawn on actual numbers.

Provost Watson McAteer

described the situation as "extremely concerning".

A spokesperson for Emtelle said this week: "Emtelle can confirm that the difficult decision has been made to commence consultations to potentially make a small number of people redundant at our Hawick and Jedburgh facilities.

"This is sadly due to reduced demand from our UK customers.

"We will continue to support our staff in this process and we strive to minimise any disruption or anxiety to the team.



Furthermore, we are looking to redeploy those affected wherever possible."

The spokesperson concluded: "Hawick and Jedburgh continue to play a critical role in Emtelle's UK and global operations, and we will continue to play a key role in the UK's telecoms and power infrastructure networks."

Mr McAteer told *The*

Hawick Paper yesterday (Thursday): "Emtelle are a major employer and key commercial business in Hawick, and news that they are being forced to make a number of local staff redundant is, of course, extremely concerning."

Describing Emtelle as a "highly responsible company", he added: "I'm sure they will do their very best to limit the impact on their valuable staff.

"This decision is apparently being made because of a downturn in their UK business – a

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GRAHAM'S SHOW IS JUST THE TICKET



The *Hawick Paper's* **Graham Ford** is hoping for bumper ticket sales today (Friday) in respect of a charity show which he wrote and created ■ FULL STORY ON PAGE 11

Fancy becoming a community councillor?

An appeal has been made for people to put their names forward to serve on Hawick Community Council.

The current members are coming to the end of

their terms of office and the election process will be completed before the end of summer.

Returning officer, Councillor Stuart Marshall,

said: "Community councils play a very important role within our communities and I would urge anyone with an interest in the forthcoming elections to

pick up an application form and join this very active body. As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to become involved in all aspects of community life,

and by becoming a member you can really help our town become an even better place to live."

The election process begins on Monday –

from that date Hawick Community Council effectively ceases to operate, restarting in September or October, depending on

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



FEATURED CARPET FROM STOCK 25% OFF
PRIMO NATURALS
NOW £16.99 m2




EST. 1961 81 HIGH STREET HAWICK 01450 373493



R.A. OLIVER
MOTOR MECHANIC

EUROREPAR

Slitrig Crescent, Hawick TD9 0EN

find us on [facebook](#)

- MOT Prep • Service
- Brakes • Exhausts
- Repairs • Diagnostic
- Welding & More...

Call for a FREE quotation today:
01450 376753

Email: ross@raoliver.com



TAXI RANK

LEX'S TAXIS

Airport Transfers Shopping Trips
Hospital Runs Corporate Contracts

07835 729466

Dom's Taxis Standard Taxi Service
Local - Contract - Airport with Ramped Access
More than your average Taxi Operator for Wheelchair, Buggy
or Luggage Storage

078 078 00 078

8 seater available



Hawick Taxis

01450 370740

4 & 6 Seaters Available
Loyalty Card Scheme

6/8 SEATERS AVAILABLE

EDINBURGH GLASGOW STIRLING DUNDEE ABERDEEN INVERNESS

MANCHESTER NEWCASTLE BLACKPOOL LONDON LIVERPOOL BIRMINGHAM

TEVIOT TAXI

07743 443775

AIRPORT RUNS LOCAL RUNS WHEELCHAIR ACCESS FIND US ON [f](#)



A government cut to be welcomed in Burnfoot

By **HILARY MACTAGGART**
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

In the year award-winning Turnbull & Scott celebrates its 90th anniversary, the Burnfoot-based company is gearing up for a ministerial visit on Monday.

Scottish Government minister Gillian Martin will be given a tour of the factory which occupies a 60,000 square foot manufacturing facility and employs some 35, mainly local, people there and at their Edinburgh design centre.

"We will demonstrate the products we are manufacturing and how they are helping our customers," explained managing director Peter Murphy.

He added: "We will also be showing three new CNC machines in which we have recently invested almost a



quarter of a million pounds as we seek to modernise and enhance our manufacturing capability."

Mr Murphy will conduct the tour alongside chairman Arif Shahab and operations manager Liam Gibson, who began his career as an apprentice 15 years ago.

"After the tour the minister will join other guests to view our exhibition and will cut the birthday cake to celebrate our 90th anniversary," continued Mr Murphy.

Turnbull & Scott was recently recognised with a sustainable development award, and the company continues to go from strength-to-strength.



Gillian Martin

"The energy crisis and the Net Zero journey has ignited interest in both industrial waste heat recovery and the electrification of heat," added Mr Murphy.

"Both of these trends play nicely into our service offerings.

"We have recently launched a new product, the Electric Thermolier, developed here in Hawick, as an alternative to gas and oil fired heaters."

This new heavy duty electric

heater was born through demand from industrial customers seeking a highly-robust electric version of the highly-durable steam heater.

"We have also signed a distribution agreement with Exodraft, a Danish manufacturer of heat recovery equipment, and are now their sole UK distributor."

The agreement with Exodraft has enabled Turnbull & Scott to offer high-efficiency industrial and commercial range chillers and flue-based heat recovery products.

"We are on a definite growth trajectory and are investing heavily in more staff, new equipment and our sales and marketing capability.

"We have been through some difficult times, but right now we are feeling confident about the future," he concluded.

Fears over extra High Street traffic

One-way traffic from Mart Street to allow the installation of a new crossing is causing serious concern over an increased volume of traffic on the High Street.

The road from North Bridge roundabout to the entrance to Mart Street car park will become one-way southbound for 12 weeks from October

2 until December 22. Northbound traffic can travel via Bourtree Place, High Street, Tower Knowe, Sandbed, Albert Road and Commercial Road to the point of closure.

The one-way system is in place while works are carried out on the new toucan crossing near the junction with

Duke Street, which will also allow bicycles to be ridden across. It is part of the active travel network being built in conjunction with the flood protection scheme.

The move has prompted concerns as local ward councillor, Stuart Marshall, explained: "While I fully appreciate the need to make improvements on the approaches to this very busy location, I know townsfolk and businesses will be concerned at the additional volume of traffic on the High Street.

"HGVs travelling from either the A698/A6088 would normally exit at Mart Street and head up the A7, but will now be forced to use High



PICTURE: ILF IMAGING

Mart Street will be one-way later this year

Street, Commercial Road or Princes Street. Mr Marshall continued: "I have this week shared my concerns with Scottish Borders Council and have also asked that they review the Friday morning business waste uplift schedule which also contributes to a gridlocked High Street."

He added: "Once

complete I'm sure these construction works will make the area safer for us all, but I do hope that timescales given to carry out the works don't overrun and can be achieved ahead of schedule," he concluded.

We contacted SBC for a comment, but were told the person in charge of the project was on leave.

Emtelle redundancies blow

FROM PAGE 1
situation that I hope will be reversed in time.

"Scottish Borders Council and the other support agencies will be available to provide advice to anyone directly affected."

It is understood more

than 200 are employed at the firm's Hawick operation out of a total of about 700-800 worldwide.

Last year we reported on happier times for the company, which was founded in Jedburgh more than four decades

ago, with news of its expansion into North America - the opening of a manufacturing facility in North Carolina. And only in March this year it unveiled a £42million factory investment in Abu Dhabi.

■ COMMENT, PAGE 12

Plight of Ukrainians 'really hit home' says rugby legend Colin

By GARY HEATLY
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Teri rugby legend Colin Deans has been reflecting on a "very humbling" trip to Ukraine to deliver vital aid to the front line.

Last month, former Scotland winger Iwan Tukalo led a convoy of 18 vehicles that left Edinburgh for the war-torn country. The group included his fellow ex-internationals Colin, Finlay Calder and Gordon Hunter.

Colin, 68, lives in Oundle in Northamptonshire, and told us: "Iwan got in touch and asked if I wanted to head over with him and I was keen.

"He was arranging the trip along with the Jeeps for Peace initiative [which delivers pickup trucks and other supplies to Ukraine].

Colin, a former Hawick RFC, Scotland and Lions hooker, continued: "On the Monday morning we drove 830 miles from Amsterdam. It was about 13 hours in the car and we got to Poland.

"We left Poland on



Colin Deans, Iwan Tukalo, organiser Stewart Ford, Finlay Calder and Gordon Hunter in the village church in Nyzhniv where Iwan's father was born

the Tuesday and headed towards Lviv in Ukraine. We got through the border checkpoints okay and when we got to Lviv we handed over a lot of humanitarian aid.

"Among more important things like medical supplies and generators there were a number of cases of Irn Bru, Nairn's Oatcakes and Hobnobs."

On the Wednesday the group visited an army cemetery in the centre of

Lviv and Colin said that was "devastating" because of the number of graves. "It was so vast and so many of those who'd passed away were so young," he added.

"We had a piper there which added to the emotion and there was not a dry eye in the house.

"We then headed to a little village called Nyzhniv where Iwan's late father Dmytro was born.

"Iwan met his aunt, who is in her 80s, and his

cousins for the first time, and that tugged on the heartstrings very much, too.

"On the Thursday we spent 14 hours on a bus back to Krakow in Poland and then flew home on the Friday.

"What people are going through in Ukraine is so terrible and it really hit home being there.

"Overall, it was very humbling and very emotional."

Death of former newspaper owner Robert McNairn

Former editor and proprietor of the *Hawick News*, Robert McNairn, passed away on Saturday. He had celebrated his 100th birthday in September, *Jake Colman writes*.

As well as being at the head of the town's local paper, Bob, as he was known to everyone, had many pastimes, including a stint with Hawick Harlequins as stand-off and captain. He also had a season with the Greens in the late 1940s.

He enjoyed sea-angling around the Isle of Skye, hill-walking, and badminton,

which he didn't give up until aged 96.

Bob also turned out for Edinburgh Borderers RFC and was awarded life membership. He was among several Teries who regularly attended the club's dinner. While in his 60s, along with a group of young-at-heart oldies, and all members of Teviotdale Harriers, he enjoyed regular jogs.

Bob was born above the shop known as 'Pairky A-Things' at the Round Close on September 18, 1922, to parents Robert and Mary (née Jardine). He had an older sister,



Robert McNairn

Helen, who became a nurse, and a younger brother, George. The family moved to Oliver Park from where he attended Trinity school, followed by Hawick High.

On leaving school, he started as an apprentice tweed designer with Wilson & Glenny. In 1940, Bob volunteered for military service, joining the RAF at Lossiemouth where he was assigned to the signals section.

Returning to 'civvy

street' in 1946, he joined his father, the then editor of the *Hawick News*, as a cub reporter. George was in charge of production.

Due to the sudden death of his father in 1952, Bob took over as editor, a role he held for the next 45 years. He retired in 1997 when the paper was bought by North East Press, a division of Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers.

The *Hawick News* ceased production in 2019 when owned by JPI Media.

Bob met Margaret Greenhaugh at an Edinburgh University Union dance when she was undertaking midwifery training. They were married in her home town of Bolton in 1959. They had two children, Cameron and Fiona, born in 1960 and 1965 respectively. There are five grandchildren.

New community councillors will serve two years

■ FROM PAGE 1

whether a ballot is required.

The current council chairwoman, Marion Short, pointed out: "As per the recent approved change to the constitution, the term of office for the new community council is now two years, as opposed to the previous four-year term."

Nomination forms will be available via the Scottish Borders Council (SBC) website, and paper copies can be had at the local library and council contact centre in the town hall. The nomination deadline is August 21, followed by a seven-day withdrawal period.

If there are between eight and 15 candidates, there will be no need for Teries to cast their votes. But if more than 15 people have thrown their hats into the ring, then SBC will organise a ballot to be held during the week commencing September 4 at a venue in the town.



Marion Short

Mrs Short said: "On the day after the ballot there will be a count at SBC headquarters [Newtown St Boswells], after which SBC will notify candidates with ballot results, provide notices of contested election results and a date agreed for the first meeting, again initially taken by the returning officer as per the arrangement for an uncontested election.

"The date of the first meeting of the new community council will be dictated by the requirement or not for a ballot."

THOS. B. OLIVER

MOTOR ENGINEERS

THE GARAGE, DENHOLM

Established 1919 • Proprietor: Wendy Oliver



SERVICING AND REPAIRS (two, three or four wheels)

MoTs - Tyres - Garden machinery

HELMETS - CLOTHING - ACCESSORIES

Fuel - Gas - Coal - Kindling - Logs - Peat

TEXA diagnostics for all motorcycles

Open Saturdays
8am to noon

CALL US ON
01450 870221

tboliver@btconnect.com
www.tb-oliver.co.uk

Signs bid to curb village speeders

By HILARY MACTAGGART
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

New flashing speed-display signs are being considered as a much-needed road safety measure in Bonchester Bridge.

Ward councillor Stuart Marshall hopes to progress the idea which has proved an effective speed-calming measure in other locations.

"I met recently with the chair of Hobkirk Community Council regarding various matters in the village and one item that we discussed at length was the possibility of the village gaining a couple of flashing speed-display signs," he explained.

"I know these are already very effective in some areas of my ward and I'm hoping in the coming weeks to arrange a site visit with both community council



Speed display signs, similar to this one in Wilton Hill, could be put up in Bonchester Bridge

members and Scottish Borders Council to see where these can be best placed."

The exact location is yet

to be discussed, although there have been some site proposals put forward.

"Some suggestions from villagers and community council members are to place one directly outside the village hall and the other on Main Street," continued Councillor Marshall, "but it's important that we also take on board the professional advice from our roads safety team at the council."

"Speeding through our towns and villages is an issue that comes up more and more nowadays by community councils, and it's important that we listen and act on these concerns," he concluded.

A Scottish Borders Council spokesperson responded: "I'm sure that if a request is made to the relevant team, then that will be considered and acted upon accordingly."

WEDDING ALBUM



Agnes McGlone, formerly of Hawick, married Thomas Chapman, of Lasswade, at St John's Episcopal Church in Selkirk

PICTURE: M. BANKA PHOTOGRAPHY

Man, 75, charged

Police were called to Denholm on Saturday at around 12.40pm following a report of a car crashing into a parked car in Jedward Terrace.

A force spokeswoman said there were "no reported injuries", adding: "A 75-year-old man was cautioned and charged in connection with a road traffic offence."

"A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal."

Canopy

Mr James Wood has been granted planning permission by Scottish Borders Council to erect a canopy and wood store at the Old Police House, Bonchester Bridge.

Weather

Week ending July 23:
Max. temperature 20.3°; min. 7.1°; rainfall 23.62mm.

We're increasing journeys on the X95

From Monday 24 July, Service X95 will increase from two hourly to hourly between Galashiels and Edinburgh Bus Station, Monday to Saturday. Later journeys to and from Carlisle, Hawick, and Edinburgh will be added, with improved connections at Canonbie from Newcastleton.



www.bordersbuses.co.uk

01896 754350

Borders Buses
bringing people together

SBC £320,000 improvement programme is now in play

By HILARY MACTAGGART
 news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Three local playparks – in Burnfoot, Bonchester Bridge and Denholm – are to receive a £320,000 cash injection to improve facilities.

The investment is being funded by Scottish Borders Council's capital investment programme, and will see Sleepy Valley in Burnfoot benefit from £200,000, while Bonchester Bridge and the Loaning Park in Denholm will each receive £60,000.

A consultation for proposals at Sleepy Valley was launched in February and identified a "prioritised list of equipment types that the



Stuart Marshall

community would like to see in the playpark, along with feedback regarding ancillary items such as fencing, seating etc."

A council spokesperson said: "A contractor was appointed to deliver upgrades to several sites, including Sleepy Valley.

"An initial site meeting with the contractor has taken place to discuss various matters, such as access and design options. Further discussions will be held so that the contractor will then be able to forward a proposed design. There is no date for completion as yet, but the site is included in the capital programme for this financial year."

As yet, there has been no consultation for the two village playparks in the programme. "These two sites are in the capital programme for 2025/26," added the spokesperson.

Ward councillor Stuart Marshall welcomed the investment, describing it as "fantastic news" and is keen to progress the plans.

"It is fantastic that Sleepy Valley in Burnfoot is to benefit from a £200,000 facelift, but we do need to crack on with the plans and timescales for delivery of this project."

He has asked how the money will be broken down.

"I believe further meetings are expected to take place within weeks with the project manager and design team, and I welcome this move.

"Sleepy Valley was once an award-winning playpark and I see no reason why we cannot return it to that status again. I'm confident such an investment will serve youngsters in Burnfoot and beyond well."

This week Mr Marshall visited all three playparks.

"The Loaning playpark in Denholm and the one in Bonchester are in line to receive £60,000 each from ring-fenced money later in the programme, but they are very tired and in need of attention before this money is available in over 20 months' time.

"I will work alongside council officials and others to see if we can identify additional resources to support much-needed upgrades in advance of this money being available."



Playparks at, from top, Sleepy Valley, Bonchester Bridge and Denholm are in line for a combined £320,000 revamp

Knox to seek re-election

Community council vice-chairman Cameron Knox hopes to soon be "back to full strength" following a recent health scare, and plans to contest the upcoming elections.

"It's been a bit of a scary time, having collapsed in my office and being conveyed to the Borders General Hospital by ambulance after having a seizure," he explained.

"After spending a few days in Borders General Hospital, I must thank the staff in both the A&E department and on Ward



Cameron Knox

6 for their first-class treatment and care."

Mr Knox added: "It was really much appreciated."

Mr Knox is on the road to recovery and grateful

for all the good wishes he has received from friends.

"After having a couple of weeks' holiday, I hope to be back to full strength," he said.

Asked if he intends contesting the community council elections, he added: "I am happy to say that I can confirm I will be putting my name forward for re-election to the people's council.

"I am extremely grateful for the many well-wishers inquiring after my health."

Extension bid

Mr Geoffrey Potts is seeking permission for a two-storey extension at Fulton Cottage, Bedrule. His application also includes plans to realign his driveway and to erect a flagpole in his garden.

Alterations OK

Mr Blair Irving has been given the go-ahead for alterations and an extension at West Boonraw Cottage. Scottish Borders Council said the extension would not be detrimental to the character and appearance of the area.

What's On this August at Heart of Hawick

- 2nd-3rd* **Film: Elemental**
- 2nd **Film: Asteroid City**
- 3rd **Film: The Flash**
- 4th-10th* **Film: Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning**
- 9th **Film: Brigadoon**
- 11th-17th* **Film: Oppenheimer**
- 16th **Film: Local Hero**
- 18th-20th **Live Music: Live Music Hawick Festival****
- 23rd **Film: Fame (1980)**
- 23rd-24th **Film: No Hard Feelings**
- 25th-31st* **Film: Barbie**
- 26th-27th **Live Stream: Andre Rieu Love Is All Around**
- 30th **Film: Raging Bull**

*Not everyday - check for screen times

** Live Music Hawick Festival featuring Joshua Burnside, Main Street Blues and Western End

Films from only £3!! - Check for details
 Cafe open 7 days a week (late Wed-Sat)

LIVE TICKETS BORDERS Tickets from the venue or scan the QR code here:



Cancer charity cashes in on fund-raising steps

Oregon Timber Frame workers, including big-hearted Teries, who took part in a 20-mile walk to raise money for Cancer Research UK this week handed over a £8,585 cheque to local representatives of the charity.

The Hawick employees at the presentation were Rory Anderson, Glen Mabon and Lindsay Campbell.

Event organiser Joyce Wright, CRUK Selkirk committee member, said: "This takes the total raised by this year's walk to £15,586, which means the walk has now raised almost £200,000 for Cancer Research UK since it began in 1989."

Rory Anderson, Oregon

Timber Frame's sales and commercial manager, said the walk was the first big local fund-raiser undertaken by the Selkirk-based company.

"Between us we managed to raise a total of £4,292 from our personal sponsorships. Our parent company, Barratt Developments PLC, through the Barratt Foundation, agreed to match fund the amount we raised, so everyone is delighted to have been able to provide such a big boost to Cancer Research UK funds."

Seventy-one took part in April's walk, starting at Dryhope (Yarrow Valley) and taking in Traquair, Minch Moor and Three Brethren before ending at Selkirk.



At the cheque handover outside Oregon Timber Frame's offices in Selkirk, from left, are Paula Kellett (CRUK), Rory Anderson, Jacqui Lee, Glen Mabon, Lindsay Campbell, Barry Hewson, Tammy Yourston, Sinead Riddell, Judith Folan (all Oregon Timber Frame) and Joyce Wright (CRUK)

PICTURE: JOHN SMAIL

JFS BAIRNKINE BREAKERS

Bairnkine Sawmill, Jedburgh
01835 840633

WANTED

CARS, VANS and 4x4s

£150 up to £1,000 for cars
Minimum £175 for cars delivered
£225 up to £1,500 for 4x4 jeeps and pickups

Also at: **Croft Road, Hawick 01450 377837**

Feet Not Feeling Brand New?



Scotia's specialist team can help put the spring back into your step!

Our chiropodist can help with the little things . . . as well as specialist gait and bio-mechanical problems

Tel. 01835 823645

to find out more

Clinics at St Boswells and Peebles



Hawick's green jewel shows no sign of flagging

By JAKE COLTMAN
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Wilton Lodge Park's Green Flag status is flying high for a third successive year – and once again it is the only green space in the Borders to be awarded the prestigious accolade.

The scheme is administered by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful, with Hawick being one of only 87 parks worthy of recognition.

To gain the sought-after status, the green space has to be well maintained, and have opportunities for exercise and play. It should also be a place where people are able to spend time outdoors in a clean environment.

Praising those who contributed to the park's success, Provost Watson McAteer told us: "This consistent endorsement from Keep Scotland Beautiful is just reward to all involved in ensuring that our park is so well maintained, providing opportunities for visitors and our local community to enjoy such a fantastic green space."



Wilton Lodge Park

PICTURE: ILF IMAGING

He added: "On behalf of townfolk, congratulations to everyone who has helped achieve this much-prized Green Flag status."

The awards body said Wilton Lodge Park was one of the most picturesque town parks in Scotland and a popular location for locals and visitors to enjoy for over a century. The playpark was described as one of the most impressive in the south of Scotland.

Also coming in for praise were the Elliot Bandstand and Walled Garden, while it was noted that around 250,000 people visited the 107-acre

park each year with its unique shelters, fountains and memorials.

Keith Johnson, secretary of the Friends of Wilton Lodge Park group of volunteers, told us: "It's a great achievement, a great team effort."

"The many volunteers who dedicate their time to this wonderful facility should take great credit in what they have accomplished over the years." Adding, he made special mention of the Walled Garden volunteers, highlighting that this part of the park was "a great success story".

'Contact MP' over pension age fight

A councillor has urged women financially hit by changes in state pension age to contact their MP.

Clair Ramage, instrumental in setting up 'Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) Across the Scottish Borders' in 2016, was reflecting on last month's full Scottish Borders Council meeting which approved calls for a swift resolution to the situation before more women die waiting for compensation.

The WASPI movement was launched to achieve what it saw as a fair transitional state pension age for women born in the 1950s. It is seeking an immediate one-off compensation payment of between £11,666 and £20,000 to those affected.

Mrs Ramage said: "There are 7,100 women who are affected by the increase in state pension age in our area, with the majority having no notification of the increase which has negatively impacted on their lives."

She added: "I would urge all women affected by this to contact John Lamont MP during his summer surgeries to ask for his support to address this injustice."

Flood work gives ground

Residential and commercial property owners in the town are set to be given land for free – thanks to the town's £90million flood protection scheme.

As part of the construction of the scheme, the building of a flood wall has created land that was previously in the river corridor and made scrub land next to some properties open and usable to them.

In a planning application

made by Scottish Borders Council and listed this week, permission is being sought for change of use in respect of ten areas of ground to attach to the titles of the adjacent properties for the use of the residents and businesses.

The addresses involved are 7, 8, 10 and 11 Sandbed, the Burns Club, Hermitage Holdings' sites at 15 and 17 Commercial Road, The Office bar, Orrock Halls, Ellabank and the Royal Mail

sorting office in St George's Lane.

Part of the application states: "After the building of the flood protection walls, land was created that the scheme now wants to make available to the owners of residences or businesses that have adjoining land. Garden ground to be subdivided and transferred into the ownership of the adjacent properties that adjoin the property in question."

Marriage dates

Forthcoming marriages as displayed by the registrar:

August 1 – Mark MacDonald and Eireann Screen. August 3 – Kevin Rich and Judith Hogarth. August 4 – Euan Fowler and Katie Douglas. John Hepburn and Grace Wilson. August 5 – Sean Blair and Mhairi Herd. Francis Ferrari and Sarah Bruce. Richard Round and Helen Philips. August 12 – Callum Brown and Tonya Nichol. Kenneth Bryan and Pauline

Marshall. Jamie King and Sarah Porthouse. August 17 – Elliot Brooke and Natalie Atkinson. August 19 – Ryan Glennie and Lisa Dunne. Scott Lennox and Demi McMillan. August 20 – Barry Fairgrieve and Seonaid Allen. August 21 – Edward Sharp-Paul and Louisa Harding-Edgar. August 22 – Kieran Dignan and Ashleigh Blackford. August 26 – Craig Adamson and Nicole Gray. Andrew McCaig and Sophie Holland.

Rivers

Despite heavy rainfall this month, water levels on the Teviot and Slitrig are hovering just above the 'low' category, according to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Yesterday (Thursday), the SEPA website had levels on the Teviot (Hawick) and Slitrig (Stobs Castle) at 0.544m and 0.141m respectively.

Jim milking robotic technology to fill labour shortage gap

By HILARY MACTAGGART
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Cows at Standhill farm have been milked by hand since 1951 by three generations of the Shanks family, but earlier this week the unit moved to robotic milking, providing a "lifeline" to the dairy side of the business.

Farmer Jim Shanks, whose grandfather Jim bought the farm some 72 years ago, says he opted to

go down the route due to a "shortage in labour".

He explained: "This time last year we seriously considered putting the cows off, but this option has given us a lifeline with the dairy."

"We have milked cows twice a day since 1951.

"This will be a huge change for our family and farm life," he added.

Managing a farm with milking robots requires a different approach compared to conventional

milking, and Mr Shanks is aware of the benefits it offers.

"We will have more flexibility in our working life, and are not fixed to milking at certain times of the day," he said.

"There is no need for somebody to be there to fix clusters on each milking period."

The majority of milk produced on the farm is sold to supermarket giant Tesco.

While Standhill was

originally geared towards dairy production, it is now widely recognised as Scotland's only large-scale commercial tomato grower supplying supermarkets.

Quality ripe tomatoes are produced in its massive four-acre glasshouse.

Dairy slurry is turned into green energy with Methane used to power a gas engine connected to a generator, generating clean, renewable electricity.

Most of the heat used in the glasshouse comes from two wood chip boilers, with wood sourced from sustainably managed woodlands at Standhill.

The farm is a hub of innovation, creation, and diversification.

Jim, his wife Kerry, with children Martha, Anna and George, are the fifth generation of Shanks farmers and the third at Standhill.

"Three generations have been milking cows at Standhill since 1951 and before this, the family farmed in Dumfries and brought the cows across," he explained.

Jim added: "The cows have been milked 24-7 since 1951."

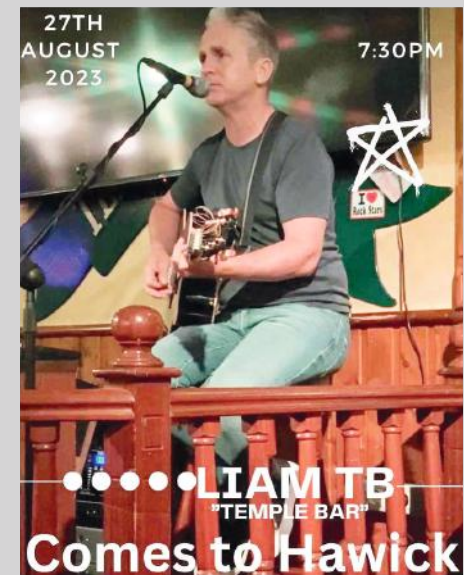
Asked how the dairy side compares to tomato production, he said: "Milking is more work for less money."



Anna and George Shanks and a Standhill milking robot

PICTURE: ILF IMAGING

ALL THE WAY FROM TEMPLE BAR, TENERIFE



Hawick Burns Club
Doors open 6.30pm
DM Nadia Cranston / Molly Marshall, or call 07725 192834

TICKET PRICE
£15



YOUR LOCAL SPECIALIST FOR
mobility scooters, wheelchairs/
powerchairs, and made-to-measure
rise-and-recline armchairs

GALASHIELS MOBILITY
INFO@GALASHIELSMOBILITY.CO.UK | WWW.GALASHIELSMOBILITY.CO.UK

GALASHIELS MOBILITY, 25 BANK STREET, GALASHIELS, SELKIRKSHIRE, TD1 1EN

TELEPHONE: 01896 752951

Mark and Victoria on a high after their wedding

A Denholm couple hit the national headlines this week after climbing a Skye mountain to celebrate their marriage – dressed in their wedding outfits.

Mark Lyons and Victoria Forbes, pictured, tackled the top section – the Inaccessible Pinnacle – of 3,234ft-high Sgùrr Dearg in their marriage togs after carrying said gear to that point. They then abseiled back down. The ascent was captured by their wedding photographer, Becy Stabler.

Mark and Victoria's wedding ceremony was performed in Glen Brittle

near the Cullin mountains on July 17. The couple had climbed rocky-topped Sgùrr Dearg before and Mark said: "Due to our special memories of the original climb, we decided to revisit it in our wedding attire the following day."

Mark stressed they would not have attempted to roped climb and abseil descent if they didn't have the skills and equipment to do so safely.

Mountains obviously have a certain kind of romantic magic for the pair – they got engaged during a visit to Africa's Atlas Mountains.



PICTURE: BELLE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

Bail breach is denied

A man appeared from custody at Selkirk Sheriff Court and denied breaching his bail conditions.

Thirty-two-year-old Lee Johnstone, of Hawick, will stand trial at Jedburgh Sheriff Court on September 26.

■ Craig Robson, 30, of Hawick, appeared from custody at Selkirk Sheriff Court on Tuesday and pleaded not guilty to two charges.

He denies threatening or abusive behaviour and breaching his bail conditions.

The trial has been fixed for Jedburgh Sheriff Court on September 26.

Terries' Rhodes wildfires terror

By GRAHAM FORD
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

A newly-wed local couple's honeymoon on Rhodes descended into a "terrifying experience" as wildfires engulfed the Greek island.

Ross Graham, 27, and his 24-year-old wife Ailsa had to cut short their dream trip and were forced to flee the luxury resort of Kiotari on foot at the weekend, as the inferno edged closer.

Speaking to the paper earlier this week, Hawick RFC star Ross said: "We were caught up in the middle of things. Last Friday, there was smoke everywhere and we had to return to our room."

"Our eyes were red raw and we were coughing."

"Things looked a lot better on Saturday morning with clear skies, and we'd planned to celebrate Ailsa's birthday that day."

"But by about 1pm a massive ash cloud had covered the sun, and that alone was pretty frightening."



Ross and Ailsa Graham; and the Brown family, Dawn, Andrew, Lacey and Dylan; and Dawn's parents, Jill and Kevin Scott, in wildfire-hit Rhodes

On their way to the beach the couple were advised to return to their hotel, after locals, out on their boats, warned of the advancing fires.

Ross, who tied the knot with Ailsa on July 15, added: "Within minutes there were helicopters and planes scooping up sea water to attack the flames."

"We asked at the hotel what to do and were advised to stay put. But Ailsa decided we should pack and leave."

As the pair made their way onto the streets they were met by thousands of other bewildered tourists, all trying to get away from the flames as quickly as they could.

Ross went on: "We kept walking for around six miles. The locals were brilliant, coming out of their houses and offering us water."

"When we looked back all you could see were massive clouds of black smoke."

The honeymooners spent two nights in a hotel near the airport before returning to Hawick on Monday after cutting their trip short.

"I feel worse for the locals, many of whom have lost their homes," said Ross.

"I've seen footage on the news since of areas we walked past which have now succumbed to the flames. It was a horrible, terrifying experience."

Meanwhile, Hawick family Dawn and Andrew Brown and their children, Lacey, 12, and ten-year-old Dylan, travelled out to Rhodes earlier this month.

And while not caught up directly in events, it has nevertheless been a worrying time for them.

Dawn, 38, explained: "We're at Afantou, about 15km from the wildfires, and it's been pretty unnerving seeing the huge plumes of smoke on the hills."

She continued: "Our children are very aware of what's going on and are naturally anxious."

Andrew, 42, added: "We've been in relative safety but very much aware if the wind changed direction things could be very different."

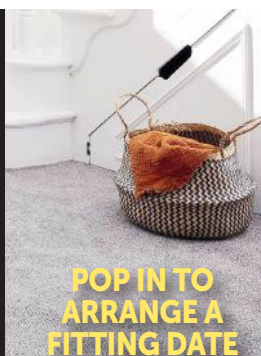
"It's been a mentally challenging experience."

The Browns were also accompanied by Dawn's parents, Jill and Kevin Scott from Newcastleton.

SPECIAL LIMITED STOCK ROLL OFFER

ABINGDON STAINFREE TWEED IN SHADOW GREY OR MERCURY GREY **ON THE ROLL, IN STOCK, READY FOR FITTING.** RRP £24.99m²

OUR SPECIAL PRICE WHILE STOCK LASTS **£17.99** m²



POP IN TO ARRANGE A FITTING DATE

LANDLORD SPECIAL OFFER

STOCK CLEARANCE ON THIS FANTASTIC BLEACH CLEANABLE SAXONY CARPET **Ideal for house renovations, pet owners and kids' bedrooms.** RRP £19.99m²

OUR SPECIAL PRICE WHILE STOCK LASTS **£11.99** m²



WHEN IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE!

Wilton Carpets

8 DICKSON STREET, HAWICK
01450 377735
18 HIGH STREET, JEDBURGH
01835 862487



Bigger bin proposal to tackle fly-tipping

By DEREK FORREST
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

A local councillor has high hopes that a pilot scheme involving the replacement of wheelie bins with much larger communal ones could be rolled out in certain parts of the town in a bid to curb fly-tipping and other litter issues.

This follows a site visit last week to Stuart Marshall's Hawick and Denholm ward which also involved Scottish Borders Council (SBC) officers, plus representatives from Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA) and Waverley Housing.

Mr Marshall said: "I was delighted by the outcome of our meeting, so much so that we have now agreed to trial the removal of many wheelie bins in a section of Princes Street and replace them with large steel communal ones.

"At the moment there are around 25 wheelie bins cluttering up footpaths in this area and these could soon be replaced with eight large communal ones which may go some way to address issues regarding recycling etc."

The proposed location for the communal waste containers is only a short



More communal bins will be added in Dickson Street, above, in a bid to tackle the rubbish in Princes Street

distance away in Dickson Street.

Mr Marshall continued: "The contaminated waste and household items that are constantly left to build up at this location, as well as drug paraphernalia, has been horrendous, and I'm hoping that we're now nearer to finding a solution to keeping this area much tidier.

"If this pilot scheme was to work, then I'd see no reason why we couldn't implement it in other areas with the same type of problems."

He pointed out that there wasn't a timescale set for delivery of the bins, but he hoped it would be "weeks rather than months".

Mr Marshall added: "The tour last week also saw us visit other areas of my ward

with similar issues, and everyone has now agreed to redouble their efforts to find a permanent solution to the terrible recycling and fly-tipping issues in Havelock Place."

An SBC spokesperson said: "A potential trial was discussed, whereby the current individual bins for a section of Princes Street would be removed, and large communal bins for residents to share would be installed to the rear of the properties.

"We will continue to work closely in partnership with SBHA and Waverley Housing in an attempt to help improve the area."

A spokesperson for SBHA told us: "Following a very constructive site meeting, we're delighted to be working with Councillor



Marshall, Scottish Borders Council and Waverley Housing on developing pilot proposals for sustainable solutions with a view to also helping to reduce fly-tipping in these areas.

"Though plans are at an early stage, we look forward to sharing further details in due course in consultation with tenants and residents in the area.

"If successful we would hope to consider the development of a future programme across Hawick."

Carole Yallop, Waverley Housing's operations director, commented: "The joint visit was beneficial and will hopefully lead to a positive outcome.

"We are supportive of any proposal to address refuse and fly-tipping issues in the area."

Messing up the lives of Stirches folk

By GRAHAM FORD
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Residents in the Stirches area are the latest community in Hawick to have their lives blighted by the scourge of dog mess.

That's according to local ward councillor, Clair Ramage, who is taking up the fight on behalf of several constituents.

Speaking this week, she said: "The grass area behind the primary school has become a real area of concern.

"It has been reported to me that some irresponsible dog walkers are leaving the mess behind them. This is always a popular area for kids to play, given the proximity of the playpark and playing pitch. But especially at this time of year when it is the school holidays it just makes it even worse."

She added: "The residents have reported trying everything over the years, including putting up warning signs, and they are really concerned.

"Last year, I took my granddaughter up to Wilton Lodge Park and she was playfully rolling about in the leaves, and sure enough



Clair Ramage

ended up with dog mess all over her."

"People don't take the issue seriously enough, there are severe illnesses connected with dog mess. If you are going to have a dog, take responsibility for it."

Meanwhile, residents in the Slitrig Crescent area are growing frustrated at the length of grass around the recently spruced up, volunteer-led gardens.

The *Hawick Paper* spoke to one resident earlier this week who pointed out the length of grass, which stood out amid the newly-planted flower beds.

The resident, who asked not to be named, said: "When the council come to cut the grass it takes around 15 minutes to cut both areas. It is at the stage now where our volunteers are ready to take the matter into their own hands."

September trial for man facing assault allegation

A man has denied charges of assault to injury and threatening or abusive behaviour.

Thirty-six-year-old David Collins, of Fisher Avenue, had a trial date fixed for September 21 at Selkirk Sheriff Court.

He was released on bail with the special condition not to enter an address in Carlin Court, Tweedbank.

Scott Shearman, 51, of Hawick, has denied two counts of assault and

a charge of threatening or abusive behaviour.

A trial date has been fixed for November 2.

Breaching a non-harassment order on two occasions resulted in James Hay being ordered to carry out 50 hours of unpaid work.

The 44-year-old, of Hawick, pleaded guilty to the offences.

The unpaid work is required to be completed within six months.

Baby girls outnumber the boys

Seven girls were among the 13 births registered in Hawick last month. Of the 17 deaths recorded, nine were male.

There were 13 marriages, five

of which were carried out by the registrar, four religious and four humanist.

There was one civil partnership, conducted by the registrar.

PUTTING YOUR FEET FIRST

Fisher Podiatry

MR DARREN G. FISHER
BSc (Hons), BSc, MRCPod

FOOT AND ANKLE SPECIALIST

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:
T: 01450 590094

E: fisher.podiatry@gmail.com

Tweddle's Used Furniture Store

Quality beds, dining tables, three-piece suites, cabinets, drawers and much, much more

NEW STOCK DAILY

17 Commercial Road, Hawick TD9 7AQ
07789 861856
Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

DEATHS

KERR: Suddenly at Borders General Hospital on 10th July, 2023, Susan Winifred Kerr, beloved wife of Alan, loving sister, aunt and great-aunt to the family. Service at Cavers Parish Church on Wednesday, 2nd August, at 1pm, with interment in Cavers Cemetery at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to British Heart Foundation.

McNAIRN: Peacefully at home after a long illness borne with dignity on Saturday, 22nd July, 2023, Robert (Bob), much loved husband of Margaret, dear dad of Cameron and Fiona, father-in-law of Jane, proud grandad of Anna, Bob, Ross, Calum and Iain, friend to many. Committal service to be held at Borders Crematorium, Melrose, on Thursday, 3rd August, at 12 noon, followed by a celebration of life service at Robson's Dove-tail Chapel at 1pm. No black ties please. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Cancer Research and RAF Benevolent Fund.

RAE: Peacefully at Borders General Hospital on 22nd July, 2023, Margaret, beloved wife of Douglas, much loved mam of Douglas and Stephen, loving grandma of Megan, Elliot, Keith, Abi and Leah and a dear mother-in-law. Service in Beattie's Acorn Chapel on Tuesday, 8th August, at 12.45pm, with committal at Borders Crematorium, Melrose, at 2pm. All friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to The Margaret Kerr Unit.

IN MEMORIAM

BLACKLOCK: Margo, a loving wife, mother, mother-in-law, granny and great-granny who sadly passed away on 29th July, 2014. *Loved and missed every day. In our hearts forever* – Tam and family.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ROBSON'S
ESTD 1877
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
OUR FAMILY HELPING YOURS
24 HOUR SERVICE AT ALL TIMES
AN ESTABLISHED FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1877
Golden Charter

TELEPHONE : 01450 370760
23-25 GARFIELD STREET, HAWICK, SCOTTISH BORDERS, TD9 9HA
WWW.ROBSONSFUNERALDIRECTORS.CO.UK

JOHN BEATTIE & SONS
ESTD 1806
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Weensland Road, Hawick
01450 377284 (24hr)
Golden Charter Funeral Plans

MEMORIAL DEPARTMENT
Unit 5 Mansfield Gardens Ind Est

Tel: 01450 378091
Serving Generations Since 1806

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOUGLAS: Allan, Lesley, Ryan and Amy would like to thank everyone for the cards and kind expressions of sympathy after the sad loss of Irene. We are grateful to Rev. Lisa-Jane Rankin for her understanding, support and thoughtful words. Thank you to Jamie and staff at John Beattie & Sons for their professional help, guidance and patience. Thanks also to the staff at The Macmillan Centre, Margaret Kerr Unit and Hawick Community Hospital for their care and kindness supporting Irene, and to all who were able to attend the service and Balcary House Hotel. The retiral collection for The Macmillan Centre raised £548.

OLIVER: Sadly passed away in Cape Town, South Africa, on July 3, 2023, following a tragic accident, Greig, loving husband to Fiona, dearest father of Jack and Ciara, beloved son of Marlene and the late Lawrie, proud brother of Derek and Lyndsay, special son-in-law to Sean and Marci, and brother-in-law to Clare and Alan, and adored uncle to his nieces and nephews. Greig's funeral took place in Limerick last Friday and the family would like to thank everyone who was able to attend. They were overwhelmed by the volume of cards, flowers, messages and gifts received at this very difficult time. Greig will be sorely missed by everyone, including his many friends and colleagues throughout the rugby community. A memorial service will be held in Hawick at a later date.

IRVINE: Margaret, Angela, Diane and all the family would like to sincerely thank everyone for the cards, flowers and kind messages they received on the sad loss of Jim, who was a devoted husband, dad, father-in-law, grandpa, great-grandpa, and friend to Jimmy. Many thanks to Wards 4, 5 and 6 at the BGH, and to the doctors and nurses at Teviot Medical Practice. Special thanks to Rev. Lisa-Jane-Rankin for the wonderful service; to Chris for his care and attention; and to Paul and staff at Robson's Funeral Directors. Thanks also to Gillian at The Flower Pot for the beautiful flowers; to Stampers and Deborah Brown for the catering; and to Cammy Renwick who did Jim proud by playing the pipes at the graveside. Finally, special thanks to staff at The Margaret Kerr Unit for the love and care they gave Jim. A collection raised £400 for the unit.

CHURCH NOTICES

ST MARY'S & OLD PARISH CHURCH LINKED WITH TEVIOT AND ROBERTON CHURCH
SC005574 and SC005191
Sunday, July 30
10.30am – United summer worship
Conducted by Rev. Alistair Cook
Matthew 9:14-17
New wine, new wineskins
Teviot Church
Live streaming at 10.30am. View the online service at www.smop-tero.org.uk, on our Facebook page @smoptero or teviot.online.church

HAWICK BURNFOOT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND : SC004517
Sunday, July 30
10.30am – Rev. James Wallace



GRUMPY AULD MAN

PAINFUL POVERTY

I feel like reaching for vomit bucket on hearing a coterie of well-heeled – and often out-of-touch politicians – chirping cheerfully that inflation has fallen to 7.9 per cent.

That remains a damagingly high level. The situation is even worse with food inflation as household shoppers know only too well.

Real poverty prevails on our own doorstep with particularly bleak circumstances in the Hawick and Denholm ward. Latest figures show that in the Burnfoot housing scheme, almost a third of children are officially classified as living in poverty, the highest rate in the Borders.

There has been a huge increase in food bank use, yet anecdotal evidences suggests some families remain too proud to access food share and other charitable services. But organisations such as The Salvation Army and Citizens' Advice

Bureau are doing a power of work helping alleviate some of the most troubling cases.

Ward councillors Stuart Marshall and Clair Ramage have both highlighted problems faced by households surviving on desperately low incomes, where parents are only working part-time or on zero hours contracts.

How have we got to this pitiful situation? It's a long time since Hawick was officially one of the UK's most economically successful and productive towns. We prided ourselves on virtually full employment and a multitude of flourishing manufacturers.

In terms of population growth, we have now been overtaken by Galashiels as the region's largest town.

So just what are our politicians at Holyrood and Westminster (and plethora of enterprise and regeneration bodies) going to do to start trying to turn Hawick's fortunes around? When will real, meaningful and targeted investment be delivered so that growing pockets of poverty and privation can gradually be replaced by renewed promise and prosperity?

CHURCH NOTICES

WILTON AND TEVIOTHEAD PARISH CHURCHES : SC017381 / SC006917
Sunday, July 30
Rev. Lisa-Jane Rankin
9.30am – Teviothead
11am – Wilton

ST CUTHBERT'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Slitrig Crescent : SC003140
Sunday, July 30
10.30am – Eucharist
Wednesday, August 2
10.45am – Midweek communion
Tuesdays
11am-noon – Coffee morning
Mondays and Thursdays
10am-2pm – Church "quiet space"

HAWICK BAPTIST CHURCH
North Bridge Street : SC003568
Sunday, July 30
10.30am – Morning worship with our pastor, Rev. Martin Smith, preaching from Exodus 20 continuing through The Ten Commandments. Everyone welcome. Refreshments after the service
Wednesday, August 2
4pm – Prayer meeting in person/Zoom
Thursday, August 3
10.30am – Drop-in at The Well

TRINITY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND : SC013892
Sunday, July 30
11am – Morning worship with John Mackay

HOBKIRK AND SOUTHDEAN LINKED WITH RUBERSLAW PARISH CHURCH
SC012830 and SC034629
Sunday, July 30
Rev. Douglas Nicol
9.30am – Hobkirk
11.15am – Denholm
All are welcome

SALVATION ARMY
6 Croft Road 214779 / 009359
Every Friday
10-11.30am – Coffee morning
Sunday, July 30
10.30am – Sunday worship

CAVERS AND KIRKTON CHURCH OF SCOTLAND : SC004550
Sunday, July 30
9.30am – Morning worship with John Mackay

itself hasn't exactly acted with alacrity. Six months ago it approved demolition of the historic but apparently dangerous Buccleuch Mill in Green Lane. Dating from 1824, it has been disused for two decades and is said to be in danger of collapse, yet we still await the arrival of the wrecking ball.

With the powers-that-be largely abdicating any direct responsibility or involvement, and otherwise moving at a glacially slow snail's pace, we could be saddled with several redundant ruins for countless years ahead.

LIFETIME LEARNING

Whether or not you believe the old adage that school days are among the best of your life, a positive educational ethos and learning culture nevertheless remains the likeliest route to a fulfilling and comfortable existence on our blessed planet.

This newspaper recently carried an illuminating four-page article featuring the latest generation of graduating senior S6 high school pupils. They were leaving the Buccleuch Street campus for the last time before embarking on further education or the world of work.

So many ambitious, wide-eyed and eager students were pictured, sporting those cerebral mortarboards and scholastic blue gowns.

These academic accoutrements seem a million miles away from my own personal memories as a senior pupil at our local place of learning. The somewhat daunting John R. Low was rector (or 'pesh') when I arrived at the start of five years' indoctrination.

Funnily enough, probably one of the most influential figures throughout my school time was senior janitor, Maxwell Telford, who wouldn't countenance any kind of misbehaviour in or around the corridors and playground. His bellowing roar could drown out any drill sergeant. I was on the receiving end of his blistering rebukes on more than one occasion but, in later life, I got to know 'Maxie' really well and you couldn't have met a more down-to-earth and agreeable bloke.

I could write volumes on some of the teachers encountered. One told me I was in a class of my own. It was only later that I realised the official term was 'segregation'.

All lads and lassies in my class were probably termed as of mixed ability. Fortunately, I don't remember anyone being forced to wear a dunce's cap, an inexcusable and unkind humiliation, likely to undermine and chasten the most sensitive of souls.

On a lighter note, one classmate memorably disrupted a lesson by detonating a particularly pungent joke stink bomb. He went one better a few days later by letting off a 100 per cent genuine and very loud double egger. That breaking of wind led to two strokes of the belt. Not long afterwards, I received the same punishment for placing a fake dog turd on the teacher's chair.

Ah well, when I was at school, personal computers, smartphones, tablets and digital learning were simply non-existent. I had to swot in an era of pens and pencils.

Mind you, highlighter pens are the future. Mark my words.



Rubbing shoulders with a golf legend

Named after a golfing legend by his dad, Gary Cairns, of Cavers, never actually expected to meet Gary Player in the flesh decades later.

Gary, with his son, James, and his pal, Earland McFayden, both nine, were on holiday at Turnberry, Ayrshire. They were on the nearby beach when Gary learned that the 87-year-old South African was playing on the adjoining course.

Gary said: "I approached him to tell him I was named after him and was born in the same year he played in the 1969 Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes which my dad, Tam, attended. He then saw the kids and beckoned them over, and spent a few minutes with them, doing a trick with a golf tee. He was great with the youngsters [Earland, pictured right] and it was a real pleasure meeting him."

Graham's still game for the shows to go on

Tickets go on sale today (Friday) for a one-night only fun-filled celebration of local talent.

The fifth instalment of the That's Entertainment charity shows written and created by *The Hawick Paper's* very own Graham Ford, entitled *Isa's Got Talent?*, will take place at the town hall on Friday, September 1.

The show is loosely based around some of the *Still Game* characters and will showcase local talent, including Western End, L.M.D.A. and Charlie Marshall, who appeared on the BBC1 programme *I Can See Your Voice* earlier this year.

The previous four shows, which began in 2010, have raised around £10,000 for several local charities, including AMME, Avril's



Fund-raiser Graham Ford

Trust and Help for Heroes.

The show was initially written ahead of the pandemic – he was encouraged to write a new show by his late mother Helen – and asked to raise money for Oliver's Trust. The other charity to benefit will be Tots Aid.



Sadly, Helen won't be able to see the finished production, but Graham said: "I take a lot of my humour from my mum and I know she would have loved this latest production."

The first act sees the *Still Game* characters hatch a plan to raise money for

Borders General Hospital by way of a talent show and can be seen in some familiar Hawick locations. Isa is determined to be in the show, but there is a major question mark about her so-called talent.

Rehearsals have been taking place throughout the summer ahead of the show, and the cast includes members of Hawick Panto, Hawick Opera and some making a return to the stage after a hiatus. Choreographer Niki Brotherston put the chorus through their paces.

Graham added: "As with previous shows, my aim is to celebrate local talent, unearth some new talent, bring a great deal of humour and raise money for local charities."

Tickets (£10) are now on sale from ILF Imaging.

Letter of the law

Don't let an embittered ex scupper travel plans



By Steven Robertson

For separated families there can be unexpected difficulties around leaving rainy Scotland behind and heading on holiday to sunnier shores. Before any bookings are

made or plans considered, parents should familiarise themselves with the fact that no child should be taken from the UK without the consent of both parents.

After a difficult separation it is increasingly common for one of the embittered parents to refuse consent. Given this, there are many things that need to be borne in mind when planning for a holiday, especially where you have a difficult ex-partner.

The first issue is whether consent has been provided or not. It is good practise for separation agreements to include permission for the children of the relationship to be taken abroad. If there is no such agreement, or it does not include provision for holidays abroad, you must contact your ex-partner and obtain their agreement. This can be done through your solicitor if there are no lines of communication.

If your ex-partner refuses consent after being approached, this is not the end of the world, but you will need to raise a court action seeking an order allowing the child to be taken on holiday.

This is nothing to be concerned about, it is a given the court will grant an order allowing the holiday to proceed. The test the court will apply is whether it is the child's best interests to go on holiday. Clearly it will be in almost all circumstances.

The law was designed to prevent child abduction, not to prevent a child being taken to Spain for two weeks.

The difficulty is the time required to raise court proceedings.

Your solicitor will need to have at least four weeks' notice in order to make ensure that the order is obtained from the court in plenty of time for the holiday to go ahead.

BBL
Modern Lawyers
Built On Tradition
For Whatever Life Throws At You

MEETING ALL OF YOUR LEGAL NEEDS AND AT EVERY STAGE OF YOUR LIFE

- Selling Your Property
- Estate Management
- Wills and Powers of Attorneys
- Family Issues
- Debt Matters and Much More...

To find out how we can help, advise and protect your business, give us a call on **01450 372750**
28 High Street Hawick TD9 9BY
hawick@bannermanburke.co.uk

Letter to the editor

Write to: Jason Marshall, editor, The Hawick Paper, Cragview, Eastgate, Denholm TD9 8NQ **Email:** jason@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Tories cashing in on severance payments

Official British Government figures released show that £455,392 was paid out to former Tory ministers as severance payments, some of whom rejoined the government just months later. You really couldn't make this up.

Former prime ministers, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, the latter almost bankrupting the country, each received £18,660. Ms Truss is also in line for the annual £115,000 public duties cost allowance.

Among other ministers to receive severance payments were former

chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng, £16,876; deputy chief whip Chris Pincher, resigned over allegations he groped two men, £7,920; former transport secretary Grant Shapps, returned to the government as home secretary, £16,876; and Michael Gove, sacked by Mr Johnson as levelling up secretary, returned to the role under Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, £16,876.

Also, as well as payments made to ministers, the report shows that the dismissal of Sir Tom Scholar, the permanent secretary to the treasury,

cost the tax payer £457,000 in severance and other payments.

Mr Johnson also used £1.6million of tax payers' money to have a Union Jack painted onto two planes, and on top of that we, the tax payers, have subsidised the Westminster restaurants and bars to the tune of £1.2million.

I was reading this as I passed by Burnfoot Community Hub which houses the food share scheme.

Whatever your politics, this isn't right.

KENNY McCARTNEY

The HAWICK PAPER

Established 2016

Unemployment spectre rearing its ugly head

There was a worrying development on the jobs front this week with news of redundancies at one of the town's most prestigious employers.

Of course, people losing their livelihood is always a matter of concern, particularly for individuals who are facing life without a pay packet. But when the axe falls at a firm immersed at the cutting edge of technology – in this case Emtelle – rather than among the more traditional industries, the future looks even bleaker.

Over many decades society has seen major

industrial developments, such as the tractor replacing the horse, steam trains being shunted into the siding to herald the arrival of diesel and electric power, and – dare we say – newspapers under combined economic attack from the internet and social media.

Up until fibre-cable manufacturer Emtelle announced that “a small number of people” would be affected by redundancy, it had a tale of expansion and investment to tell. Last year saw opening up in North American and, only a few months ago, a £42million factory investment in Adu Dhabi was unveiled.

But the cause of this latest unwelcome news appears closer to home, a spokesperson blaming reduced demand from UK customers. No doubt a symptom of the country's current precarious state.

There does appear to be a bit of silver lining among the cloud for those about to lose their jobs, though, because Emtelle has pledged to look at redeployment.

Let's hope those who find themselves out of work will quickly obtain fresh employment and that we haven't seen the final chapter of the Emtelle success story.

Your shout

With more flood protection scheme disruption on the cards, Teries share their thoughts on the progress, or otherwise, of the overall project



Keep hearing everything is on target but I can't see it. I feel a lot more should and could have been done. Although it's been a hard task, things aren't great.

BURNETT SMITH



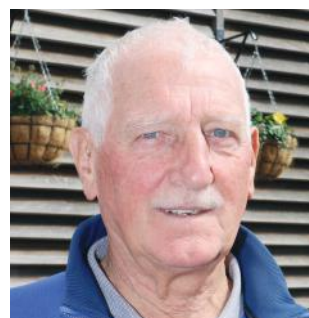
It's been a big job and it's taking a long time, but it'll be well worth it when it's finished.

NATALIE DARCY



It's been a huge undertaking and a lot of money has been invested in it. Due to this a lot more really should have been done by now and this is disappointing.

GEORDIE FRAME



I'll eat my hat if it's finished on time – that's all I can say.

JACK TAIT




If they'd started and finished a section it would have made sense. But there's been a lot of jumping in between which hasn't been good at all, and very frustrating for the town.

ROB BROATCH



I think the entire thing is a mess. It's very annoying as everything is bits and pieces and a bit of a shambles.

FRANCES RUSSELL



WILTON LODGE PARK BANDSTAND

Music From -2pm-

Summer Music Programme

2023

Sunday 23rd July
HAWICK SCOUT PIPE BAND
HAWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS


Sunday 30th July
THE BOY WITH THE LION HEAD
RUTH THEODORE

Sunday 6th August
ISAAC SUTHERLAND
MARTIN STEPHENSON


Sunday 13th August
JENNY BIDDLE
STEVE MORRISON

Sunday 20th August
HAWICK SINGS!
LOCAL TALENT GALORE!


Sunday 27th August
MIWA NAGATO-APTHORP
MATT MCGINN




Live Music
Hawick




The HAWICK PAPER



Hawick Community Council



SOUNDWAVES PRO AUDIO



Friends of Wilton Lodge Park



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

Would you like to work at some of the best facilities in the Scottish Borders?
If the answer is yes, then Lloyd Land Rover Kelso would like to hear from you!

Lloyd Land Rover Kelso are looking for the following roles:

- Front of House Manager
- Prep Technician
- Vehicle Technician (Level 2)
- Vehicle Technician (Level 3)
- Bodyshop Mechanic
- MET Technician

**ALL POSITIONS COME WITH AN UNCAPPED PERFORMANCE
BASED BONUS.**

For all job descriptions and salary information please visit:
lloydmotorgroup.com/careers



Lloyd Land Rover Kelso Bodyshop
Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Lee Forbes Way, Kelso, TD5 8DW

Scan here to register
your interest.



By Alastair Redpath

Free Lance

Pairt yin –
*Life in
the Leaf*



Lilliesleaf as it would've looked in Isabella's day, with Hawthorn Cottage just out of shot in the distance

PICTURE: CLAPPERTON STUDIOS

A couple of months ago I was indulging in some tombstone tourism, at Lilliesleaf Kirk, when I noticed a headstone dedicated to the memory of 'Free Lance, The Border Poetess' – a unique epitaph which warranted further investigation.

The scribe ahint the pseudonym was Isabella Anderson Gray, who was born at Hawthorn Cottage, Lilliesleaf, on February 19, 1831. Although baptised 'Isobel' in the parish records, she would aye be known to family and friends as Isabella.

Her paternal grandfather, Andrew Gray, was the son and heir of a surgeon, albeit he wasn't the eldest sibling. He married Isabella Anderson (the inspiration behind Isobel's name), who hailed from a Roxburghshire family and was an accomplished rider, once winning the race at a wedding 'broose'.

Grandmother Isabella was a strict keeper of the Sabbath and a friend of Thomas Carlyle's mother, Margaret. Thomas, a leading and highly influential essayist, historian and philosopher in the Victorian era, had a direct connection to the Leaf in that his brother Alick had bought him a pony from Lilliesleaf Fair in 1823.

Andrew Gray rented the farm of Linhead, in Dumfriesshire, from his cousin Katrine Gray. They had an agreement that she would leave him the property on her death, but she changed her will after heated religious arguments

with Isabella. He contested the will, but lost, and had to sell the small farm of Hillhead, to the east of Lilliesleaf, to pay the legal bills.

Isobel's father, also Andrew Gray, was born in c.1784. He is recorded as the owner of 'Hungry-hills, four rigs and tenement and yard in Lilliesleaf' according to the 1811 Land Tax Rolls. Hungryhill was a former farm on the south side of the Ettrick valley, near the Huntly Burn.

Isobel's mother was Jane Tinning, sometimes recorded as Jean Tennant, who came from a family of weavers in Graitney – an old

name for Gretna – where Andrew and Jane were married in 1821.

The couple moved on to Tundergarth, in the hills above Lockerbie, where their eldest children James (1825) and Catherine (1828) were born. They then moved to Hawthorn Cottage, Lilliesleaf – a white cottage still situated on the north side of Main Street, facing the Back Road.

Jean Robinson, who was born at St Boswells in 1909, the year of Free Lance's death, would recall in *Lilliesleaf Voices* that the poetess had another brother, Johnny Gray, who lived in "a wee house wi' a big

hedge round about it" and worked in Andrew Riddell's drapery shop. I reckon Johnny was more likely a nephew or a cousin but can't say for certain.

Hawthorn Cottage had just two rooms and, the living room, if you could call it that, was lit only by a fireplace, with imposing portraits of Carlyle, Alfred Tennyson (poet laureate during much of Queen Victoria's reign), and 'Old Dizzy' (Benjamin Disraeli, a two-time prime minister) hung on the wall.

Isabella spent just 15 months at the village school and was almost entirely self-educated.

With her first earnings on leaving she bought a copy of *Cassell's Popular Educator* – "a complete encyclopaedia of elementary, advanced, and technical education", which was published in monthly parts.

She was a keen reader and consumed just about every book from the "very efficient village library", being well-versed in Robert Burns and Walter Scott alike. Her favourite author, however, was the family friend Carlyle, whom she described as "a king of men" who "never trailed his colours in the dust".

Isabella wrote poems in her early life, with no

intention of them seeing the light of day beyond the four walls of the cottage. By all accounts, and in keeping with her namesake grandmother, she was a deeply religious person, something that greatly informed her work.

Census returns offer a wee bit insight into Gray family life.

In 1841, Andrew, head of the house, was an agricultural labourer, Jean was the matriarch, James was a stockingmaker in the village, and Catherine and Isabella were likely put to work around the home.

In fact, Isabella was 18 years old before she spent

WIN £15

to spend at

Adam's Kitchen



Find the restaurant's logo in the paper, and text message Catriona with the page number – 07484 517239

Name

Address

..... Tel.....

Logo is on page

Last week's winner:
LIZ TELFER
Closing date Tuesday 5pm

WIN £10



Name

Address

..... Tel.....

Logo is on page

Last week's winner:
JACQUI McGEORGE
Closing date Tuesday 5pm

Find the shop's logo in the paper, and text message Catriona with the page number – 07484 517239

her first night away from Hawthorn Cottage, and, apart from occasional visits to see friends, she would remain there from cradle to grave. A day out of Lilliesleaf and a' that!

In 1851, Andrew was now a landed proprietor of seven acres, also being described as a crofter on Main Street. James and Catherine had departed for pastures new, with Catherine entering service at Greenhill near Ashkirk.

That same year, James married Isabella Laidlaw, at Etrick, where they lived in the Coachman's House. The pair would have several children together, possibly as many as seven, afore moving to the US in the mid-1890s. James is believed to have died in Butts County, Georgia, in 1898, and Gray descendants apparently still bide in the Carluke and Motherwell areas.

Returning to the census, Isabella, by 1851, had become a dressmaker. Living next door was a family of tailors and drapers, which may well explain how she became interested in this profession. A granddaughter of the Gray family, Mary, aged two, was also living at the cottage. Andrew died at Hillhead in 1855, with his death certificate listing him as a portioner ie laird of a small plot of land. I'd hazard a guess that although his family no longer owned the property, he continued to work there, but also made a living from his own acreage. His widow Jean seems to have moved out of Hawthorn Cottage.

For the 1861 census, Isabella and Mary were the only two present at the cottage, with Mary attending the village school. In 1868, Jane died of 'paralysis and enlargement of the liver' at an unspecified location in Lilliesleaf, with Isabella reporting her mother's passing.

In the 1871 and 1881 census returns, Isabella's once-busy home was now devoid of company, Mary having also moved on.

She was still earning a living as a dressmaker, employing two women in 1871 and one girl a decade later. All the while, Miss Gray remained unmarried but deeply devoted to her faith, her reading and her writing.

If she required inspiration beyond the picturesque setting of the Leaf, Isabella need not have looked any further. The village was an unheralded

TO JESSIE.

I LIKE the winsome wee Jessie :
For she's guid an' bonny an' clean ;
An' I like the winsome bit smile
That brightens the look o' her een.

Her cheeks are far bonnier to me
Than the first rose o' simmer sae fair,
An' her auld-farrant head is shining
Wi' a treasure o' curly hair.

O, mony a yin wad be glad
To ca' the bit lassie their ain,
An' there's few that have seen her ance
But wad like to see her again.

If her wee bits o' feetie are spared
To travel life's lang weary way,
O, I wonder what she'll be like
At the close o' the lang weary day.

For the lot o' oor life is sorrow,
An' it often seems to me
That the greatest favourites o' Heaven
Have the heaviest weird to dree.

But the soul is strengthened by trial,
An' the heart is sweetened by sorrow,
The lowering clouds drop rain to-day
That the flowers may bloom to-morrow.

An', O, may the Angels o' God
Have the lassie aye in their care,
An' fauld their wings roun' about her,
Stainless an' sweet evermair.

FREE LANCE.

Lilliesleaf.

hotbed of literary talent, from the works of the late William Knox (see *The Hawick Paper*, October 11, 2019), Abraham Lincoln's favourite poet; to the legacy scrievings of John Hogg, son of a Lilliesleaf schoolmaster.

Hogg moved to Hawick and became a weaver at Roadhead, where he published his volume of verse, *Poems on Different Subjects* (1806). This contained many pieces in dialect, whose lines were used as early examples in dictionaries. He was also known for his penmanship, and may have worked for a while as a teacher.

Hogg appeared, too, in Wilson's *Tales of the Borders*. He married Beatrice Stuart and their children included John Amos, baptised in Lilliesleaf, and one of the founders of the Hawick Co-operative.

In terms of contemporaries, there was John Lunn, a woollen and linen draper in Lilliesleaf's east end. He was often called on to sort out local affairs and was hence referred to as 'the Provost'. He wrote poetry published in the *Border Magazine* and *Living Bards of the Border* (1859), and also chaired the Lilliesleaf centenary Burns night.

Another potential muse was the Reverend John Ballantyne. In 1851 he was ordained as minister of Lilliesleaf Secession Kirk. He resigned only three years

later, following a dispute over the introduction of the hymn book. He moved to Australia where he became minister of Emerald Hill, Melbourne, and joined the Presbyterian Synod there. His poem *Stray Thoughts* was published in *Living Bards of the Border*.

It would take until 1881 for Isabella to make her first foray into the literary world, when she self-published her views under the pseudonym

Free Lance, in a little volume titled *A Reasonable Faith: the Want of the Age*. In this book, commentators noted "she expressed very advanced opinions" on religion and politics. It appears that anonymity gave Free Lance the confidence to contribute a large number of poetical works to local newspapers such as the *Hawick Express*, the *Hawick News*, and *The Southern Reporter* – but not before trialling an original piece with the *Annandale Observer & Advertiser*, across county lines in her mother's homeland, in 1885.

In 1890, brother James, giving his address as Hawthorn Cottage, wrote to local newspapers to pose the question – if a village hall was to be built on Lilliesleaf's common land, would the consent of every villager be required? I think he did this to give his position some collateral, given he was living elsewhere at Etrick.

By the 1891 census, Isabella had retired as a dressmaker. Living next door was an Andrew Gray, a carter from Tundergarth, and a Jane Gray, from Ashkirk. Being of a different generation to Isabella, he would presumably be a cousin or a nephew. Their daughter Margaret was a dressmaker. To further confuse matters, Isabella's will mentions a sister-in-law named 'Jeannie'. Take your pick!

Come the following year, Free Lance could be found arguing the toss with newspaper letter-writers over everything from baptisms to the spirit of the Bible. Retired, yes; retiring, no.

At the insistence of her friends, she would then submit a collection of her poetry to the *Border Magazine* – an illustrated monthly title published in Edinburgh and Glasgow from 1896, initially edited by Nicholas Dickson.

This was followed by

a piece on family history that was picked up by the magazine in 1899.

Free Lance was at the peak of her writing prowess, more on which next week.

Credit: *Scotland's People*; *British Newspaper Archive*; *A Hawick Word Book* (2023 ed.), *Professor Douglas Scott*; *Hawick Archaeological Society Transactions* (1949), *Rev. James McKenzie*; *Voices From Lilliesleaf* (2015), *Ian MacDougall*; *Dunse History Society of the United States and Canada*.

JOBS



EXPERIENCED OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR COUNTRY CARDS UK LIMITED – HAWICK

THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:

Day-to-day running of the office. Manage phone calls and correspondence (email, letters, packages etc). Bookkeeping procedures. Create and update records and databases with personnel, financial and other data. Deal with agents regarding orders and sales. Assist colleagues whenever necessary

REQUIREMENTS AND SKILLS:

Proven experience as an office administrator, office assistant or relevant role. Outstanding communication and interpersonal abilities. Excellent organizational and leadership skills. Familiarity with office management procedures and basic accounting principles. Excellent knowledge of MS Office and office management software (Sage/Quickbooks etc).

This is a full-time position with current working hours (28) spread over four days located in Hawick. We can offer flexible working hours by agreement. Salary is dependent on level of experience.

Applications in writing to Country Cards UK Ltd,
 C/o Deans Chartered Accountants, 27 North Bridge Street, Hawick
 TD9 9BD – marked for the attention of David Campbell.
 Email: design@core3partners.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Scottish Borders
 Your community



www.scotborders.gov.uk

(Dean Road, Denholm) (Temporary Closing) Order 2023

The Scottish Borders Council (Dean Road, Denholm) (Temporary Closing) Order 2023 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force at 08:00 on 4 August 2023 and is expected to remain in effect until 17:00 on 11 August 2023. The Order is required for BT Openreach works.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along Dean Road, Denholm from Douglas Drive to Rulwood. The alternative route for southbound traffic is via Westgate, the A698, D15/3 and C28 to the point of closure, for northbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing. A map showing the restriction and alternative routes can be seen at www.tellmesotland.gov.uk.

(D28-3 Commonbrae Bridge, South Of Teviothead) (Temporary Closing) Order 2023

The Scottish Borders Council (D28-3 Commonbrae Bridge, South of Teviothead) (Temporary Closing) Order 2023 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force on 31 July 2023 and is expected to remain in effect for a period of five days between the hours of 08:30 and 16:30 each day. The Order is required for bridge works.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along the D28-3 at Commonbrae Bridge, south of Teviothead. There is no alternative route.

A map showing the restriction can be seen at www.tellmesotland.gov.uk.

N MCKINLAY Director of Corporate Governance

Scottish Borders – the place to live and work

GARDEN OPEN FOR CHARITY

West Leas

Bonchester Bridge, TD9 8TD

Sunday, 6th August, 2023

2pm – 5pm

£4.00 children free
 for Macmillan Cancer Support: Borders Appeal & SGS Beneficiaries

Also

Teas in Bedrule Hall

2pm – 5pm

Full information at scotlandsgardens.org



TRADESMEN at your service

ADVERTISE FROM
AS LITTLE AS
£5 PER WEEK –
CONTACT OUR
SALES EXECUTIVE
CATRIONA
YOUNG ON
07484 517239

BLINDS

Billy Ford Blinds

9 Loan, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 0AU
Tel: 01450 373973 Mobile: 07881 780859

FREE ESTIMATES & FITTING

CALL BILLY ON 01450 373973

CLEANING

**Hawick's Dream Clean
Cleaning Services**

- Commercial cleaning • Residential cleaning
- Office cleaning • Holiday lets
- General cleaning • Deep cleans

GET IN TOUCH FOR OUR PRICES!!
'ANY JOB BIG OR SMALL'

Email: hawicksdreamclean@gmail.com
Phone: 07508269393

BUILDERS



Clamp & Pringle

BUILDERS, HAWICK - FULL RANGE OF BUILDING SERVICES

NO JOB TOO SMALL • FREE ESTIMATES

House builders, extensions & groundworks
All general building work Plant hire and scaffold hire

07771 542148 / 01450 376789 / 374507

clampanpringle@btinternet.com

MOTOR MECHANIC

DOUGLAS

AUTOCARE Ltd.

Tel: 01450 379866
Mob: 07966484576

SERVICING | BRAKES | MOT PREP & REPAIR
DIAGNOSTICS | GENERAL MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

douglasautocare1@gmail.com

Douglas Autocare Ltd 4-6 Noble Place, Hawick TD9 9QF

JOINERY

A & R TAYLOR

FOR ALL YOUR JOINERY NEEDS

PVCU & Composite Doors / PVCU & Timber Windows
Fitted Kitchens, Bathrooms / Extensions & Alterations

01450 376866 / 07789 535911

artaylorjoiners@hotmail.co.uk

AMES TAPING

**Jimfahawick
Ames Taping**

AMES TAPING
AND DRY WALL
FINISHING
MACHINE AND
HAND TAPING

www.jimfahawick.co.uk

JIM INGLIS: 01450 378912 / 07821 613905

PAINTING/DECORATING

C.TELFER
Painter & Decorator

Quality assured
Estimates free

01450 377183
07977 660253

butch2308@gmail.com
17 Crumhaughhill Road, Hawick

IAN YOUNG
Painter & Decorator



07929
291566

youngy631@hotmail.co.uk

70 Silverbuthall Road TD9 7BW

PLASTERING

R.R. Fraser & Son

Plasterer, Roughcaster and
Cornice Work Undertaken.
ESTIMATES FREE

T: 01450 377104

M: 07831 511193

rfraserandson@aol.com
8 Elm Grove, Hawick

IAN FORD PLASTERING

Plastering - Roughcasting - Tiling

All Work Carried Out To A High Standard - No Vat - Free Estimates

01450 377916 or 07874 864 301

ROOFING

WILLIAM THOMSON

19yrs Experience

ROOFER / TILER

All aspects of roofing and guttering
work undertaken

07802 315 045



W Thomson Roofing

Williamthomson140577@gmail.com

LOW-COST

ways to promote
your business in
**THE HAWICK
PAPER**

To find out more,
contact Catriona
on 07484 517239

STORAGE

**EASI
STORAGE**

Hawick's newest easy
self storage units.

CUSTOM RATES & SIZES TO
SUIT YOUR NEEDS.

TROLLEY AVAILABLE

COVERED LOADING AREA

SHORT & LONG TERM LEASES

FULLY ALARMED & CCTV

BUSINESS & DOMESTIC USE

24HR ACCESS

20FT X 8FT SHIPPING
CONTAINERS AVAILABLE

07711 215 355

jamesbell580@btinternet.com
www.easistorage.org

Crossword

in association with

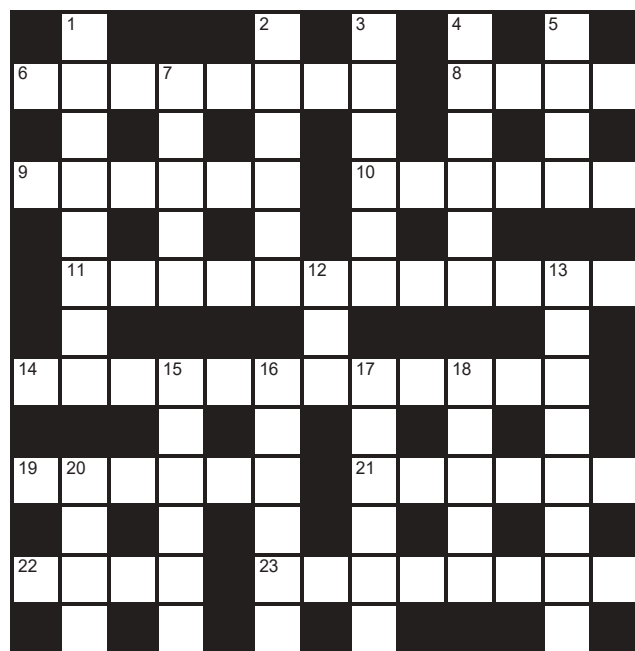


ACROSS

- 6 Skin-deep (8)
- 8 "Diet," in adspeak (4)
- 9 Unemploy, perhaps (3,3)
- 10 Eminence (6)
- 11 Cabinet riots about deliveryperson (12)
- 14 Combat zone (12)
- 19 That old familiar feeling? (4,2)
- 21 Author of "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (6)
- 22 Hit the books (4)
- 23 One frozen to death might be as cold as this (3,5)

DOWN

- 1 Drink with a characteristic bottle (4-4)
- 2 Suppress itself cack-handedly (6)



- 3 Cricket recorder (6)
- 4 Outpatient facility (6)
- 5 Pack away (4)
- 7 Loafs (5)
- 12 Label (3)
- 13 Extra ingredient (8)
- 15 Prepare to fight! (2,4)
- 16 Boils over (6)
- 17 Severe reprimand (6)
- 18 Higher (5)
- 20 Prophet also known as Esdras (4)

50+ WALKING GROUP

Sunday saw members set off from Bowden village at the Pant Well. There are a few wells of the same name in Northumberland but only one other in the Borders, at Selkirk. It was restored in 2012 using Welsh slate to match the original. It must have been a popular place for the locals to congregate lang syne.

It was rather a wet common to traverse before taking the old track towards Whiterigg. Usually, there are fine views of the Cheviots but the incessant rain had obscured the hills.

Continuing, the group then turned south just before Newtown along a couple more tracks.

There will be a bountiful harvest of sloes and scrogs in the autumn, it was noted, if the fruit has some much-needed sun to ripen them.

Some sun, any sun, would have lifted

the walkers as they plodded on in the heavy showers.

A herd of cows passed, showed some interest but stayed back until the stile was clambered over. That was a relief.

The group were now on St Cuthbert's Way above the Bowden Burn where a lunch stop was much needed. Everyone had a piece of cake, left over from the 40th anniversary of the founding of the group two days earlier. Never has a tastey bite been more well received.

The path passes by Maxpoffle on its way to Bowden Kirk, always with the burn below. There was time to visit this historic church, dating back more than 900 years, and featuring some interesting stained glass.

And yes, it was still raining hard as the group returned to the cars by the well.

Though a fairly short walk, it wasn't without some pleasant interludes; a few good jokes, that is!

-JP

Rain forecast brings hope that low water levels will be avoided

Angling

The drought conditions finally came to an end with some very stormy weather and some thunder and lightning. This was just in time to prevent the water level at Acreknowe dropping further.

With more rain forecast for the next few weeks, hopefully this will avoid a repeat of last year's very low water level.

Acreknowe has been fishing well with some very nice-sized 'brownies' being caught. Although the best of the fishing has been in the last two hours of daylight, sport has also been good during the day when conditions dulled over. The dreaded caenis fly, pictured, was a problem with night-time fishing.

This is the time of year when large moths appear at the darkening. If they land on the water they make quite a bit of disturbance, attracting the bigger trout. Tying imitations with deer hair creates plenty of surface



action to attract the trout who can be quite savage when they take.

The Bruce Lumsden Trophy, fished for at Acreknowe on June 25, produced 92 trout for the nine anglers who took part. The winner had 26 fish. This was a phenomenal catch and shows how well stocked the loch is.

Despite the quality of the catches on offer, surprisingly, the loch is being lightly fished. The cormorant disappeared for a few days but unfortunately it has returned and is still taking fish.

Barnes has been fishing very well and again the large 'brownies' are providing excellent sport.

Although the level of

the loch has dropped it has stabilized, and fingers crossed it will not drop any further.

Williestruther is also being lightly fished with very little to report.

The Hawick Common Good have arranged with a company of specialists to look at some weed removal on the loch. This will take place tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday.

The river has benefited from the extra water but is still in need of a good flood of around three or four feet to clean the bottom of slime and weed. The extra water will have moved some salmon and sea trout up, so once the water fines off there is a good chance of a fish.

Tight lines.

-FDW

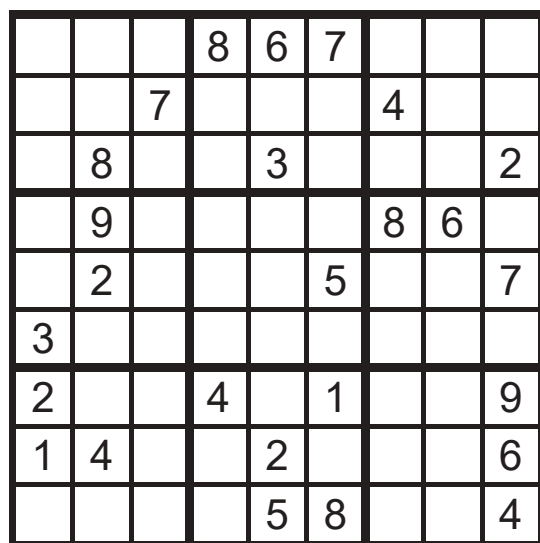
KHB ROOFING

ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING UNDERTAKEN

GUTTERING REPAIRS / CLEANING - FREE ESTIMATES

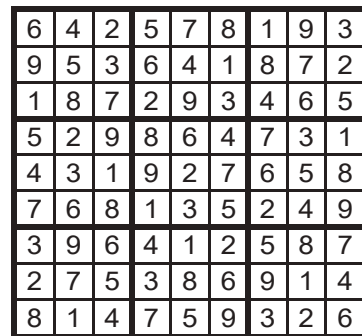
Mobile: 07717 132518 Home: 01450 218302
k.broonie@hotmail.co.uk 35 Queens Drive, Hawick TD9 8EH

Sudoku



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 7 Eyewitnesses, 8 Khomeini, 9 Oxen, 10 Nut, 11 Spotlight, 15 Jewellers, 16 Mrs, 18 Were, 20 Tabloids, 22 Ways and means. **Down:** 1 Henhouse, 2 Beams, 3 Fiji, 4 In Winter, 5 Estonia, 6 Meme, 12 Piloting, 13 Hard disk, 14 Release, 17 Foray, 19 Exam, 21 Bomb.



Quiz

By Brian Tait, Archaeological Society

- 1 Who designed the Junior Mosstroopers tie?
- 2 How many statues in and around Hawick would make a sculpture trail?
- 3 What are the three local lochs that Hawick Angling Club fish?
- 4 From which Hawick song does the following lines come, "There can be nae sweeter heaven than a Teri winning seven"?
- 5 Which two roads in Hawick have been most affected by the town's flood protection scheme?

Answers: Page 19

Word is ...

By Douglas Scott

BOGLE

A spectre, goblin, bugbear, phantom or bogeyman. Variants include "boogle" and "bogle boo". An 1820 article about Border superstitions discusses "supernatural appearances, or what are vulgarly-styled bogles". Lilliesleaf poet 'Free Lance' wrote the lines: "An' he, like Tam o' Shanter, aboot him glowered wi' care lest bogles caught him unaware". Local writer Jules Horne described a theatre being "hotchin wi bogles, up and doon the stairs, wee bogles, big bogles, auld and young bogles, Embra bogles, Border bogles, Fife bogles, festival bogles ..."

Hawick Autocare Ltd

Mart Street, Hawick and Victoria Buildings, Victoria Road

TYRES - SERVICING - MOTs - REPAIRS

Battery Sure
Battery Testing Station

FREE BATTERY CHECKS

Batteries Lose Power Over Time!
When Was The Last Time You Had Your
Battery Checked?

Call 01450 377757 / 378315

hawickautocare@gmail.com
www.hawickautocare.co.uk

Young's 'delight' over first win

PICTURES: MUSSELBURGH RACECOURSE

Horse racing



By **HILARY MACTAGGART**
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Seventeen-year-old Archie Young rode his first winner under Rules on Tuesday, before following up on Wednesday with a further success.

Young produced an impressive performance on his winning debut, getting favourite Barrolo up by a neck to clinch the apprentice handicap at Musselburgh.

Archie, who previously had a successful race-riding career on the flapping circuit, is now based with Yorkshire trainer Charlie Johnston, and rode Dark Company to a comfortable

win for him in the Lingfield seller on Wednesday.

He said he was "definitely delighted" with his first win, made all the more special when cheered on by his proud mum Katie, granny and grandad Ann and Derek Short, and family friends Colin Davis and Murray and Ebie Richardson.

"It was great to get my first win, and I'm definitely delighted," Archie added.

Elsewhere, Born Famous recorded her fifth victory on the trot to land a prize-pot of over £31,000 in the Summer Plate at Market Rasen on Saturday for in-form trainer Iain Jardine.

"The team at home are



Archie Young

still buzzing," said Jardine's partner Valerie Renwick.

"It wasn't so much that it was the Summer Plate nor that she's now won five from five for us, but it was the way she did it." Valerie conceded that on the first circuit she was thinking "what a long journey for nothing" but jockey Harry Cobden remained calm as he picked off his rivals.

Jardine has his yard in top form and completed a double at Ayr on Monday.

He saddled Borough to win the five-furlong sprint and then added the seven-furlong handicap with Jkr Cobbler. "It shows Iain is still as versatile a trainer as ever," added Valerie.

Another local trainer in winning form at the fixture was Donald Whillans, who landed the six-furlong sprint with See My Baby Jive. The winner carries the colours of the trainer's wife, Helen.



Archie rides Barrolo to victory in the apprentice handicap at Musselburgh on Tuesday

Bowling

BUCCLEUCH

Last Tuesday saw the seniors' hopes of a win dashed as hosts Peebles emerged victors by 65 shots to 47. Details: K. Brown 22, J. Wallace 11. A. Lowrie 15, B. Rorrison 13. J. Renwick 14, J. Williams 11. J. Graham 14, G. Johnstone 12.

■ Rescheduled from last Wednesday night to last Friday night, the men's match at home to Kelso B resulted in a comfortable 90 shots to 60 success for the hosts. Details: J. Williams 27, D. Foreman 12. B. Rorrison 25, W. Scott 10. A. Martin 18, L. Purdie 16. K. Lyle 20, A. Kerr 22.

HAWICK

Last Tuesday morning saw the gents' senior side return to winning ways with a 66-39 victory at Jedburgh.

■ The gents' A team couldn't recover from a slow start at Ancrum last Wednesday night, eventually going down by 74 shots to 41.

Their only winning rink comprised Brian Gray, Bobby McDonald, George Beagley and Bill Anderson (skip). Details: G. Law 23, K. Ford 8. C. Cowan 12, B. Anderson 15. C. Skeldon 24, N. Amos 7. D. Oliver 15, M. Christy 11.

■ Also last Wednesday night, the gents' B team continued their good run



The recent Border ladies' championships on the Hawick green saw Wilton's June Robertson and Irene Bennett win the pairs; and the club's Helen McClure, Betty Gibson (skip), Diane Smart and Joan Kyle scooping the senior fours title



with a 72 shots to 40 home win against Gala Waverley B.

Best for Hawick were Gavin Rae, Richard Chlopas, Rob Johnstone and Richard Leckie (skip). Details: A. Oliver 12, S. Gillan 14. I. Ford 21, D. Miller 11. R. Leckie 24, S. Cheyne Jnr 7. R. Johnstone 15, C. Playfair 8.

■ Last Thursday night saw the ladies' top six team win two of their three semi-final ties at home to Jedburgh. The date for the final is still to be arranged.

WILTON

The four-rink gents' team started reasonably well in last Wednesday's second division fixture at Ettrick Forest, leading by 28 shots to 25 after seven of the 17 ends.

The visitors extended their advantage to 63-52

after 14 ends, and although being outscored by the hosts over the final three ends, it was the Teries who recorded a good victory by 73 shots to 64.

Best for Wilton were Stuart Anderson, Bryan Hall, Duncan Macdougall and Ryan Brady (skip). Details: D. Sandilands 22, K. McCartney 13. S. Grieve 16, A. Brown 12. G. Sandilands 13, C. Macdougall 19. C. Sandilands 13, R. Brady 29.

■ Also last Wednesday, the four-rink B team took control early on in their second division encounter at home to Stow, surging to a 40 shots to 14 lead after seven ends.

After 14 ends the hosts had increased their advantage to 28 shots. The

final three ends saw their lead cut, but only slightly, as they notched an excellent 79-55 victory.

Top for the Teries were George Patterson, Eddie Pollard, Billy Murray and Bill Jaffray (skip). Details: R. Redmond 16, K. Johnstone 16. J. Smyth 14, S. Runciman 20. C. Easton 14, S. Cunningham 12. B. Jaffray 35, S. Hunter 7.

■ Last Tuesday's ladies' league match at Gala Waverley saw both teams secure an individual rink win, with the home side taking the spoils by three points to two. Details: L. Gregg 9, I. Bennett 17. C. Upton 24, S. Macdougall 15.

■ The ladies recorded a comprehensive five points to nil victory at home to

Abbotsford in last Thursday night's rearranged league tie.

The game was originally scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, but was cancelled due to heavy rain. Details: S. Macdougall 27, C. Reid 6. I. Bennett 15, J. Ormiston 7.

■ A new competition was staged on Saturday, attracting 36 players who were drawn into triples.

They had three games of six ends with each squad rotating their players for each match. For example, those who led in the first game then changed to playing second or skip. Squads also had to name their team for the semi-final and final.

Due to very persistent and sometimes heavy rain sheets were put down to

protect the green and play started at 10am.

After the section games the top team from each plus the highest runner-up qualified for the semi-finals.

In the last four, Lucy Scott, Alistair Brown and Alex Wallace led 4-2 after three of the six ends against Shirley Cumming, Chris Macdougall and Bryan Hall. Maintaining their advantage, Scott, Brown and Wallace went on to win by six shots to four.

The second semi-final saw Charlie Richardson, Colin Sutherland and Ian Wylie notch an eight shots to three victory over Nancy Inglis, Glynn Taylor and Sharman Macdougall.

At the halfway point in the final, Wylie, Richardson and Sutherland led 3-0. A fightback ensued in the fourth end, with Wallace, Scott and Brown scoring four to edge in front.

The topsy-turvy tie continued at the next end with the Sutherland trio adding four shots to take firm control of the match, before notching two more shots at the last end to record a win by nine shots to four.

Following the bowls, there was an excellent buffet by Lindsay Grieve Butchers. President Chris Macdougall then gave the vote of thanks before handing over the cash prizes.

Hawick and Wilton aim to learn lessons for Uni visit

Cricket

Hawick and Wilton's cricketers are due to be at home tomorrow (Saturday) versus Edinburgh University Staff.

The Teries saw their East League Division Three

round 13 clash at St Boswells on Sunday cancelled because of poor weather and, with five more league games scheduled, will be hoping for better conditions over the next month or so.

When they played Edinburgh University Staff in the capital in May Hawick

were skittled for 81 and lost by six wickets so they will be after a more solid performance at Buccleuch Park this weekend.

They are fifth in the table with Edinburgh University Staff seventh.

Both teams have batters in the top three

of the league rankings. Hawick's Evan Alexander is third on 264 runs and Edinburgh University Staff's Muhammad Babar is first on 336.

Meanwhile, Teri Ronan Alexander and his Prestwick team mates will try again in the Rowan Cup

T20 final on August 2.

The first attempt to play the match between themselves and GHK saw the game not completed on Sunday, but it is hoped it will be played to a finish at Kelburne's at Whitehaugh ground on Wednesday evening.

Golf

HAWICK

Summer Competition (Saturday, July 22) – Division one – 1, Jamie Tinlin, 70 (1) 69; 2, Alan Trimby, 72 (3) 69 3, Stuart Hunter, 71 (1) 70. Division two – 1, Jordan Caldwell, 77 (12) 65; 2, Warren Coltman, 78 (10) 68; 3, Callum McIntyre, 80 (11) 69. Division three – 1, Charlie Comley, 94 (27) 67; 2, Bill Murdie, 89 (18) 71; 3, Kevin Taylor, 90 (18) 72.

Ladies' July Stableford (Thursday, July 20) – 1, Laura Neish, 31 points; 2, Elaine Millar, 30; 3, Mags Morrison, 29.

MINTO

Seniors' Stableford Summer League No12 (Monday, July 17) – 1, David Squirrell, 37 points; 2, Charlie Oliver, 36 (bih); 3, Pat Jubb, 36; 4, Eddie Berridge, 34.

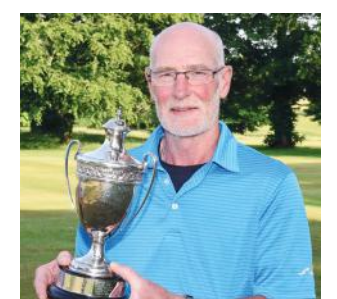
Tuesday Stableford No12 (July 18) – 1, Angus Towers, 41 points; 2, Michael Wylie, 40 (bih); 3, Allan Learmonth, 40 (bih); 4, Graeme Lothian, 40.

Ladies' open tri-am (Wednesday, July 19) – 1, Pauline Hogg, Maria Smail and Maureen Forsythe, 90 points; 2, Fay Robson, Mags Morrison and Judith Smith, 84; 3, Joyce Michie, Marilyn Adams and Denise Richards, 81 (bih); 4, Jean Beattie, Dorothy Elliot and Mandy Douglas, 81.

Booker Wholesale Chicken Run week eight (Thursday, July 20) – 1, Graeme Lothian, 18 points; 2, Murray Gracie, 17; 3, Angus Towers, 16.

David Marchbank Trophy, Fox & Hounds No7 (Saturday, July 22) – 1, James Gillespie, 67 (3) 64; 2 (equal), Fred Stevenson, 78 (13) 65; Peter Gibb, 69 (4) 65; and Mike Lemmon, 81 (16) 65.

Minto's Ricky Tait won the recent four-round Handyside Competition at Bellisle in Ayrshire which attracted more than 500 players from across the UK. Staged over four days, the event saw Ricky carding an aggregate score of 281, off his handicap of seven. He was also runner-up in the David Gemell Memorial Trophy with an excellent three-under-par 68.



Ricky Tait with the Handyside silverware

'Insane fun' for Gale as she hits top form at right time

Mountain biking

By GARY HEATLY

sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Denholm mountain biker Phoebe Gale had "insane fun" as she finished third at the British National Downhill Championships.

It warms the 18-year-old up nicely ahead of representing Great Britain at the upcoming UCI Cycling World Championships in Scotland.

A fortnight ago in *The Hawick Paper* we told you how Phoebe had been selected to compete in the downhill discipline at the Worlds which are being held in Scotland in August.

The world's best riders

will get together in Glasgow and across the country between August 3 and 13 with Fort William's Aonach Mor hosting the downhill events.

Those downhill events take place between August 3 and 5 and Phoebe warmed up for that outing by competing at the British National Downhill Championships in Rhyd-y-Felin, Wales, a few days ago.

One of the favourite tracks in the UK for many riders, Rhy-y-Felin has hosted the national championships on many occasions and this year's edition saw riders tackle the fast and challenging course in heavy rain.

With each section of the track covered in mud, wet

Phoebe Gale is in fine form ahead of the world championships in Scotland



rocks and slippery roots the riders really had to be on their game from top to bottom.

Hattie Harnden took a commanding win in the senior women's event, a solid five seconds ahead

representing Canyon Collective FMD, rounding off the podium in third after a battling showing.

"Placed third at the British Champs and I had insane fun lapping in the mud, you can't beat it," Phoebe said on social media.

"Well done to Harriet for her win, she performed brilliantly."

Next up is the showpiece Worlds event for Phoebe and everyone in the Denholm and Hawick area will be right behind her.

Phoebe, Louise-Anna Ferguson and Mikayla Parton are the Scots in the elite women's Great Britain downhill squad along with Rachel Atherton, Stacey Fisher, Harriet Harnden and Tahnée Seagrave.

Fitness helps Brodie win Scottish crown

By GARY HEATLY

sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

William Brodie was pleased with the way he mastered tricky conditions to hold off fellow local Corey Watson and win the elite men's race at the Scottish National Downhill Mountain Bike Championships recently.

The event was held earlier in July at the Forest of Ae in Annandale in Dumfries and Galloway. William was pushed all the way by Corey before finishing first. Lachlan Blair was third.

"That was good," said the Denholm teenager after the event. "It was tough conditions all

weekend, it was raining, it was dry, boggy, then slippery.

"Coming into that second run I knew Corey was going to be faster and I mucked up the top section, but I just said to myself, 'get this bottom bit perfect' and when I crossed the line I'd won, so I'm pretty happy.

"I could hear the commentator talking about how close it was so I was just pedalling as hard as I could. I've been doing downhill and Enduro this season and I've been enjoying mixing it up as Enduro is good for the fitness.

"That fitness certainly helped me here and transferred into downhill stuff when I needed it the most."



William Brodie celebrates winning the elite men's race at the Scottish downhill championships ahead of Corey Watson and Lachlan Blair

Big Innes fancied for more Eskdale glory

Flapping

By HILARY MACTAGGART
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Big Innes bids to retain the coveted £3,000 Eskdale Plate today (Friday) when Langholm Common-Riding and Horseracing Association hosts the richest two-day meeting this season at the weekend.

Carrying the colours of the Still Game Racing syndicate, the grey lines up at the Castleholm on the back of two successive wins at Selkirk and Hawick, and has to be well fancied.

"He has won the last two times out at Selkirk Common-Riding and then

at the Hawick meeting," said Les Casson, part of the Still Game racing syndicate which also includes Lee Matthews, Colin Telfer, Eddie Brogan, Ian Chalmers, John Scott, Gary Scott and Ryan Scott.

"It would be amazing if he could win it again for the team," he added.

"I am sure Gary, Ryan, Lee, and Carly will have him well ready for it."

Teri jockey Sean Huggan, who won on him last time and is currently leading the Langholm jockeys' championship, again takes the ride.

Also bidding to keep the title on home soil are One More Time for Waverley Racing; Tap on the Bar for

St Leonards Racing; Indian Lady (St Andrews Racing) and Royal Shaheen and Magic Dancer (Magic Fools).

One More Time started a warm favourite at the Moor last time, but Magic Dancer showed a good turn of foot to score under local jockey Alastair Clark.

On Saturday two special races will be run in memory of two of flapping's greatest followers, who sadly passed away recently.

The one-mile, one-furlong contest at 2pm will be run for the Tucker Memorial Trophy in memory of Les Richardson.

"His family and friends have kindly put up £4,000 in prize-money as well as a trophy," said LHRA vice-

chairman Colin Barnfather.

"The other big race is over seven furlongs for Neil Irving (Doof), and has a purse of £2,000."

Mr Barnfather is pleased with the widespread support for the meeting.

"There are plenty of Irish entries, so it will be interesting to see what comes over the water to raid," he laughed.

"The Langholm jockeys' championship will be wrapped up on Saturday, too."

Hawick's Sean Huggan, who has a full book of rides over both days, is the current leader.

"Here's hoping for a great weekend for local connections," he concluded.

PICTURE: ALAN RAE BURN



Big Innes, on the way to winning Selkirk's Golden Mile last month, will be fancied to retain the Eskdale Plate

Sutherland explains why family life lets him 'play his best rugby'

Rugby

By GARY HEATLY
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Rory Sutherland was with his family last week to mark his son's birthday – now he wants to have a celebration of his own tomorrow (Saturday) by helping Scotland beat Italy at rugby.

The Teri loosehead prop, his wife Tammy and sons Mason and Hamish are now based back in Lauder after a 2022/23 season which saw him travelling around and playing for Worcester Warriors and then Ulster.

He made the most of having last Wednesday off from the Scotland Rugby World Cup training camp by heading back down the road from Edinburgh for Hamish's seventh birthday party.

"It was great to be able to spend Hamish's birthday with the family and we had a good time," 30-year-old Rory told *The Hawick Paper*.

"With rugby commitments I have missed the boys' birthdays a few times, but with everything that has gone on the last year or so it makes you realise how special these moments are. As well as Hamish now



Rory Sutherland starts in the number one jersey for Scotland against Italy and is looking to cement his place in the squad for the Rugby World Cup
Picture: Scottish Rugby/SNS

being seven, Mason is 11 and that makes me feel old!

"All joking apart, when I am spending time with Tammy and the kids and enjoying life I tend to play my best rugby, so hopefully I use that positive energy to play well in the upcoming

Famous Grouse Nations Series matches and secure a place in the World Cup squad."

At the last count there were 42 players in the wider Scotland training squad and at some point next month that will be cut to 33 players

who will head to France for the showpiece event in September and October.

Although he first played for Scotland in 2016, Rory did not go to the World Cup in Japan in 2019, so he is working as hard as he can to make it this time in what

would be another career highlight. A good showing versus Italy at Scottish Gas Murrayfield on his 24th cap would certainly help his cause.

He starts in the number one jersey, with fellow Teri Darcy Graham starting –

and earning his 34th cap – on the wing. Cameron Redpath, whose great-grandfather Wullie Hall was from Hawick, is on the bench, with back-row Rory Darge captaining his country for the first time.

After Italy comes France at home on August 5, France away on August 12 and Georgia at home on August 26 in the final Nations Series warm-up.

Rory added: "We have been training for a number of weeks now and the vibe in camp is really good.

"We are ready for a match now and I can't wait to play in front of a home crowd again this weekend. The atmosphere in the stadium is always excellent."

Rory's old school pal Stuart Hogg recently retired from rugby after a stellar career and he former said of the centurion full-back: "It is strange not having Hogg around anymore.

"Being on the Lions' tour together in 2021 was a highlight for us with some good memories while he will go down as a Scottish rugby legend because of what he did over a long number of years."

The Italy match is at 3.15pm tomorrow and will be live on Amazon Prime.

Greens' new boys raring to go and ready to raise bar

Rugby

By GARY HEATLY
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick have announced that Fraser Wilson and Frazer Anderson have joined the club with the Premiership season now just over a month away.

The 18-year-old back-rower and 26-year-old winger will be competing for first XV spots and bring further competition and depth to an exciting squad.

Wilson played for Scotland in the Six Nations under-18 Festival in Dublin in April alongside former Greens scrum-half Hector Patterson and he is a FOSROC Scottish Rugby Academy supported player.

He has come through the youth ranks at Gala and played for the Maroons senior first XV last year in National League Division One, leading to his selection for the Ireland trip.

Going forward he is keen to kick on and try to compete for a Scotland under-20 spot and he told *The Hawick Paper*: "I am looking forward to playing for Hawick this season.

"I obviously saw how well they did last season when they won the double and I wanted to join a club in the Borders that is playing at a high standard and one that also has a good culture.

"I believe there is a great environment at Hawick which will help me to learn and push myself and I'm



New signings Frazer Anderson and Fraser Wilson, below left, have settled in quickly



looking forward to games coming around soon."

Meanwhile, Anderson has joined from fellow Premiership outfit Selkirk and will look to bring his experience to the back three.

"I was keen to try out a new environment and I wanted to push myself so I felt like coming into a club like Hawick who are setting high standards would be good for me," he explained.

"It has only been about four weeks since I started training with the guys, but it feels like I have been involved a lot longer already because everyone has been so welcoming.

"I'll just work hard at training and in the upcoming sevens and friendlies and take my chance if it comes. I'm looking forward to this season."

Last week we told

you that playmaker Lee Armstrong was returning to Hawick after four years, so things seem to be coming together nicely down at Mansfield Park.

Hawick first XV's competitive season for 2023/24 begins at home to Glasgow Hawks in the Premiership on September 2.

■ The Super Series Championship begins this evening (Friday) and it was confirmed this week that former Greens coach Nikki Walker has stepped up to become interim head coach at Watsonians while Connor Sutherland is part of the Southern Knights squad.

Corbett hails his 'long list of winners'

Athletics

■ FROM PAGE 24

Corbett says: "It's been a brilliant season. From games meetings in the Borders to the Highlands, the school has had 20 wins, which is just great. There is a long list of winners, including Mark Young, who won four races in a row.

"Although he has yet to get a win, Calum Renwick has been getting placings and his time will come. Sisters Jessica and Amber Smith run almost every week and are improving all the time. Everyone does their bit."

The top event on the Castleholm track bill is the eight-heat 90 metres handicap.

Hawick's Daniel Paxton (12.5m), Sophie Swan (18.5m), Ryan McMichan (7m), Jack Wilson (13.5m), David Lauder (15m), David Hush (24m), John Paxton (20m), Drew Bryson (24m), Ryan Elliot (6.5m), Mark Young (13m) and Kyle Potts (8m) are poised to get down on their marks

for the sprint. The back marker is Allan Hamilton of Edinburgh (scratch).

Ryan Elliot represents Hawick in the 90 metres handicap Mark Young runs from scratch.

In the 1,600 metres handicap Mark Young (50m), Thomas MacAskill (55m), Robbie Welsh (70m), Calum Renwick (140m), Irvine Welsh (140m), Robert Wood (150m), Andrew Gibson (155m) and Gregor Welsh (220m) are the Hawick runners.

The top youth race is the 90 metres handicap, which features Chloe McLeod (22m), Josie Auchinleck (18m) (9-12 years) and Carra McLeod (15m), Chloe Inglis (18m), Oliver Fenech (16m), Samuel Fenech (17m), Emma Philbin (16m) and Emily Hush (18m) (13-16 years).

Craig Watson (150m), Greg Watson (170m), Jessica Smith (195m), Alfie Walker (220m), James Wood (200m), McLaren Welsh (230m) and Amber Smith (430m) run in the 1,600m handicap.

It starts at 1.30pm.

Knox retains her Euro Tour lead

Orienteering

Lindsey Knox of Roxburgh Reivers Orienteering Club battled hard to secure a fifth-place finish in the most recent City Race Euro Tour event in Harrogate, meaning she is still top of the standings in her age group.

Recently in *The Hawick Paper* we told you how, after missing round one, a run of fourth, second and first placings had Lindsey top of the rankings in the W60 category for women.

The first-place finish came in a very hot Viana do Compostelo in Portugal in late June and in mid-July round five of action was a bit closer to home in Yorkshire.

"I finished more or less where I expected at Harrogate, fifth from a large field of 53 runners," Lindsey said.

"Everyone at the sharp end, including me, made mistakes on a tricky course and thankfully I was only one minute 30 down on the winner so I get decent league points and am still leading overall.

"Round six in Ghent in Belgium is next in mid to late August and it's already looking like a big field will be there including four of the five race winners so far."

After Ghent comes Sopot, London and Madeira before the 2023 champions are crowned in all the categories.

Rugby clubs gear up for busy August

All of the town's rugby clubs are getting ready for a busy August with a number of sevens events and pre-season fixtures confirmed, **Gary Heatly writes.**

Hawick RFC will be playing in the Peebles Sevens on August 5 followed by a pre-season home match against Darlington Mowden Park on August 12.

On August 19 there will be a Greens squad at the Gala Sevens and a match at Mansfield Park against Tynedale.

A trip south beckons on August 26 when the first XV will be in action against Fylde and Sale FC. The Force will also be there that day playing Fylde's second XV. Hawick Linden are due

to host Gala YM on August 17 before another home pre-season outing against fellow Borderers Earlston on August 26.

The Quins are set to be playing Langholm on August 26 while the Hawick Youth Rugby action gets under way with the under-16s playing in the Peebles Sevens on August 4.

The under-18s will then be at the Peebles Colts Sevens on August 6.

The Borders Festival of Rugby, in recent times held at Mansfield Park in August and hosted by Hawick RFC, has been moved to April for 2023/24.

More details are to come, but it is set to be held over the weekend of April 20.

New coaches step forward as youth club starts rebuild

By PHIL JOHNSON
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The establishment of two new children's football teams in Hawick will help prevent the sport from "dying a slow death" in the town.

That's the view of Craig Girvan, one of four new volunteer coaches who has stepped forward to arrest the decline of Hawick Youth FC.

Doubling the number of squads it runs, the club this week launched new seven-a-side teams at the 2014 and 2015 age groups, offering more Teri children an opportunity to play in their home town again.

Both new groups held their first training session at the Volunteer Park 3G on Wednesday, welcoming more than 35 players between them.

If they can tick all the relevant administrative boxes, both hope to be involved in fixtures against other Borders teams in the second half of the year.

Weel kent sports coach Craig Girvan and Hawick

United stalwart Kevin Strathdee have taken on the running of the new 2015 squad. The 2014s have been taken on by Kevin's brother David and Liam Lavery.

Hawick Youth only ran two teams at the 2010 and 2013 age groups last season, but are keen to start building it up again.

A few years ago the club ran teams at nearly every age group from under-6s to under-17s and had approximately 200 registered children. But that has declined in recent years due to a lack of volunteer coaches, forcing many Hawick children travelling to play for Selkirk and Ancrum instead.

Girvan said: "If it wasn't for those clubs there wouldn't have been any football on offer for Hawick kids, so we owe them gratitude. Ancrum actually sent us a good luck message, which was nice.

"The first session went well. I'm really excited about it and working with Kevin. It's great that we have two new teams in the town. Hopefully parents at other ages now think

they could come forward, contact Steven Ellins and start up a new team, too.

"We should have football available in Hawick from primary one all the way up or football is going to die a slow death in Hawick. The journey has started so let's see where it goes."

Kevin Strathdee added: "The first session went well. We had 18 in our group and I'm expecting a few more after the school holidays. It's a good start.

"We got them together, had a chat and had a kick-about to get going. We'll try to build it and see how we get on.

"My son is at this age. He and other boys have been travelling out of Hawick all the time to play football in other towns. It's about time Hawick had more youth teams on offer again."

Both new teams intend to join the club's current 2013 side in the Scottish Borders Junior FA set up, playing non-competitive fixtures against other teams across the region.

The club's 2010 under-14s are the only 11-a-side youth team in the town. They play in the South East Region Youth Football Association league and will be in Division 3A when the new season starts. That means trips every other week to the Edinburgh area, where the vast majority of the teams play. Peebles and North Berwick are also in the league.

Hawick Youth coach coordinator and 2010 coach Steven Ellins has kept the club going through some lean years and is delighted to have new volunteers on board.

He told *The Hawick Paper*: "We couldn't get anyone to coach. That's why there is a gap. It's great news to be starting up two new teams and giving Hawick players the chance to play in Hawick again."



Paul Hossack kept things tight at the back for Waverley

Waverley turn on style

Hawick Waverley 7
Lauder 1

Waverley settled nicely into their newly-refurbished home changing-room at Wilton Lodge Park and then put on a stylish performance on the pitch to build on their encouraging pre-season form.

A first-half hat-trick by last season's player of the year Jordan Yardley, Macauley Steele's double and singles for Davis Hope and Coco Richardson did the damage before Lauder claimed a last-minute consolation.

The victory makes it three wins out of three in pre-season friendlies so far after earlier wins away to Langholm Legion and Selkirk Victoria.

Lauder finished bottom of division C last season and the gap between the teams was obvious in the first half. It was 4-0 at the break and the second half was punctuated by a raft of substitutions.

Although boss Mick Hope had a number of players unavailable, youngster Louis Bonini impressed on his first start at right back and Yardley looked razor sharp.

Waverley continue their countdown to the season in East Lothian on Saturday when they face West Barns Star in a friendly. Their final pre-season match is on Saturday week, August 5, at home to Jed Legion. They



Dion Law, aged just 14, gets his foot in for Waverley. The teenager has shown up well so far during pre-season

open their new Border Amateur League Division A campaign away to Biggar United on August 12.

Legion trio set for debut

Hawick Legion boss Jory Roberston will hand three youngsters a debut in his team's first pre-season friendly away to Jed on Saturday.

"The boys have been putting the work in and are looking forward to getting out on the pitch," Roberston told *The Hawick Paper*.

"We have lost a couple of boys to rugby but have a few new additions. Kyle

Wright, James Fobister and Jayden Gonzaga are three promising young lads and we look forward to seeing how they do in their first men's game at Jed."

Legion have another away game scheduled for August 5 against Gala Fairydean Rovers Amateurs before kick-starting their division A season at home to Greenlaw on August 12.

Meanwhile, Hawick United were in action away to Ancrum last night (Thursday) in their second friendly after previously drawing 0-0 with Kelso Thistle.

United travel to face Leith Victoria on August 5 before kicking off their division B campaign away to Gala Hotspur.



Coaches Craig Girvan, David Strathdee, Liam Lavery and Kevin Strathdee are taking the new 2014 and 2015s

Rampant Royalists gel quickly as new-look side get in groove

Hk Royal Albert 7
Lochmaben 0

By JOHN SLORANCE
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick Royal Albert brought the curtain down on their pre-season friendly games with a thumping victory at Albert Park.

There was a sea of newcomers and new signings in the squad, with Blair Short, Kieran Grant, Mason Duncan, Leon Ronaldson, Darran Taylor, Monta Majid, Liam Tomassie, Jack Brunton and Ellis Naysmith all included along with the return of former player Joe Ngoa.

Albert manager Kenny Aitchison told *The Hawick Paper*: "We still had a few players missing due to holidays and are more or less a new side, but we played with a lot of togetherness and it was a good, positive win.

"Our attitude was great from the start as the boys worked hard and fitted together well.

"We scored seven goals, could well have got a few more and had a clean sheet and all of this speaks for itself."

Jack McAlpine, Kieran Grant (2), Greg Ford (2), Leon Ronaldson and David Scholtes were the scorers, with three of the goals coming from the penalty spot.

Royalists got off to a flying start by opening the scoring in the fourth minute with the first penalty, scored by Jack McAlpine following a handling offence.

After Albert keeper Derek Polowyj had denied the visitors an equaliser with a superb save from a Ben Tullius free-kick, Royalists doubled their score in the 14th minute.

Following a David Scholtes run, Darran Taylor had a shot blocked by Lochmaben keeper Thomas Cruikshank and Kieran Grant converted the rebound.

Just past the half hour mark, the home side lost Darran Taylor through injury with Greg Ford coming on as a replacement. Within minutes, Cruikshank



Top: Jack McAlpine celebrates a goal with fellow Hawick Royal Albert scorers Kieran Grant (15) and Greg Ford (7). Above: David Scholtes looks to play forward and mount another attack. Right: Ross Stewart executes a perfect sliding tackle on the touchline

prevented Ross Stuart from getting his name on the scoresheet with a fine stop from a header.

Grant, who impressed throughout, then fired a shot against the post. But in the 44th minute a third goal did arrive, Ford dispatching a clinical finish

after being set up by a Joe Ngoa pass.

Deputising for the injured Polowyj, substitute keeper Ellis Naysmith was called into early action at the start of the second half to deal with an effort from Lennon Anderson.

But the action was

mainly at the other end as the Albert began to dominate and with 57 minutes gone, another goal arrived, Grant scoring his second by polishing off a good passing move.

Davie Scholtes slotted Hawick's second penalty of the afternoon in the 68th

minute. Royalists were hungry for more and with 77 minutes gone, Leon Ronaldson hit Lochmaben for six with a free-kick.

Two minutes from time, the scoring came to an end with yet another penalty. Ford was the scorer this time after having had his

legs taken from underneath him by a rash Cruikshank challenge.

HAWICK ROYAL ALBERT:
D Polowyj, J Ngoa, B Short, M Duncan, L Ronaldson, L Tomassie, K Grant, J McAlpine, D Taylor, D Scholtes, R Stuart.
Subs: G Ford, T Fowler, J Brunton, M Majid, K Aitchison, E Naysmith.

PICTURES: DERICK THOMSON





www.gibsoninsurance.co.uk

Tel: 01450 375742

Email: hawickinsurance@aol.com

6 Oliver Place, Hawick, TD9 9BG

Gibson (Hawick) Ltd is a Gibson Insurance Services authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Sport

North Port

GOODYEAR

Slippers | Shoes | Wellies

GRI SPORT

Walking Boots | Walking Shoes | Socks | Laces | Insoles

HOGGS OF FIFE

Hats | Caps | Gloves: Scarfs

59 High Street | Hawick 01450 370766

www.northporthawick.co.uk

Tait shines amid gloom for the u-20s

Hawick's Corey Tait scored two tries for Scotland Under-20s and nearly had a hat-trick, but his team's hopes of winning the World Rugby U-20 Trophy are over after a shock defeat by Uruguay.

The embarrassing 37-26 loss in the Pool A decider in Kenya means the Scots can't get promoted to the top tier for 2024 and will face Samoa in a dead-rubber third-place play-off before returning home.

Tait was held up over the line early on before scoring his two tries from lineout mauls, taking his tally for the tournament to an impressive four in three matches.

The 19-year-old's performances have been one of the few plus points

on a wretched trip. "We're really disappointed," said coach Kenny Murray. "It's a game we prepared well for and believe we should have won, but we didn't play well enough, it's as simple as that."

Tait, who joined Boroughmuir Bears last summer, retained his place at hooker for the third and final pool match and has thrived playing for Scotland U-20s this year.

The front row forward, who started his rugby at Jed Minis before spending seven years at Hawick Youth in his home town, is following in the footsteps of older brother Rhys.

Rhys captained the under-20 national side in 2022 and is on the books at Glasgow Warriors.

Young gun off the mark

Teenage Hawick jockey Archie Young is all smiles after riding his first winner at Musselburgh on Tuesday. The 17-year-old, now based in Yorkshire, rode favourite Barrolo to success, and followed it up with another win on Wednesday, this time at Lingfield. Archie is pictured at the East Lothian course

■ FULL STORY ON PAGE 18

PICTURE: MUSSELBURGH RACECOURSE



Peds bid for tenth win of season

By JOHN SLORANCE
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The open athletic season continues on its way with Langholm Games today (Friday).

It has been a splendid season for Teri runners so far.

Members of the Hawick Riverside Peds school have made their mark and coach David Grieve told *The Hawick Paper*: "We are not the biggest of schools but things have gone really well for us.

"Everyone trains hard, their attitude is good and all of this has paid off with nine wins.

"At three meetings the school have had runners in every short-distance race final and that is a great record. Most of our wins have come in youth events.

"We have a lot of very good runners in the school. We are looking forward to Langholm Games and perhaps more wins might come our way."

In the distance running scene, the Alex Corbett stable has also excelled.

Reflecting on his camp's season, coach

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Optimistic Albert set sights on promotion

By JOHN SLORANCE
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

After having been relegated last season, Hawick Royal Albert will be operating in the East of Scotland League third division this term.

It is a step into the unknown with the club taking on many sides they have never faced before.

Bathgate Thistle, Harthill Royal, Stoneyburn, West Calder and Linton Hotspur being just some of the clubs that the Albert Park outfit will be meeting in the season ahead.

It all starts for Royalists tomorrow (Saturday) as they have their opening

third division outing away to Pumpherston at Recreation Park in West Lothian.

Talking of what lies ahead Albert's Tom Fowler told *The Hawick Paper*: "It's almost a new team from last season and we are going to be playing in a tough league against some good teams, but I am looking forward to the season as I think we could do well. The new boys that have been brought in are looking good and settling in and I am optimistic that we might do something."

Greg Ford, who like Fowler is one of the Albert's Hawick-based players, is taking some confidence from Saturday's 7-1 friendly victory over South of



Greg Ford

Scotland League side Lochmaben.

He commented: "Last season was a bad one for us as we got relegated but that's in the past.

"It might just have been a friendly, but we played well against Lochmaben and had a few players missing. With

these boys back we are going to have a strong squad and hopefully we can get back into the second division."

Albert team boss Kenny Aitchison said: "Pumpherston did well in the third division last season and were one of the better sides and it's going to be a difficult opening match for us.

"Unlike a year ago when I took on the job and only had a handful of signed players to start off with, I have over 20 players signed just now which is a big difference and we will benefit from this."

The club announced this week that striker Darren Milne is the latest to sign a new contract following the

retention of Ryan Shepherd, Ross Wallace, David Scholtes and Jack McAlpine.

Darran Taylor last week became the latest summer signing. He follows Mason Duncan, Blair Short, Liam Tomassi, Leon Ronaldson and Kieran Grant in the door at Albert Park. Owen Renton has departed to join Coldstream.

Meanwhile, Albert have been drawn at home to Golspie Sutherland in the Scottish Cup preliminary round. The North Caledonian League side won both previous cup meetings at Albert Park in 2012 and 2021. The match has been scheduled for September 2.



Readers who wish to make representations about articles should write in the first instance to the Editor, The Hawick Paper, Cragview, Eastgate, Denholm, Roxburghshire TD9 8NQ. If not satisfied, complainants can contact Independent Press Standards Organisation, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG. Email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. Website: www.ipso.co.uk

ISSN 2398-8029



9 772398 802023