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Food bank boost is 'a game changer'

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

Christmas is a time of giving, and a generous £13,000 gift to the Salvation Army's food bank is set to bring plenty of festive cheer to those most in need.

The vital resource has been struggling for donations, and the huge cash injection from trustees of Hawick Community Cafe is particularly welcome at this time of year.

"It is a game changer," said the Salvation Army's Captain Caroline Brophy-Parkin.

"A number of times during the summer the food bank ran out of food as the need for help increased and donations decreased due to the cost of living.

"At Christmas the demand is greater and it is not unusual for us to distribute an extra 150 bags over this period," she added.

The trustees oversaw the High Street's Almond Tree Cafe, which offered



Captain Caroline Brophy-Parkin, of the Salvation Army, receives the food bank cheque from the community cafe's Andy Jones, Jo Maybury, George Sprott, and Jenni and Andrew Green

PICTURE: ILF IMAGING

work placements to young people finding it difficult to gain employment. It closed at the end of January due to spiralling costs and a lack of

mature volunteers to work alongside paid staff. The cafe supported more than 150 vulnerable people over eight years.

Trustees chairwoman Jenni Green explained: "The Almond Tree Cafe funds were comprised mainly of the sale of the cafe

equipment after it closed, and charity members voted overwhelmingly that the money should stay in

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Trust gets £1m lifeline

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

A £1million boost for cash-strapped Live Borders— with a possible further £500,000 before April — will "ensure that vital local health and wellbeing services remain open", according to Councillor Watson McAteer.

Yesterday (Thursday), elected members approved the funding at a full meeting of Scottish Borders Council, after hearing there were expected to be "significant financial implications" resulting from the joint

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

May date to plug gaps

By **GRAHAM FORD**
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Work to permanently plug gaps in the town's flood defences won't be done until May, some five months after the widely publicised completion date of the scheme by the end of this year.

Updating Hawick Community Council on the £90million scheme on Monday night, project director Conor Price explained that "robust temporary defences" were

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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'No real alternative' to Live Borders 'situation'

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
strategic review of sport, leisure, and cultural services.

Live Borders – the region-wide cultural, sport and leisure trust which runs Teviotdale Leisure Centre, the library, and museum – forecast requiring up to £1.5million of additional funding to meet their projected liabilities.

Councillor McAteer commented: "Scottish Borders Council initiated a joint review of Live Borders and that has identified a number of strategic and operational priorities that are required to ensure that Hawick and the Borders continue to enjoy full sports, culture and leisure facilities.

"During the process it has been established that the trust had projected sizeable financial liabilities and to remain active requires the council to provide an immediate £1million with a potential further £500k before the April financial year end.

"I am pleased that my fellow councillors have agreed to award these funds, recognising that it is vital that we do everything in our power to ensure that vital health and wellbeing services remain open and available.

"While the review findings will take time to implement, it will identify what needs to be done to ensure Live Borders becomes financially secure and credible for the future."

The Live Borders Trust arrangements were originally established in 2003 (with the formation of Borders Sports and Leisure Trust).

The services have been expanded over the years, including the addition of cultural and community services in 2016, community sports provision at a number of schools, and the addition of the Great Tapestry of Scotland Visitor Centre in 2020.

Live Borders also brings a range of cultural and creative events to the Borders including



theatre, live music and comedy, cinema and an extensive variety of workshops and exhibitions.

These are provided from a total of 30 sport and leisure facilities, including six swimming pools; and 23 cultural facilities, including libraries and museums, in addition to providing ten community centres and 12 town halls.

Councillor Stuart Marshall also supported the financial assistance.

"Dipping into council reserves, especially when we have very serious financial pressures of our own, is without doubt a real bitter pill to swallow," he commented.

"Nonetheless, I feel to sit back and do nothing may well have a far greater impact on the way our sport, culture, and leisure facilities are currently managed.

"The other reason I supported this paper is that Live Borders staff continue to do a fantastic job and are currently working under extreme pressure and deserve our support during this difficult period.

"Hopefully with this cash injection, the fortunes of Live Borders will now begin to turn for the better.

"It would be unthinkable not to support them, especially at a time when as a council we have no real alternative to the current situation."

Councillor Clair Ramage added: "Live Borders have highlighted serious difficulties recently but the services they oversee are crucial.

"It was important the recommendations by SBC were supported."

Owner's retiral sees closure of long-standing printers

By JAKE COLTMAN
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Scott & Paterson, the long-established printers, closed at the end of October on the retiral of owner, ex-Cornet Bruce Campbell.

It had operated on the High Street for 112 years. One employee lost his job.

The firm was established in 1911 by William 'Piper' Scott, a former apprentice and manager of R. Deans & Co, printers, 10 High Street, and Thomas 'Tom' Paterson, secretary of Hawick RFC. At the time there were six other printers in the town.

William was a noted piper in his younger days, winning many prizes. During the First World War he served in the little-known Home Defence Corps. He was 17 years a treasurer with Hawick Lodge 111. Tom loved his rugby and wrote *The History of Hawick Rugby Football Club: 1873-1956*, and was also a keen bowler.

The original premises were at 21 High Street, before the firm relocated to no. 9 in 1923.

Their first apprentice was Jimmy Richardson, a compositor,



Scott & Paterson was on the High Street for more than a century

in 1921, who went on to establish his own printing business in Dovemount Place in 1946. His son Murray and grandson Jamie continue with the family firm at Lochpark Industrial Estate, and are now the only printers in Hawick.

In 1936, upon the retiral of William Scott due to ill health, the Scott & Paterson was temporarily dissolved and revived by Thomas Paterson under the same name. William died two years later.

The firm continued under the Paterson brothers Doug, Elliot and Wullie until 1988 when the business was purchased by former *Hawick News* compositor

John Thorburn, who later moved to *The Scotsman*.

About to be made redundant due to the Edinburgh-based paper's production method changing from hot metal to new technology, meaning fewer employees were required, he noticed a small advert in *The Scotsman* advertising Scott & Paterson for sale.

Around 13 years later, and on securing a position with Scottish Rugby, John sold the business to Bruce Campbell and Lesley Mitchell. Latterly, Bruce was the sole owner.

Down the decades they have been involved in many worthy projects, from printing the *Stobsiade* magazine created by German PoWs at Stobs Camp, to setting the font for the school pupils' names preserved for posterity in the cobbles of the Heart of Hawick.

Speaking to the paper, Bruce said that as he was 66 he felt it was "time to retire".

He took the opportunity to thank all the firm's loyal customers over the years.

Man to be sentenced

A 27-year-old man has admitted assaulting two female police officers.

Dale Henry, also known as Dale Grattan, of High Street, punched one on the head and bit another on the body during an incident in Channel Street, Galashiels, on May 29.

Sheriff Peter Paterson called for background reports to be compiled.

Henry will be sentenced on January 8 at Selkirk Sheriff Court.

Trial date

Twenty-four-year-old Justin Mawby, of Gladstone Street, denies having a dog which was dangerously out of control.

He will stand trial at Selkirk Sheriff Court on April 4.

Continued

Danny Sharkey, 40, of Hawick, denies two counts of assault to injury and an assault charge.

The case was continued to December 18 at Jedburgh Sheriff Court.

Unsung hero Billy goes 'above and beyond' at the BGH

By HILARY MACTAGGART
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

His cheerful manner and dedication to patients has earned hospital porter Billy Hush an unsung hero accolade.

Billy, of Ramsay Road, was nominated by Borders General Hospital's ambulatory care outpatients' team and will have his photograph displayed as part of the hospital's unsung hero portrait project.

Ambulatory Care's Abby Harper described Billy as "an important asset" to the BGH, who "goes the extra mile for both patients and colleagues."

"He is exceptionally hard working and we felt he should be recognised for this," she said.

Billy works as the porter for ultrasound and attends the department multiple times during his shift to help transfer patients to and from.

Ms Harper continued: "He always enters our department with a smile and is excellent at reassuring and building a



Porter Billy Hush has been recognised for his hard work

rapport with patients as he escorts them to ultrasound.

"He goes above and beyond to help anyone whether this be patient or colleague.

"He is very cheerful and

upbeat and lifts the mood within the department."

In ambulatory care the vast majority of patients required ultrasound scanning and Billy always attended to collect these

patients in a timely manner and was very respectful, providing "exceptional patient care".

Ms Harper added: "He never complains when we have large volumes of patients on any single day which greatly increases his workload alongside his responsibilities to the rest of the hospital.

"Billy is an asset to our department and greatly appreciated."

Billy, who has worked at the BGH for six-and-a-half years, commented: "To be nominated by your fellow workers is absolutely brilliant - I must be doing something right!

"All the people I work with do a fantastic job - they are all unsung heroes to me. I would like to thank them all for their continued support and look forward to many more happy years there."

It's clear Billy, whose main duties are in the radiology department, loves his job, and asked what he enjoys most, he added: "I like meeting people from all walks of life, some well some not so well, and I like listening to

'Delight' as cash stays in Hawick

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Hawick for the benefit of those in need.

"The funds have come at a time when the food bank stocks have been very low and twice recently they have run out of food."

Jenni added: "Although we are sad that the Almond Tree Cafe had to close, we are delighted that we have been able to keep this remaining money in Hawick, and continue to support the needy in our community at this difficult time."

Councillor Stuart Marshall, who helps deliver food parcels, commented: "I'm delighted this wonderful organisation has received this cash boost

and it certainly comes as an early Christmas present not only for the Salvation Army but for the people in our community they support."

He continued: "I've seen at first-hand the fantastic work by the Salvation Army, and providing food parcels to those in difficulty is absolutely vital. People access this service not by choice but because they have to reach out for help."

Adding, Mr Marshall said: "I've also seen the support Caroline and her team provide by way of emergency assistance, often because of benefit delays, or people becoming homeless."

"I know that this money will be put to excellent use," he concluded.

Extortion bid accused

A man has appeared in private at Selkirk Sheriff Court charged with attempted extortion.

Forty-two-year-old Nathan Noble, of Hawick, made no plea and the case was continued for further examination. He was released on bail with special conditions.

Kieran says thanks after serious injury



Kieran Murphy at the BGH earlier this week

Linden captain Kieran Murphy is recovering after suffering a horror injury at Volunteer Park on Saturday.

Twenty minutes into the East Region Division Two match again Dunbar, the 25-year-old sustained a broken leg and a broken ankle.

Linden physio Aimee Spalding was supported by her Dunbar counterpart as they made Kieran as comfortable as possible before an ambulance arrived.

Aimee said: "Unfortunately, the incident took place on the opposite side of the pitch from the dugouts, but I knew from the players' reaction that it was a serious injury." She added: "I definitely got a fright when I saw it, but the adrenaline kicked in and I set to work."

Recalling the moment he picked up the injury, Kieran, an office worker at Oregon Timber in Selkirk, said: "As I ran between two defenders a leg came across me and planted my ankle on the ground. It seems like my left leg snapped both ways."

He has a fracture in his left leg, and a dislocation and break in his left ankle - with a plate, screws and small piercing "holding the whole thing together".

Adding, he said he couldn't thank everyone enough for all the support they'd given him before he was taken to Borders General Hospital.

Kieran is now back home recuperating and will be out of the rugby reckoning for around five months.

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Garry's using pedal power in fund-raiser

Fire service commander Garry Douglas, of Hawick, is set to rack up the miles on his bike in aid of two good causes, **Graham Ford writes.**

Better known as Rummel in the town, the 42-year-old has signed up for the Eastern Promise challenge, which will see him join a team of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) colleagues as they cycle to all 65 community fire stations in the east of Scotland.

They aim to ride around 100 miles a day over a seven-day period.

Garry's passion for cycling prompted the idea of the fund-raiser, as he explained: "I was staying in Edinburgh [where he is a station commander in Mid and East Lothian], sharing a flat with deputy assistant chief officer Stuart Nicholson, and we both got chatting about cycling.



Garry Douglas

"From there he felt it [by cycle] would be a great way to visit all the fire stations he is charge of in the east of Scotland."

Garry went on: "We then discussed possible charities to benefit, and knew about the loss of our colleague Colin Speight, who tragically took his life at his station in Dunfermline in December 2021. So it was agreed to

raise money for Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide and The Firefighters Charity."

A team of around 20 people are now involved in the challenge, which will take place between May 20-26, starting at Tyndrum in Stirling, and ending at Edinburgh Castle.

Garry, who recently received a 20-year SFRS long-service award, continued: "We have people in our team who will be support drivers, while some might cycle 200-300 miles over the challenge, and some will aim to do the entire distance.

"There is no doubt when you are doing something for charity it inspires you to get your head down," he added.

Anyone who would like to donate to the fund-raiser can do so at www.gofundme.com/f/the-eastern-promise

WEDDING ALBUM

PICTURE: LOVE WEDDING PHOTOS AND FILM



Hawick couple Rachel Connelly and Robert Scott were married at Mansfield House Hotel

Assault plea from police

Police are appealing for information following the serious assault of a 25-year-old man in Trinity Street on Tuesday at around 4.25am.

He was taken to Borders General Hospital for treatment.

Anyone who can help with enquiries is asked to contact the force on 101, quoting incident 0532 of December 12, 2023.

Alternatively, calls can be made anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Trial date

Forty-nine-year-old Eugenia Tutuianu, of Hawick, pleaded not guilty to an assault charge and will stand trial at Jedburgh Sheriff Court on April 11.

Weather

Week ending December 10: Max. temperature 8.6°; min. -4.3°; rainfall 42.92mm.



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'Hawick has its flood protection'

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in place in these areas... at "additional expense".

Also at the meeting, main flood scheme contractor McLaughlin & Harvey came in for stinging criticism from chairman Cameron Knox after the firm failed to send a representative to the meeting.

"They were invited on September 26, and reminded on October 12, and at the time they confirmed that someone would attend," said Mr Knox.

"But on Friday afternoon we received an email saying they would be unable to attend. We find that totally disappointing for the community council and the people of Hawick."

The community council did, however, receive a report from Robin Erskine, McLaughlin & Harvey's senior contracts manager, which was relayed to the meeting by the chairman.

It highlighted that the incomplete sections were hampered by high river levels in September for three weeks including a 20-metre stretch at Mill Port. It also identified a gap in Duke Street/Glebe Mill Street which would also be completed in May.

Ahead of his presentation, Mr Price said: "On behalf of the contractor who is hired by SBC, I would like to express my disappointment, and that of SBC, for the lack of McLaughlin & Harvey representation to provide you with an update tonight."

"They are engaged on a contract which obligates them to engage with the people of Hawick. The council and I do not think that in any way shape or form it is acceptable for them not to report through to you. [Former community liaison officer] Yvonne



The temporary defences in the Mill Port area

PICTURE: DERICK THOMSON

[Gilfillan] did that in the past, and it has not happened on recent occasions."

Giving an update on the works, Mr Price continued: "The scheme remains on programme and on budget. We have been working round the clock."

"Anyone driving into the town sees the big sign saying flood protection by the end of 2023, so where are we tonight?"

"We had 5,760 metres of defences to provide to the town. Last December, there were still an extraordinary 2,295 metres to construct. And at that time large lengths of the town were completely exposed. Tonight, as we speak, there are around 90 metres still exposed."

"The 90 metres is broken into a number of difficult and challenging

sections. So since autumn we have been putting in place plan B, if we weren't going to be completely protected."

He added: "The gap at Mill Port is in order of 20 metres which can't be done until May. We have put robust temporary defences which will remain in place this winter and will stay until we come back in May. That way, Hawick has its flood protection for this Christmas."

"It is not ideal, and it is costing me extra money to put these defences in place, but that adversity should see us manage a major flood event coming through the town this winter."

Other areas in Hawick which will be covered with temporary defences are at Sandbed, Duke Street and the location at lower Mansfield for the new footbridge.

Councillor's memorial fears amid storage plan

Fears have been expressed that the Brenda Murray memorial in Buccleuch Road could "disappear" to make way for the town's active travel network.

Community Councillor Stuart Beck raised the issue at Monday night's meeting, saying: "I believe the plinth, horse and bench are to be taken away and stored at the town yard."

"Is there any chance that they could be reinstated straight away rather than put into storage? It would be a shame if they were to disappear."

The statue, pictured, was gifted to Hawick by the late businessman Sonny Murray following the death of his wife Brenda in 1995.

Scottish Borders Council ward councillor, Watson McAteer, asked if the matter could be investigated, to which



flood scheme director Connor Price responded: "I'll check out the details with Scottish Borders Council and get back to you."

Pub conversion proposal

Mr and Mrs David McLean are seeking planning permission from Scottish Borders Council to convert the former Deans' Bar in Orrock Place into a house.

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Borthaugh Road man found guilty of rape

A Hawick sex attacker who claimed that witnesses at his trial were women scorned was jailed on Wednesday after he was convicted of raping two of them and assaulting a third.

Anthony Plaskett, 38, had denied a series of charges at the High Court in Edinburgh during which he said: "I never raped anybody and these things are not true."

But Plaskett, of Borthaugh Road, was found guilty of carrying out two sex attacks in Hawick and a third at Bo'ness, in West Lothian.

He sexually assaulted one woman at a house in

Hawick in April 2021 when he made sexual remarks to her, exposed himself to her, repeatedly tried to kiss her and pushed his body against her.

He raped a second at another address in the town in the same month after seizing her by the body.

One woman told the court: "I said 'no' five or six times. I tried to push him off." When the victim phoned a relative she was so upset that during the call the other woman could barely understand what was being said.

Plaskett raped another woman in February 2020 at

an address in Bo'ness after molesting her.

Advocate depute William Frain-Bell said jurors heard multiple examples of what might be regarded as controlling behaviour by Plaskett to women. But he responded: "I would say what you are listening to is a woman scorned... All three of them."

The prosecutor said one witness described him as treating women as property but he said: "Absolutely not."

Plaskett was acquitted of two further charges, including an allegation of rape.

Following the verdicts defence counsel Lynsey Morgan asked for Plaskett's bail to be continued as he has care of two of his children.

But the trial judge John Morris KC remanded him in custody and called for a background report to be prepared on the rapist ahead of sentencing next month.

He told jurors that such cases were "very unpleasant" and counselling could be arranged if anyone who served on the jury felt it necessary.

Plaskett was placed on the sex offenders register.

Author Stephen pens new book

Southdean author Stephen Smith has just published his latest book of sci-fi and supernatural stories, **Hilary Mactaggart writes.**

The 76-year-old retired teacher, who also spent 14 years in the town as a social worker, had been toying with ideas for *Not for Real* for a decade, and saw it come to fruition in about six months.

A self-confessed lover of reading and literature, it is not the first book he has penned.

"I published a sci-fi novel called *Creation Farm* in 2014," said Stephen, who taught at Bonchester

Bridge and Newcastleton schools.

"I've also published two books of poetry through the *Quantum Leap* poetry magazine, as well as self-publishing a book of poems and photographs called *Ocean.*"

Stories for his latest book had been "bubbling" in his head for some ten years.

"I wrote them over this time period before I decided I needed to collect them together and have a go at publishing," he explained.

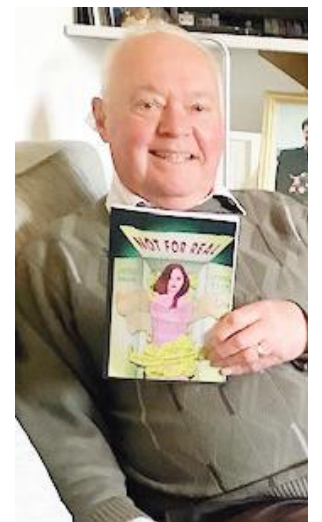
Stephen, who has lived at Chesters for 43 years,

is an elder of Hobkirk and Southdean Church, and president of Rulewater Horticultural Society.

He also helps record *The Hawick Paper* and *The Jed Eye* for the Borders Talking Newspaper, and sings with the PSA Male Voice Choir.

Despite his busy schedule, Stephen intends to write more books. "I have another collection of poems and images, and I'm planning to work on a novel," he said.

Not for Real can be purchased on Amazon as a paperback and for Kindle.



Stephen Smith

Accolade for film-maker Ken

A local film-maker has scooped an award in America for a short movie featuring the historic Border countryside, **Jake Coltman writes.**

The eight-minute film, *The Highway to Hermitage*, by Ken Moffatt, of Teviothead, received a special purpose production award at the Accolade Global Film Festival in California last week.

The event is ranked among the top 25 film festivals in the world.

The movie is a drone flight following the

historic path, The Queen's Mire, from Jedburgh to Hermitage Castle through the Teviothead volcanic complex - the lands of the reivers - where, in 1566, Mary, Queen of Scots rode to visit her injured lover, the Earl of Bothwell.

Ken, 54, who attended Newcastleton school Hawick High, told the paper: "Much of the landscape has never been filmed before and includes dark sky time lapses and passages of the Moon.

"Typically, a low budget film would cost up to



Ken Moffatt

£100,000 to produce, *The Highway to Hermitage* is a no-budget movie!

"It was one man and a drone, accompanied by Kathryn Tickell, a fiddler and Northumbrian

smallpipes player, who composed the soundtrack."

The footage was filmed and edited over the past year in his spare time.

Ken is now considering submitting the film to the Cannes Short Film Festival and the Alchemy Film & Arts Festival in Hawick.

Part of the family-owned Johnny Armstrong Gallery and Borderlands Museum at Teviothead, Ken hopes the film will be the catalyst for The Queen's Mire route to be preserved and developed as "an incredible asset to the Borders".

Village fund-raisers' £626 boost

Three big-hearted Bonchester Bridge women have boosted the coffers of the Scottish Borders Parkinson's Support Group by £625 following a successful coffee morning in the village hall.

The trio – Marion Thompson, Anne Hope and Fiona Wilson – are volunteers with the Bonchester Fundraisers group which has also donated money this year through various events including quizzes to the Borders Search and Rescue Unit, Alzheimer's Research and Macmillan Cancer Support.

■ The Parkinson's support group meets on the last Monday of the month at Borders General Hospital Chaplaincy Centre, between 2pm-4pm.



Marion Thompson, second left, and Anne Hope, right, present their fund-raising cheque to Parkinson's nurse Jill Anderson and support group volunteer Gary Hattie. Missing from photo – Fiona Wilson

Growth deal cash hopes for Burnfoot

By GRAHAM FORD
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Burnfoot Community Council is looking at developing three projects on the estate which could be considered for a slice of the multi-million pound Borderlands Growth Deal.

At last week's meeting of the estate's community council, Burnfoot Community Hub, a new 3G pitch and a new youth club were highlighted as potential projects which would benefit from Borderlands funding.

The three proposals came to light following Town Team member Keith Johnson's presentation at the meeting in the community hub.

He explained the process behind the group and told community councillors that ideas needed to be "worked up" and "ready to go".

Mr Johnson said: "I see the Town Team project as similar to the UK

Government's levelling up initiative.

"The Borderlands deal was initially discussed in 2019 but progress slowed during Covid, before beginning to finally gain traction in 2021. It is an effort for communities to be better served by funders, and is community-led.

"All of the project ideas are brought together through consultation which, in turn, gets put into a town Place Plan.

He added: "We are now at the stage of recruiting consultants to create the place plan, which with all of the information gathered, will create a body of ideas which will then be co-ordinated by the consultants.

"After that it will be brought back to the Town Team and the community with recommendations on costs and value to the town.

"It is a well thought out plan and is an ongoing

process which is expected to run for a further eight years."

Responding to the presentation and in a nod to the hub's well-publicised financial plight, treasurer Mandy McGuigan said: "Could this building be included?"

Mr Johnson responded: "Yes, I believe the hub could come into the equation.

"It's a venue that has already been through the funding process, therefore would almost be shovel-ready for backing."

Scottish Borders Council ward councillor, Stuart Marshall, said: "It would be unthinkable for Burnfoot not to be at the table. It's one of the most active communities I've ever been involved with."

He went on: "A few years ago, there was talk about a 3G pitch [at Burnfoot], but the idea has never been picked up and run with.

"Perhaps now is the time, and perhaps we could

work with the committee at Brunton Park [Hawick Legion FC] to move this forward?"

SBC ward member Clair Ramage added that there was "a clear need" for a youth club in Burnfoot, and it should "certainly be put on the table".

Anyone interested in supporting Burnfoot Community Council with these projects is asked to contact its Facebook page.

The Borderlands Growth Deal includes Scottish Borders Council and local authorities in Northumberland, Carlisle, Cumbria, and Dumfries & Galloway Council, in a bid to "promote economic growth in the area that straddles the Scotland-England border".

It is made up of £265million from the UK Government, £85million from the Scottish Government, and £102million from local partners.

Ex-chairman: Path needs attention

A "sinking" path in Burnfoot is "getting worse", it was heard at the estate community council's meeting last week.

Raising his concerns over the path which runs from the shops in Kenilworth Avenue towards the town, former chairman Billy Fletcher said: "I believe there were previous plans to try to sort it, but nothing's been done and it's definitely getting worse.

"I saw young mums having to take their prams onto the muddy grass as the slabs on the path are starting to sink. The situation is only going to get worse as we get further into winter."

Also looking ahead to the colder weather, chairwoman Emma Clarke commented: "It would



Billy Fletcher

be good to have this path gritted, as happened last year.

"It's undoubtedly an area of concern," she said.

Mr Fletcher added: "It was particularly bad after the recent snow. It's a well-used part of Burnfoot that needs to be tended to."

Scottish Borders Council ward councillor, Clair Ramage, pledged to raise the issues with local authority officers.

Greenbraehead house plan

Mr Stephen Murray has applied for planning permission for a house on land south of Greenbraehead Farmhouse.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Your community



www.scotborders.gov.uk

Notice of Intention to adopt The Proposed Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan (as modified) Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)

Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Borders Council intends to adopt the Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan (as modified) following receipt of the Report of Examination. Copies of the proposed modifications within the Report of Examination and the Proposed Local Development Plan (as modified), may be inspected at council libraries, council contact centres and at the Council Headquarters at Newtown St Boswells during normal opening hours. Copies may also be viewed on the planning authority's website: www.scotborders.gov.uk/ldp2

Ian Aikman, Chief Planning & Housing Officer
December 2023

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Michael Braithwaite: top botanist, author and village church stalwart

By JAKE COLTMAN
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The death occurred last Wednesday of Michael Elliott Braithwaite, of Clarilaw, at the age of 81.

The retired accountant was an authority on the wild flowers found in the Borders and wrote several books on the subject.

Born in Northumberland, Michael was one of five brothers, and, following his early schooling, graduated in mathematics at Cambridge University.

He was employed with a major accountancy company, Cooper Brothers, in London, when ill-health forced him to move from the city to the countryside.

"It was a complete change of lifestyle," his

brother Antony, 74, a retired barrister, told *The Hawick Paper* this week.

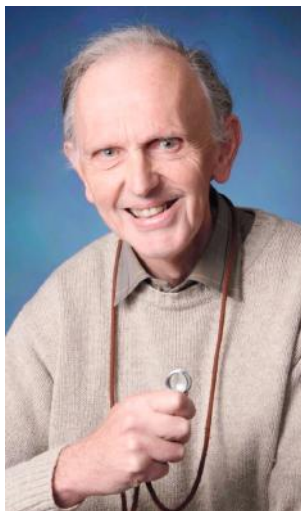
Neil, 69, the other surviving brother, is a retired solicitor.

With an aunt, Mrs Morrison, living at Old Orchard, Michael came to Hawick in 1969.

He secured a position as a chartered accountant with John J. Welch at 19 Buccleuch Street until his retirement in 2006.

He took up the study of the wild flowers found in the Borders as a hobby, making the flora along the old Waverley Line his first project and the subject of his first book: *The Railway Flora of Teviotdale*, in 1975.

The amateur botanist quickly became a leading authority, which led to his appointment as vice-county recorder for Berwickshire



Michael Braithwaite

for the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, a job he did for 35 years.

Michael later became president of the society, and published his second book, *Short Flora of Berwickshire*,

in 2014. The completion of that work allowed him to turn his attention once again to his home area and publication of *The Flora of Hawick Burgh* and *The Railway Flora of Teviotdale Revisited*, in 2015.

These were followed by *Hopes and Haughs: An Introduction to Berwickshire Place-names* in 2016, and a Roxburghshire version the following year.

All are profusely illustrated, with the majority of the superb full-colour pictures taken by Michael.

In a completely different vein, he also published three poetry books: *Michael's Meditations* in 2018, and *Solitude Twin-pack* and *The Border Lane*, both in 2021.

It was through a mutual interest in botany that he met and later married Patricia, known as Paddy

to everyone, in 1985. She predeceased him.

Michael was a member of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Hawick Round Table and the Probus Club.

A keen gardener and an elder and treasurer at Denholm Church, he followed the Jedforest Hunt of which he was also secretary.

In May 2019, Michael gifted ownership of eight acres of Lower Denholm Dean to the village. The site of great wildlife interest had been owned by him for the previous 40 years.

For his generosity, Michael received a painting of Denholm Dean by local artist Sandy Milligan which was presented to him by two village school pupils.

John Aitkin, a lifelong friend, and also a colleague when the pair were

employed at John J. Welch, told us: "Michael had a great affection and interest in his brothers and their families.

"He came to work initially for just three months and stayed for over 30 years. I have always had admiration for his intellect and abilities in the various activities in which he was involved.

"Michael became a well-known and valued member of the community in Hawick, the Borders and further afield. At heart he was a countryman and this permeated in all his many interests."

John added that he was grateful for their "special and rewarding relationship".

Michael's cremation is private but a memorial service is to be held in Denholm Church on Friday, January 19.

'Nerves and excitement' for Euan, Graeme and co

Cornet Euan Robson will return to the town hall stage tonight (Friday) for a very different experience to that in June at the Colour-Bussing.

This time he will be part of local band Western End as they support Celtic rockers Skerryvore on their Scottish tour.

The sell-out gig at the town hall will see around 800 in attendance. And Euan's fellow band member, Graeme Tinlin, says it will be a "pinch yourself moment", after he first met Skerryvore following a gig in Hull in 2019.

Western End, who formed last year, will

debut as a five-piece band, accompanied during their 30-minute set by drummer Ross Walsh, Ali Mabon on bass, and electric guitarist Martin Oswald.

Euan, 27, told the paper he was "nervous and excited", hailing the concert as "the perfect way to round off the best year of my life".

Graeme, 34, admitted he couldn't believe that just four years after meeting the band, that he and Euan would now be performing on the same stage as them.

Adding, Skerryvore's Martin Gillespie said: "We always aim to involve a local act and we're looking forward to having the craic with the Western End lads."



A new-look Western End are set to take the stage tonight

Hawick Sings' festival concert

As part of this year's Land Light Locals folk music festival, Hawick Sings will be hosting a concert on Saturday, December 30, in the Burns club.

The night will be headlined by co-host Davie

Chapman and his band, with a wealth of other entertainers including Kevin Wilson, Geoff Ross, Kenny Speirs and Jasmine Davidson.

"It promises to be a cracker of a night," said

a spokesman. Run in the same way as a normal Hawick Sings event, there will be free admission with the music getting under way at 7.30pm. A raffle will be held and donations of prizes are welcome.

Your shout

Readers share their plans for Christmas Day



Going to the in-laws for a meal and a few beverages as well as plenty of entertainment. You can't beat it.

GREG FORD



Spending it with my family at my sister's house. It's a really special time and I'm looking forward to it very much.

LESLEY McCREDIE



Off to Frinton-on-Sea in Essex with my partner. It's a lovely place and might even have a swim in the sea.

DEBORAH MADEN



Recovering from a fall, but I'm looking forward to it as my wife and I have the grandkids coming which will be great.

DEREK GODFREY



Having the family which is nice as Christmas is a real family time. Also going to a lodge in Dunbar later in the week.

ALAN GODFREY



I won't be doing much apart from dithering about and having a quiet time.

KEITH HARLEY

Letter to the editor

Thanks from Girlguiding

On behalf of Girlguiding Hawick, I'd like to thank everyone who used our Christmas post this year. The support was amazing and we love providing this service to townfolk.

All the money raised is split between

units in the Hawick area for them to spend on the girls to give them the best Guiding experience.

We also make a donation to a local charity every year.

Thank you to every volunteer, too. We couldn't do it without the help we receive.

Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas.

JILL McDONNELL

Cafe-goers can share kids' experiences

Last Wednesday's Wiggly Cafe – a partnership between Wiggly Worms Nursery and the Baptist Church – enjoyed a festive theme with Christmas cake and mince pies. **Hilary Mactaggart writes.**

"Our Wiggly Cafe first opened in May," explained nursery proprietor Kim McIntosh.

"The idea came from us as a team – and we hoped it would offer a warm space and the opportunity for different generations to come together."

She continued: "We know so many people who don't have younger family close by, so we thought this would offer a chance for these people to share our younger children's experiences."

The cafe is open on the first Wednesday of each month, when there's the chance to get together for a warm drink, biscuits, cakes, crafting activities and singing.

It runs for an hour in the



Kathryn Smith and Logan Gentleman enjoy a story from Rev. Martin Smith



Theo Foydd and Julia Smith



Angus Mackellar

Baptist Church, with no cost involved.

Church pastor, Rev. Martin Smith, added: "We absolutely love hosting the cafe."

"It's great every month seeing new people find our church to be open and inviting, and seeing young and old across the community mixing together, while knowing it's been a highlight of the day for many of them."

He added: "We were already partnering with Wiggly Worms so the children could visit a church at Easter and Christmas, and to host their graduation. "Doing the cafe and seeing them growing up and growing in confidence with people has been a brilliant addition to our church's life," he concluded.

The next cafe will take place on Wednesday, February 7, at 10am.



Reading time for Sandra Davidson and Cora Thomson



Angela Grieve and Millie Swailes

Reports

Background reports have been ordered into a man who admitted possessing a quantity of knives during an incident at Denholm Cemetery on November 17 last year.

Sentence was deferred on James Markie, of Prestonpans, until January 8 at Selkirk Sheriff Court for the production of a criminal justice social work report and a restriction of liberty order assessment. His bail was continued.

Trial delay

Clair Gold, 36, of Hawick, has pleaded not guilty to charges of assault to injury and robbery, assaulting a person within their own home, and malicious mischief.

She also denied threatening or abusive behaviour and possession of a class C drug.

Due to pressure on court business, her trial has been put back until the jury sitting at Selkirk on June 7, 2024.

Development officer 'need', hears meeting

By **GRAHAM FORD**
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

A fresh call was made for the appointment of a town development officer at Monday night's meeting of Hawick Community Council.

The idea was mooted by Colin Hope, chairman of Hawick Development Trust (HDT), in his monthly report on the regeneration group's activities.

He said: "We are beginning to feel there is not enough resources to develop projects coming out of the town, and perhaps there is the need for a development officer."

Interjecting, treasurer Jim Adams said: "Haven't we been down that road a few times already?"

Echoing Mr Hope's sentiments, and speaking to

The Hawick Paper after the meeting, Scottish Borders Council councillor, Watson McAteer, said: "The need for a development officer has never been greater with the new Town Team beginning to establish itself with some exciting projects on the horizon."

"Such a position would ensure that volunteer activity is co-ordinated, and funding sources tracked and exploited to ensure we are able to deliver the best possible options for Hawick."

South of Scotland Enterprise had previously supported other Borders communities [in appointing a town development officer], and between them and Scottish Borders Council it was hoped Hawick could receive similar help.

Mr McAteer added: "The fantastic efforts of

our volunteers cannot be underestimated. However, it is essential that we provide the best possible help for them, and a development officer is exactly what is needed."

SBC elected member Stuart Marshall said: "I know there was a development officer, maybe around 20 years ago, and I'd certainly welcome any prospect of the trust attracting a new one."

"There are many voluntary groups in the town that would benefit greatly from having access to such a resource."

At the moment it could be "tedious and time consuming" for volunteers trying to attract funding into the town, he said, concluding: "A development officer could play an important role in not only developing funding streams, but also bringing to life some great projects which will no doubt arise."

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DEATHS

ARMSTRONG: Peacefully at home on Saturday, 2nd December, 2023, Gordon (Gogs), much loved brother and uncle to the whole family and a great friend to many. Service to be held on Monday, 18th December, in Robson's Dovetail Chapel at 12.45pm, then onwards to Wellogate Cemetery for 1.30pm. Flowers open.

BRAITHWAITE: Peacefully at Borders General Hospital on 6th December, 2023, Michael Elliott (Clarilaw), aged 81 years, dearly beloved husband of the late Paddy. Cremation private. A memorial service will be held at Denholm Parish Church on Friday, 19th January, 2024, at 2pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Donations, if desired, will be received for Denholm Parish Church.

LANCASTER: Peacefully at Hawick Community Hospital on Saturday, 2nd December, 2023, Peter, very proud father to Graeme and Gregor, dear brother to Robert, Bert and the late Ben, a great friend to many. Committal service to be held on Wednesday, 3rd January, 2024, at Borders Crematorium at 12 noon, followed by a memorial service in Robson's Dovetail Chapel at 1pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Macmillan Nurses.

LYLE (Curly): Sadly died on 9th December, 2023, in York, surrounded by great friends and family after an illness bravely fought.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GARDHOUSE: Maureen and family would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers and sympathy following the recent loss of George. Special thanks to Robson's Funeral Directors and Rev. Alistair Cook for the lovely service and support. The family would also like to thank everyone who attended the service and whose kind donations have gone to Alzheimer Scotland.

PAXTON, James (Jim): Frances and family would like to thank everyone for the flowers and lovely cards received following the sad loss of Jim. They were so appreciative of the kindness and support given to them all. Thanks also to Robson's Funeral Directors, and to Captain Caroline Brophy-Parkin from the Salvation Army for their invaluable help and kindness, and to those who came along to celebrate Jim's life. Donations at the service raised the wonderful sum of £1,043.20 for Parkinson's Borders branch.

SCOTT: Roseleen and family thank everyone who attended the service to celebrate the life of Wattie. Our thanks to everyone for their kind messages, cards and flowers. The care given by staff at Teviot Medical Practice and all the carers who looked after him at home was exemplary. We thank John Beattie & Sons for their respectful professional services and Stewart Allan for his lovely eulogy for Wattie. The sum of £700 was collected in aid of Cancer Research (Scotland).

PERSONAL THANKS

AITKIN: Margaret, late of West Port, would like to thank everyone for their cards and gifts on the occasion of her 90th birthday. She would also like to let people know that she is now in Buccleuch Care Home.

HARDIE: Shunie would like to thank her friends and family for their good wishes, cards and visits while she was in the hospital over the last four months. Thanks also to the staff at the BGH, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Upper Deanfield, and Hawick Community Hospital for the care they provided.

CHURCH NOTICES

ST CUTHBERT'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH : Slitrig Crescent : SC003140
Sunday, December 17
10am – Joint service at St John's, Jedburgh. No service at Hawick
6pm – Carol service
Wednesday, December 20
10.45am – Midweek communion
Tuesdays
11am-noon – Coffee morning
Mondays and Thursdays
10am-2pm – Church "quiet space"

HAWICK BURNFOOT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND : SC004517
Sunday, December 17
10.30am – Rev. Peter Wood

CHURCH NOTICES

WILTON AND TEVIOTHEAD PARISH CHURCHES
SC017381 / SC006917
Sunday, December 17
Rev. Lisa-Jane Rankin
9.30am – Teviothead
11am – Wilton
2pm – Annual bereavement service at Wilton

TRINITY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
SC013892
Sunday, December 17
11am – Service of lessons and carols with John Mackay, followed by Refreshments
Christmas appeal – in aid of Dementia Cafe

SALVATION ARMY
6 Croft Road 214779 / 009359
Today (Friday)
10am – Coffee morning
Everyone welcome for a cuppa and a chat
6pm – Shine your light carol singing
Meet at Burnfoot Hub at 5.45pm
Followed by hot chocolate and children's crafts
Sunday, December 17
10.30am – Sunday worship
Followed by a cuppa and a chat

ST MARY'S & OLD PARISH CHURCH LINKED WITH TEVIOT AND ROBERTON CHURCH
SC005574 and SC005191
Thursdays
7pm – Prayer meeting on Zoom
Contact Teviotchurch@gmail.com for link
Sunday, December 17
Nativity all-age service
Conducted by Rev. Alistair Cook
9.45am – Teviot Church
11.15am – St Mary's & Old Parish Church
Sunday evening – Carols in the country
6pm – Robertson Church
The morning service will be recorded from Teviot at 9.45am and can be viewed afterwards at www.smoptero.org.uk, on our Facebook page @smoptero, or teviot.online.church

CAVERS AND KIRKTON CHURCH OF SCOTLAND : SC004550
Sunday, December 17
9.30am – Service of lessons and carols with John Mackay

HAWICK BAPTIST CHURCH
North Bridge Street : SC003568
Tonight (Friday)
6.45pm for 7pm – Christmas Quiz night. Free event. Book your place by texting Ian on 07308 157661
Sunday, December 17
10.30am – All-age family Christmas service. Everyone welcome. Refreshments follow the service
Tuesday, December 19
10am-11.30am – Mainly Play, a play-based session for under-fives and their parents/carers (£3 per family)
Thursday, December 21
10.30am – Drop-in at The Well

HOBKIRK AND SOUTHDEAN LINKED WITH RUBERSLAW PARISH CHURCH
SC012830 and SC034629
Sunday, December 17
9.30am – Minto
11.15am – Hobkirk
Service of lessons and carols
Monday, December 18
9.30am-11.30am – Little Fishes babies and toddlers, Denholm Church Hall
2pm-4pm – Monday meet-up, Denholm Church Hall
Thursday, December 21
6pm – Carol singing, Minto



GRUMPY AULD MAN

ALWAYS WELCOME
You'd need to be drunk on festive mulled wine or concussed by an avalanche of Hawick Balls to seriously argue that our cherished town is a tourism hotspot.

Okay, we might not have a castle or historic abbey, sandy seashore or a vibrant night-time razzle-dazzle economy, but we do sit conveniently in the wonderfully natural and picturesque Borderland.
Between May and September this year, our coveted and eminently resourceful Welcome Host town ambassadors helped almost 4,000 visitors make the most of their time in the grey auld toon.

Many day trippers and camper-van tourists confirmed they were making return visits, underlining that our noteworthy community perhaps has more going for it than some might imagine.

Great unspoiled spaces on our doorsteps remain a major selling point, while the multi-award-winning Wilton Lodge Park, plus informative Borders Distillery and textile mill guided tours, also add positively to the mix.

Prominent townsman and long-standing Welcome Host supporter, Derick Tait, succinctly summed things up in a celebratory speech last year when he commented: "From Jedburgh to Johannesburg, from Stirling to St Louis, from Dumfries to Dubai, from Berwick to Beijing, they've all come to Hawick and stayed a bit longer thanks to the Hosts' welcome."

On a more downbeat note, however, fears have been raised over the future of the Hawick Welcome initiative. The summertime venture now costs around £20,000 and there have been difficulties recruiting candidates for three temporary posts.

This laudable scheme has now run for 26 years and remains a relative rarity, not widely adopted by other towns.

Hawick might not be teeming with holidaymakers all-year round but we need to continue building on our warm, friendly and hospitable reputation, even more so during the economically significant high summer season.

When budgeting for the year ahead, our civic fathers and mothers must ring-fence albeit modest resources to help sustain Teridom's good name as a friendly and welcoming town.

BURNT BLIGHT
Still on the subject of presenting Hawick in the most advantageous

light, one of our truly beneficial assets is the spacious and convenient Common Haugh, the region's largest free vehicle park.

It's a popular overnight stop for campervan enthusiasts, not least thanks to the purpose-built sluice facility, opened in June last year.

But over the last few weeks our mobile visitors have had to park-up alongside the eyesore sight of a totally burnt-out vehicle. At the time of writing, the wreck was still languishing there.

I don't know whether insurance, legal, criminal, health and safety or some other technical complication has delayed matters.

Nevertheless, when these kind of unforeseen incidents occur, I wish our municipal caretakers could act with more alacrity in removing such blots on the landscape.

WRECKING SPREE
Millions were shocked and dismayed earlier this year when a famously iconic sycamore tree alongside Hadrian's Wall was callously felled.

Now similar mindless behaviour has been perpetrated in our own area. It beggars belief that the Denholm village Christmas tree should be targeted in a deplorable act of vandalism.

And reports have also emerged of destructive incidents involving festive lights and decorations in other Borders communities, including outside a care home for the elderly.

Such idiotic behaviour is difficult to fathom but particularly nasty and mean-spirited in this season of goodwill.

Sadly, senseless stupidity can rear its ugly head at any time. One of the most disappointing local episodes earlier this year saw the wanton destruction of two 'Hawick stands with Ukraine' banners. They overlooked the Weensland Road roundabout and conveyed a simple but compassionate message of kindness for people continuing to suffer appallingly.

It seems to me that our criminal justice system is frequently found wanting when it comes to apprehending and punishing those committing what is pathetically termed malicious mischief. It's a pity that we can't occasionally emulate our hardbitten ancestors by delivering more satisfying retribution on those found guilty of so-called 'low-level' vandalism.

Perhaps confine them in public stocks for a humiliating period of embarrassment, (hopefully) shaming the perpetrators in a highly vocal community censure.

Six decades on, pensioners' party as popular as ever

Such was the enthusiasm for Denholm's annual senior citizens' Christmas party that the event attracted a waiting list.

Some 27 people attended the popular festive get-together in the church hall on Sunday.

"The members of Ruberslaw Church of Scotland Guild invited any senior citizens who wanted to attend to the party," explained one of the organisers, Helen Howden.

"In all, 27 people put their names down.

"The hall was full with that number plus eight guild members and we had a waiting list."

Guests were treated to afternoon tea, as well as some greatly appreciated live entertainment from Kenny Speirs, Tommy Mulvee and Ian Anderson.

"They all sang and played

for us," added Helen, "and everyone seemed to have a good time."

Food for the party was bought-in, and everyone who attended received a wrapped Christmas present from the guild.

"We have had a lot of feedback from people saying they had a good time," said Helen.

Musician Kenny Speirs described the party as "a very happy occasion."

"Tommy and I sang three songs each and Ian played three fiddle sets," he said.

"Ian and I play together in local band Real Time, while Tommy is a big supporter of local music sessions."

"We enjoyed sitting with the guests for a cup of tea and bite to eat."

The senior citizens' party has been an annual village highlight for about 60 years.



Doreen and John Biggar, and Ronnie Nicol



Pat Jardine



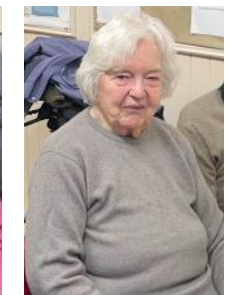
Muriel and Jim Wilson



Wattie and Margaret Armstrong, and Giles Passmore



Nan Howden and Isa Howden



Isabel Notman



Graeme Wilson, Mary Routledge and Margaret Douglas



Ian Douglas



Shirley McKenzie, Patricia Cooper and May Sinclair

Letter of the law

Free will can help in the battle against cancer

Bannerman Burke Law partnered with Cancer Research UK this year and, as a result, we have been able to offer clients a free will or a free amendment to an existing will.

There is no obligation for clients to leave a gift to Cancer Research in their will, however, it is hoped that some clients will choose to, which will obviously greatly assist a brilliant charity who are doing their best to fight cancer.

In addition to this, if someone leaves ten per cent or more of their estate to Cancer Research UK, they will also receive a free power of attorney.

Leaving a gift in your will for Cancer Research UK will help them to continue their vital work and make treatments even more effective for future generations.

This year, our generous



By Heidi Kandyba-Callis

clients have helped achieve the fantastic sum of £416,524 by leaving gifts in their wills to Cancer Research UK. A small gift in your will can make a big difference.

Bequeathing money to a charity in your will can also have benefits for you as an individual. If you choose to leave a legacy to a charity in your will, in some cases, this can minimise your liability for inheritance tax purposes.

Charitable bequests can either be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated or reduce the rate upon which inheritance tax is applied to your estate.

The inheritance tax threshold in Scotland is generally £325,000 for each individual person, which is known as the 'nil rate band'. This means that anything up to this level will not be subject to inheritance tax, and anything greater than £325,000 is charged at a rate of 40 per cent, subject to various exemptions.

Married couples are in a more beneficial position because it is possible to transfer the nil rate band unused on the first spouse's death, for use upon the death of the surviving spouse.

If you are interested in a free will, we would be delighted to assist you.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Hawick a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

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I wish all my friends and relations a very merry Christmas and a happier New Year
Jean Blaikie

Wishing all family and friends a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from
Rob and Josh Richardson

Drew and Isobel Johnstone
would like to thank all their neighbours and wish them a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Jack Harley
Wishing all my family and friends, including staff and residents at Teviot Court, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all constituents from
Councillor Jane Cox
Hawick and Hermitage Ward

Helen Hunter
wishes all her friends a very happy Christmas and a good New Year

Best wishes for Christmas and a happy New Year to all relations, neighbours and friends from
Bill Killey

Tam and Margaret Stavert
would like to wish all family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, xx

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year to all family, friends and neighbours from
Sam Barker

Merry Christmas to all my family and friends
Joyce Myles

To all family and friends, hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year from
Wullie Borland

Wishing family, relatives, friends and neighbours a merry Christmas and a happy New Year
May Peffers

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all my relatives and friends
Elliot Halliday

Cameron and Joyce Hill
wish all their family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Myra and Wattie Jackson
wish all their family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Betty and Dave Oliver
wish all their family and friends a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

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Sheila Telfer
(St Margaret's Care Home)
Best wishes for Christmas and health and happiness in the New Year to my family, friends and neighbours at Douglas Haig Court

Mary Forrest
sends best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all friends and neighbours

Tam Blacklock
wishes all his family, friends and neighbours a merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy, healthy 2024

Gladys Tait
wishes all family and friends all the blessings of Christmas 2023 and a' the best for 2024

Wilma Imray
would like to wish all family, friends and neighbours a very happy Christmas and a guid New Year

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our family and friends from
The Tysons

Greetings

Season's

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024 to all my friends and neighbours from

Margo Currie

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year from

Raymond Telfer

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from

Linda and Val Godfrey

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all family and neighbours from

Jed Huggan

George Carruthers
would like to wish his family and friends merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Morag Wallace

wishes all her family, friends and neighbours a merry Christmas and a healthy 2024

Wishing all family, friends and neighbours a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year

Myra Pringle

Jean Smith
(Buccleuch Care Home)

Wishing all my family, friends, fellow residents and carers best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Wishing all family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year from

Annette and Viv Crudge

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from

Pat Wells

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to family, friends and neighbours from

Helen Trotter

Jake Smith

wishes all his friends and neighbours a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Wishing friends and neighbours a merry Christmas and all the best for 2024 from

Irene Long

Wishing all my relations, friends and neighbours a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year from

Eric Grierson

Wishing all my friends a very happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year from

Ernie Dobbie

Merry Christmas and a guid New Year to all my friends and family, lots of love from

Kay Kyle

Bill and Moira Fairholm

would like to wish all family and friends a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all my relatives, friends and neighbours, with all my best wishes

Michael Oldham

Lil Hope
would like to wish all her family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

To family and friends, a happy Christmas and a happy New Year for 2024 from

Rob Beattie and Liz Thomson

Ray Oliver
(Denholm)

would like to wish her friends a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2024

Sandy Reid

would like to wish all family, friends and fellow Teviot Court residents a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Mona and Eric Hope

would like to wish all their family, friends and neighbours a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all relations and friends from

Ian and Maureen Bell

Margaret Aitkin

would like to wish all family and friends a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Greetings

Season's

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone from
Jim Aitkin

Rita and Bill Linton
would like to wish all their family, friends and fellow Langlands Court residents a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Wishing all my family, friends and neighbours a merry Christmas and a happy New Year
Jock The Dog

Margaret and Jim Anderson
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Ron and Margaret Watt
wish all their relatives and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Jean Hair
would like to thank all her friends for their cards and wishes them a merry Christmas and a good New Year

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all friends and relations from
Anna and Alex Graham

Jock and Betty Irvine
Wishing all family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Jim Gray
(Longcroft Crescent)
would like to wish all family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Best wishes to family, friends and neighbours for Christmas and a happy New Year from
Eileen Irvine

Nancy Henderson
wishes all her family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Sheila Cumming
would like to wish all family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year

Margaret Moxey
wishes all her family, friends and neighbours a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Alison Gray
wishes all her friends a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year

Carole Nunn
(Ashington)
wishes all her friends in Hawick a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year

Greetings

● NEWMILL AND TEVIOTHEAD

This month's SWI meeting on December 5 took the form of a celebration of the rural's 65th birthday with a Christmas theme.

A great evening was had by all including hot supper, quiz, festive sing-along and secret Santa gifts.

The evening also saw recognition of the roles played by three members who have been part of the institute for more than 40 years, namely Trish Kirkpatrick, Mary Irving and Shelia McLaren, who received loyal service certificates from president Caroline Tullie.

The points trophy for 2023 was also presented – 1, Nicky



Watson; 2, Gillie Cooper; 3, Sally Martin.

The next meeting will be a games night on January 9. Competitions: favourite dice and slice of Christmas cake. All welcome. –SM

● ROTARY CLUB

Last Thursday's meeting heard a talk by Kenny Armour on the work of Andy's Man Club, a charity set up to help men struggling with depression, anxiety and

loneliness. Kenny, based in Kirkcaldy, is a project development champion with the charity, which started in 2016, following the suicide of a young man, Andy. It had since grown and spread nationwide

with around 4,000 members. The prevalence of suicides on a daily basis was highlighted as something which needed addressing and of which many people were not aware.

In Scotland, there are 36

Loyal service certificate recipients, from left, Trish Kirkpatrick, Mary Irving and Shelia McLaren; alongside Dorothy Grierson, honorary member; Caroline Tullie, president; and Liz Howieson, secretary

venues and the charity hoped to increase its presence in the Borders where Galashiels is at present the nearest to Hawick.

As well as somewhere safe to talk, Kenny emphasised that meetings were normally confidential, but referrals might be made if it was felt necessary.

Often those who had sought help went on to be volunteers running groups and, as Kenny pointed out, still benefitted from the chance to talk and share their worries.

There was a lively discussion to end the evening and members were very supportive of the charity's work.

Festive extravaganza was 'as fantastic as ever', despite rain

By GRAHAM FORD
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

"Washout" fears were allayed as Saturday's Christmas Market kicked off the town's festive countdown in fine style.

The wet weather did not deter hundreds of Terries from sampling the Yultide atmosphere in North Bridge Street and Oliver Place, with event organisers and traders delighted at how the day had gone.

Commenting at Monday night's meeting of Hawick Community Council, which organised the market, chairman Cameron Knox said it had been "hugely successful".

He also highlighted "numerous other groups in the town" with whom the community council had worked with "as a team" on the annual market project.

"It was a tremendous day, despite the weather," he went on. "And the positive response we've received since Saturday is very encouraging and certainly bodes well going forward."

The introduction of the new Santa's grotto added to the festive feelgood factor in Central Square, and Mr Knox continued: "Santa was fabulous and made sure he had a word with every child."

Community Councillor Wilson George added: "You just had to watch the kids' faces as they met Santa - it was just brilliant to see."

The teamwork to which the chairman referred was also evidenced by Hawick Youth Rugby whose players helped with the erection and dismantling of the

31 market stall gazebos. "They are good at rugby on the pitch but work well off the pitch, too," he remarked "They had the gazebos up in one hour five minutes, and brought down in one hour 15 minutes. They really were exceptional."

The day also proved a big hit among stallholders, with Valerie Jubb, from Border Candles, telling us: "It was my first time doing the market, and I loved it."

"There was a great atmosphere, and the helpers were much appreciated. The customers were lovely and everyone was so happy and festive."

"It was so well organised, and the Scout Pipe Band really made my day."

Adding, Net McAllister, of So.925 Jewellery, told us: "The market is always a highlight of my season as a trader, but when I saw the weather on Saturday morning my expectations dropped, and I wondered if it would be a washout."

"But it was as fantastic as ever. The layout of the stalls was great, and all the kids loved seeing Santa."

"The pipe band dressed in festive costumes was, as always, absolutely brilliant."

Along with the pipe band, also jingling all the way were Hawick Saxhorn Band, Trinity school, Wilton Dean WRI, Sam Deans' group and Hawick Amateur Operatic Society.

The wet weather meant that Got2Dance were unable to perform.

Provost Watson McAteer was MC and ensured that the event ran like clockwork.

PICTURES: MARK HOGARTH



Santa and his elf helper bring Christmas to life for this excited youngster in the Central Square grotto. Below, singing loud for all to hear and spreading festive cheer are operatic society members





Santa's selection boxes went down a treat with young Teries



Taking centre stage are tinsel and Santa hat-bedecked members of Wilton Dean WRI Choir whose selection of Christmas classics was warmly



Market day was merry and bright for these happy youngsters who are keenly anticipating a holly, jolly Christmas



Hawick Saxhorn Band set the Christmas mood

PICTURES: MARK HOGARTH



received by the market crowd. The ladies were in great voice, bringing comfort and joy to one and all



Ho ho ho – few things are as magical as meeting Santa



perfectly with their own inimitable festive repertoire



Smiles all round as that unmistakable Christmas air descended on Saturday's market



It wouldn't be Christmas in Hawick without the Scout Pipe Band in their Santa suits, and once again they hit all the Yultide high notes.

PICTURES: MARK HOGARTH



Families flocked to Central Square to soak up the festive atmosphere



The Christmas Market was just pawfect for these two adorable puppies



Young market-goers were transformed into colourful characters

Insets, the face painting was a huge hit



Trinity school's primary two/three and three/four pupils got into the Christmas spirit by singing *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and other festive favourites. Below, Provost Watson McAteer, and community councillors and volunteers who helped ensure another successful market event was enjoyed by townsfolk and visitors



PICTURES: MARK HOGARTH



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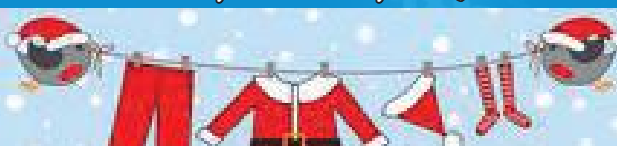
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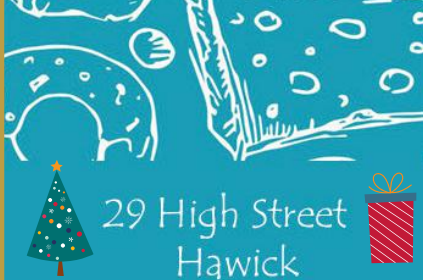
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By Alastair Redpath

Stand oots

PAIRT TWAE – Protectors of the poor, the ‘humane’ hosier, and a Peterloo protest in Hawick

In the wake of the seven-week strike of 1816, and the stand-oot resulting from Turk’s Ha’penny the following year, the supposedly “harmonious relationship” between worker and employer had been irreparably fractured. No longer was the bond in the vein of “master as his father... his man as a child”.

The spark which lit the fuse for an almost four-year-long feud, however, was a meeting held on May 26, 1819, in which the master manufacturers of Hawick entered into an agreement to further reduce the rate of wages paid to their men.

For every 12 pairs of stockings crafted per week, a typical employee would now earn 12s – minus 3s 5d for items such as frame rent, needles, oil lighting, and coal for heating – a reduction of 1s 9d. For 24 pairs of slender men’s stockings, the rate plummeted to 6s a week.

Compounding the situation, some masters were in the habit of paying their men in goods such as socks and stockings, rather than coin of the realm, which employees would then have to sell at market, in their own time, to make ends meet.

Two acts of parliament prohibited this long-held custom but it was still common practice until the passing of the Truck Act of 1831.

Hawick manufacturers had also recently successfully appealed against a trade tax, owing to the town’s rural location, distance from sea ports, and poor state of the turnpike network; conditions which allowed English towns to sell textiles at a lower

price. This only served to add fuel to the fire.

The journeymen stockingmakers of Hawick promptly rallied as one, conceiving “it to be their duty” to publish the reduced rates by printing and displaying notices around the town, to let the public know how dire the circumstances were. Lower wages had a direct impact on the trades’ fund from which dependants and family members could claim grants, and so the men naturally saw themselves as “protectors of the poor”.

Once the sheriff and procurator fiscal caught wind of the posters, six employers were detained for questioning at the town house. “To infer combination or association” in fixing lower wages could, after all, provoke a fine of £20 and result in workers’ contracts being declared null and void. Similar cases in Jedburgh and Kelso had seen manufacturers there being prosecuted. However, all six employers in this instance were eventually discharged and it is not known if they were fined or not.

The 1819 dispute resulted in a climbdown from Hawick’s manufacturers but was far from a victory for trade unionism. Wages remained at a level first seen 40 years prior. Employees still worked 15-hour days, and children as young as eight began working life in the mill adding seams to stockings.

There was one winner, though: William Beck, the “humane” hosier.

Hailing from Carlisle, Beck was apprenticed to the founding father of Hawick’s

knitwear industry, Bailie Hardie, in 1775. Afterwards he started out on his own, and by 1818 was producing 41,000 pairs of hose per year. One of his frame-knitting apprentices was none

silver cup by his employees, inscribed thus: “Presented... from the journeymen stockingmakers of Hawick, in testimony of their gratitude for the disinterested and humane part he has

receiving a gift for simply keeping wages at the same rate! His prize cup is on display at the museum.

Beck’s stocking shop was located to the rear of 21 High Street, just off the



William Beck’s stocking shop, off the Round Close

PICTURE: PROJECT HAWICK

other than John Pringle, half-brother of Robert, who was the founder of the eponymous Pringle brand in 1815.

For his refusal to concede to the wishes of the manufacturers’ cartel, in August 1819, William was presented with an engraved

invariably acted towards the journeymen in his employ, but more particularly for his not entering into the agreement lately made by other manufacturers of Hawick to reduce the rate of wages to operatives.”

How many employers worldwide can boast of

Round Close. It was built around 1800. The windows were regularly spaced and sized to provide daylight for each worker – a tremendous benefit in the days before gas and electric lighting. The building survives to this day as the only one of its kind in Hawick – hence why it holds

Category C listed status. It was converted into housing in 1991 by the National Trust for Scotland as part of their ‘Little Houses’ scheme.

In the same month that Beck received his token of thanks, cavalry soldiers charged into a crowd of demonstrators at St Peter’s Field, Manchester, killing 18 people in what became known as the Peterloo Massacre. The incident brought about chronic unemployment, food shortages worsened by the Corn Laws, and healthy demands for parliamentary reform sparked mass demonstrations throughout Britain.

On September 11, 1819, a requisition was presented to the magistrates of Hawick, requesting a public meeting for townsmen to express their sentiments “on the proceedings at the late Manchester massacre”.

The request was refused and the petition-makers pressed ahead with their own protest, the proceedings of which were forwarded to the editors of the *Carlisle Journal* and the *Kelso Mail* (Hawick not yet having its own newspapers).

“The times are every day becoming more ominous”, stated the protestors, while the *Journal* empathetically opined that “it little becomes the editor or proprietor of any public vehicle of mental communication, either to sleep at his post, or to skulk from his duty.” Sentiments that hold true in any age.

The Hawick manufacturers, however, managed to find new ways of skulking from their duties under the law by continuing to meet to fix and lower wages, under the softer guise of regulating “matters relative to their own trade”.

In April 1820, the national mood reached fever pitch when artisan workers, particularly weavers, sought to force the government’s hand by striking en masse and causing civil unrest – a period now known as the Radical War or the Scottish Insurrection. The landed

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Last week’s winner: ANGELA ARNOTT
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gentry, fearing revolutionary horrors, recruited local militia, and the government deployed an apparatus of spies, informers and agent provocateurs to stamp out the movement.

On April 1, the Committee of Organisation for Forming a Provisional Government placed placards around the streets of Glasgow, and eight days later, one of the first general strikes in western society saw 60,000 workers down tools on Clydeside. A further 300 armed men shut down all of Paisley's mills.

On April 3, work stopped in a wide area of central Scotland, and in a melee of disorderly events, around 40 insurrectionists marched towards the Carron Company ironworks, near Falkirk, to seize weapons, but while stopped at Bonnymuir they were confronted by a detachment of hussars.

Another small group from Strathaven marched to meet a rumoured larger force, but were warned of an ambush and dispersed. Militia taking prisoners to Greenock jail were attacked by local people and the prisoners released – costing several lives.

Closer to home, Walter Scott (later that month to become a sir), held dissonant views on the embers of revolution, urging his Border neighbours to: "... appeal at this crisis to the good sense and loyalty of the lower orders. All you have to do is sound the men, and mark down those who seem zealous. They will perhaps have to fight with the pitmen and colliers of Northumbria for defence of their firesides, for those literal blackguards are got beyond the management of their own people."

The insurrection ultimately failed and when the strikes ended, employers victimised those who had been involved. The leaders did not get off as lightly, as 88 were charged with sedition and treason. Of that

number, 20 were sentenced to penal transportation and three were executed: James Wilson, of Strathaven, was singled out as a leader of the march there and at Glasgow was hanged and decapitated; John Baird and Andrew Hardie, arrested at Bonnymuir, were executed at Stirling after making short defiant speeches.

An absolute pardon of the participants of the Radical War would not be realised until August 10, 1835, while a plaque now marks the site of the Battle of Bonnymuir.

At the suggestion of Sir Walter Scott, unemployed weavers from the west of Scotland were put to work on paving a track round Salisbury Crags, in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, adjoining Arthur's Seat. The path is still known as the Radical Road.

Scott was also the architect of a diversionary visit, in 1822, of King George IV, the first visit of a reigning monarch to Scotland in nearly two centuries – the impact of which increased the popularity of the monarchy, elevated the tartan kilt to become part of Scotland's national identity, and inaugurated the idea of modern Highland societies and games.

Although the Radical War was not fought on Teri shores, the Hawick stockingmakers remained loyal to the cause. And so while revolution was put on the back burner elsewhere, 1822 was to prove to be a combustible year for Hawick – more on which, next week.

Credit: History of Hawick From Earliest Times To 1832 (1901), Robert Murray; Hawick Archaeological Society Transactions (1934, 1953, 1960, 1984), James Edgar, B. F. A. Wilson, William T. Peacock, Dr. Clifford Gulvin; Reflections o' Hawick (2015) – The Woollen Trade, Gordon Macdonald; A Hawick Word Book (2023 ed.), Professor Douglas Scott; The Scottish general strike of 1820 (2020).

■ SPONSORED CONTENT



The festive season brings cherished moments, but remember those less fortunate, says local MP John Lamont

Coming together for a joyous Christmas

Christmas is approaching and I hope you have wonderful plans to spend time with family and friends this year.

It's the best time of year to come together and share cherished moments with loved ones.

The festive season is also the best antidote to the cold, wet and windy weather. We're warmed not only by Christmas dinners, but the joy of relaxing to spend time with those closest to us.

Although, while we're having a fantastic time, it is important to remember those less fortunate, people who don't have it so good, and the many emergency workers who will not get much of a chance to take time off.

For many people, Christmas can be a lonely and isolated time. Please remember to reach out to your elderly relatives and neighbours. And if you or someone you know is really struggling, then please seek help immediately.

It can also be a difficult time of year for vulnerable people and families living in poverty. If you can, please take the chance to give generously to others so they can have a brighter

Christmas than they're anticipating.

At this time of year, I also want to thank the many NHS staff, police officers, firefighters and other emergency workers who give up their own Christmas breaks to keep us safe and look after others. Their dedication and commitment is remarkable.

It's also important to recognise the amazing sacrifices of the brave men and women in our armed forces. All year round, they serve our country, putting their own lives second to doing their duty. They deserve our utmost gratitude.

I also want to thank everyone who will be working hard over the festive period to provide services to the public. We should never overlook all the small businesses and hospitality workers who won't be able to spend much of the holidays with their own families because they are busy making sure the rest of us enjoy our break.

Over the festive period, my office will be closed so my team can get a well-deserved break but I can still be contacted by email in an emergency.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year when it comes!

Let's all look forward

together to a brighter future for the Borders, Scotland and the UK in 2024.

– JOHN LAMONT

John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

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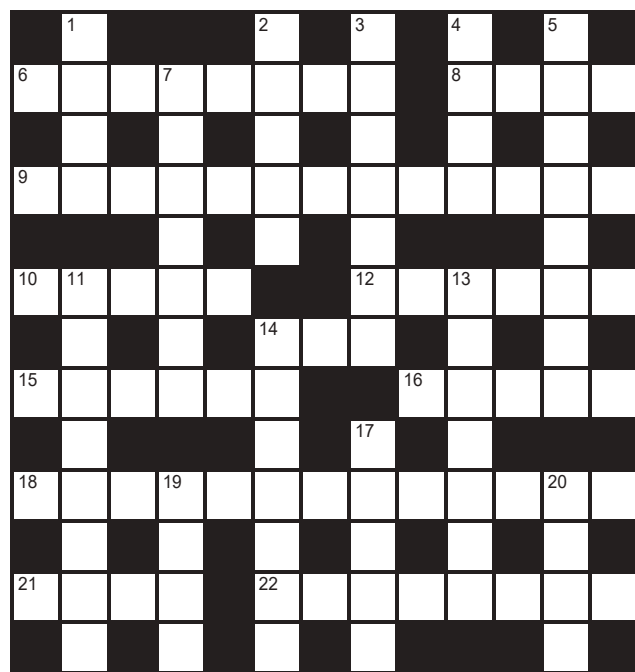


ACROSS

- 6 News group (3,5)
- 8 They woo ewes (4)
- 9 Business organisers (13)
- 10 Tiny amount (5)
- 12 Ailing (6)
- 14 Stroke gently (3)
- 15 Paperless messages (1-5)
- 16 Past Peruvians (5)
- 18 Diverse (13)
- 21 Thin stratum (4)
- 22 Poems err about those who ruled Rome (8)

DOWN

- 1 Flimsy (4)
- 2 Take as one's own (5)
- 3 The Orient (3,4)



- 4 At liberty (4)
- 5 Label rum wrongly for a drop stopper (8)
- 7 Cocktail (7)
- 11 Noised abroad (8)
- 13 Vanquish (7)
- 14 Seats of reason (7)
- 17 Raindrop sounds (5)
- 19 Domesticated (4)
- 20 Affected manners (4)

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					9		4	
2			8					9
		8		7			5	2
			4	9				
		1				7		
			6	5	7			
6				4				5
	8				5	3		6
	7						2	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 6 Chew, 7 Mahatmas, 9 Waterloo, 10 Rats, 11 Wraps, 12 Belief, 14 Withal, 16 Aglow, 18 Halt, 20 Midwives, 21 Free will, 22 Each. **Down:** 1 The Arrow, 2 Sweet potatoes, 3 Smell, 4 Throne, 5 Starting lines, 8 Ant, 12 Bel, 13 Florence, 15 Armpit, 17 Oddly, 19 Air.

6	1	9	2	3	5	4	7	8
4	3	5	8	1	7	6	9	2
2	7	8	9	4	6	5	1	3
7	9	4	6	5	3	2	8	1
3	8	6	1	9	2	7	5	4
1	5	2	4	7	8	3	6	9
9	2	3	7	6	1	8	4	5
5	6	1	3	8	4	9	2	7
8	4	7	5	2	9	1	3	6

Quiz

By Brian Tait, Archaeological Society

- 1 What is the main colour of the surfacing of the Active Travel Network along the River Teviot?
- 2 Where is the window in the flood scheme with the Slitrig Water engraved on it?
- 3 When was Dakers Place built and who is it named after?
- 4 When did the Mosstroopers carry out their three peaks challenge (Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis) in 24 hours?
- 5 When was the Allan Water supply opening ceremony?

Answers: Page 32

Word is ...

By Douglas Scott

MOOL

Also be written "muil", "moold" and other variants, this word can mean mould, but more often soil or dust.

It was specifically applied to the earth of a grave. Poet John Halliday wrote that "The mool is heavy on the heart that loved us true an' free" and "I'll fight wi' the bodie an' cangle [argue], Till I get him laid i' the mou'd".

Henry Scott Riddell used the word several times in his translation of parts of the Bible into Lowland Scots.

Teviotdale take to the road in silverware bid

Harriers

Teviotdale Harriers continue their club events tomorrow (Saturday) with the Menzies Trophy races.

There's silverware up for grabs in eight road-races covering age groups from seniors to under-11s.

Senior men vie for custody of the Menzies and Oliver trophies, run as a combined sealed handicap and scratch race respectively. The holders are Rory Anderson and Thomas McAskill.

Under-15/under-17 girls and women run for the Carruthers Trophy with a sealed handicap. The holder is Kirsty Hughes. The girls and women also bid for glory in the William Spence Trophy race, from scratch, with Dianne Lauder the holder.

There's also two trophies for under-15/under-17 boys: the Shiel Cup, a sealed handicap, and a scratch race for the John Hamilton Trophy. Robert Wood and Charles Mackay are the respective holders.

Under-11/under-13 boys and girls have normal handicap events. Connor Davidson won the MGM Cup last time, and Eilidh Hart is holder of the W. G. Robertson Trophy.

■ The Harriers' 10-11

years girls and 8-9 years boys finished in the top team placings in the Borders XC Series event at Peebles on Sunday, November 26.

With 20 points, they finished runners-up to Gala Harriers on 18. Teri team counters were: 2, Rosa Mabon; 6, Holly Mabon; 12, Amber Smith. Eilidh Hart was 17th.

Connor Davidson was first in the 8-9 years and Hugo Armstrong sixth.

Callan Michie was 16th in the boys' 10-11 years section; while Dane Smith was 13th in the 12-13 years category.

Freya Michie finished third in the 8-9 years group. Sarah Macleod, 14-15 years, was seventh, and Alana Hart, 12-13 years, was 24th.

The senior men, competing over a 6.5k-course, were: 12, Mark Young; 25, Michael Davidson. Other placings in their age categories: 40-plus: 4, David Beattie; 21, Ross Armstrong. Morag Michie, 40-plus was 20th. 50+: 29, Paul Lockie.

The 10-11 years girls' good form continued at Spittal last Sunday with 16 points, which again earned them second spot behind Gala Harriers on nine.

Team counters were: 1, Rosa Mabon (fifth overall from 41 runners); 7, Holly Mabon; 8, Amber Smith. Eilidh Hart was tenth.

Packing well in the boys' 8-9 years, Connor Davidson was first for the third successive time in the series, and tenth overall from 86 runners; 3, Harrison Combe; 4, Hugo Armstrong; to finish top team. Harry Brown was seventh.

Other category placings were: 10-11 years: 10, Callan Michie. 12-13 years: 6, Greg Watson; 11, Dane Smith. 14-15 years: 7, Oliver Levell.

Jessica Smith came home in first place in the 14-15 years, 23rd overall from 86 runners.

Other juniors in their age categories were: girls 8-9 years: 4, Freya Michie; 7, Isla McHutchison. Girls 12-13 years: 19, Alana Hart; 20, Chloe Bell.

The senior men were third from 12 teams. Counters in the field of 117 were: 6, Rory Anderson; 11, Mark Young; 21, Michael Davidson.

Other age category placings were: 40-plus: 13, Ross Armstrong (44th overall); 30, Billy Caswell. 50-plus: 33, Alan Coltman. 60+: 6, Derek McHugh.

Morag Michie, 40-plus, finished 13th (43rd overall from 80 runners). Elaine Tennant was 25th in the 50-plus category.

The eight-race series continues at Paxton House in Berwickshire on January 7.

Bowling

Last Wednesday, the Teviotdale senior gents started well at home to East Lothian, leading 35-26 after seven of the 17-end league encounter.

After 14 ends, the hosts were still in the ascendancy, albeit their lead had been reduced to 64-57.

However, over the concluding three ends it was East Lothian who scored the most shots, adding 15 to the home side's eight to snatch an unlikely 72-72 draw.

Best for Teviotdale were Alan Peffers, Robert Charters, Charlie Patterson and Colin Sutherland (skip). Details: N. Amos 13, A. Russell 19. K. McCredie 11, G. Robertson 19, G. Smith 24, A. Burt 27, C. Sutherland 24, W. W. Wood 7.

Both sides were fielding a fifth squad and the Bobby McDonald-led rink lost 16-10 to the D. Pryde quartet.

■ The men's Saturday team fell 27 shots to 17 behind after

seven of their 21-end fixture at Dundee at the weekend.

Teviotdale then closed the gap to 46-40 after 14 ends, before drawing level with the hosts at 57-all after 18 ends.

With every thing to play for it was the Dundonians who went on to secure a 66 shots to 64 victory much to the disappointment of the visitors.

Top squad for Teviotdale was Bryan Hall, Duncan Macdougall, Norman Amos and Ryan Brady (skip). Details: G. Ewart 13, G. Smith 15. R. Russell 15, A. Brady 15. B. Smith 29, C. Macdougall 14. M. Bondi 9, R. Brady 20.

■ On Saturday, the ladies found themselves 14-19 in arrears after seven of their 21-end league fixture at home to Dalkeith.

Continuing in a closely-fought vein throughout, the match then saw the visitors edge a shot more in front at 36-42 after 14 ends.

Seven ends later, Dalkeith had increased their lead slightly again, taking the spoils

by 65 shots to Teviotdale's 58.

The Teries' top squad comprised Dinah Crozier, Sonya Roddan, Marion Pearson and Julie Forrest (skip). Details: J. Dickey 19, S. McDougall 24. J. Forrest 20, S. Johnstone 20. I. Bennett 19, S. Wilson 21.

■ The first round of games in tomorrow's Teviot Tyres Triples, sponsored by Colin Easton, will get under way at 10am. Section one - G. Brownlee, I. Bennett, R. Turnbull (Tweedbank) and R. Paxton. Section two - R. Brady, A. Brady, F. Clyne and D. Macdougall. Section three - R. Charters, D. Reid, C. Sutherland and D. Johnstone (Tweedbank). Section four - A. Leifer, C. W. Patterson, M. Pearson and K. Lyle.

■ The Wilton club's festive dominoes (singles and pairs) will be held in the clubrooms on Thursday, December 21. The following Thursday there will be a progressive tournament. Scratch time for all competitions is 7.30pm.

New champion Clark has to hold his nerve in final

Snooker

By GARY HEATLY
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

David Clark held his nerve with two important breaks in the deciding frame to win the final of the Hawick Snooker Championship on Saturday and take the title for the first time.

The event, featuring 16 players, took place at the Hawick Conservative Club and was played in a knock-out format.

David and Lee McAllister – the 2022 champion – both made it safely through their round one and quarter-final matches before the former played Calum Shields in the last four in the top half of the draw.

David navigated past that one 2-0 and, in the bottom half of the draw, Lee got the better of Mick Hogg in his semi-final 2-1 to set up a repeat of last year's final showdown.

"I had a good start in the final taking a 2-0 lead, but it's never that easy against Lee as he fought back to win the next two frames and sent it into a decider," David, the 53-year-old who is a

member of the Hawick Burns Club and the Hawick Con Club but plays his league snooker for Selkirk Con Club, told *The Hawick Paper*.

"In the decider, I was happy with my performance, having two early breaks of 43 and 25 which, in the end, set me on the way and were enough to help me win the title."

After the 3-2 final loss 48-year-old Lee from the Hawick Con Club reflected: "I had a tough game against Davy Amos in the quarter-final, scraping through 2-1 and he always saves his best game for me.

"I thought David Clark played very well all day and he was the best player during the tournament.

"He deserved his win in the final and I was delighted for him as it was his first Hawick championship and he's a good friend of mine."

Dougie Rae and Davy Amos organise the event yearly and



David Clark is the new Hawick snooker champion

it was once again a great success.

New champion David and Lee led the praise for the duo for putting the event on as well as thanking sponsors Ricky Bangar from the Punjabi Grill, Net McAllister from So.925 and Muirhall Energy.

Lee had the highest break of 60 on the day.

■ Border league week 14 results (Thursday, December 7) – Hawick Burns B 5, Hawick Burns C 1; Selkirk Con B 3, Hawick Con C 3; Hawick Con D 5, Hawick Burns A 1; Hawick Burns D 2, Selkirk Con A 4; Kelso Legion 2, Hawick Con A 4.

Breaks of 20 and above – Mick Hogg (Hawick Burns B); Michael Jeffrey and Darren Williams (both Hawick Con D); Mark Riddell (Hawick Burns A); David Clark, Fraser Kelly and Paddy Crolla (all Selkirk Con A); Davy Amos and Lee McAllister (both Hawick Con A).

League standings – Hawick Burns B 47, Hawick Con A 45, Hawick Con D 45, Selkirk Con A 43, Hawick Burns A 41, Hawick Burns C 41, Hawick Con C 41, Selkirk Con B 41, Hawick Burns D 40, Kelso Legion 36.

Nichol keeps up top form

Horse racing



By HILARY MACTAGGART
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

In-form Teri jockey Craig Nichol added another win to his tally after riding the Pauline Robson-trained Doyen Du Bar to a 7-1 victory in the maiden hurdle at Ayr on Monday.

There was also success for Jedburgh jockey Callum Bewley, who won the two-and-a-half-mile handicap hurdle on 33-1 chance Better Getalong.

On the all-weather at Wolverhampton on Sunday, Teri trainer Iain Jardine saddled favourite Wee Fat Mac to win the six-furlong handicap.

Flat jockey Jason Hart and four-time Group One winner Highfield Princess didn't manage a fairytale win in Sunday's Longines Hong Kong Sprint, but picked up a £55,378 prize after finishing a creditable sixth, just four lengths behind the winner.

After a wide draw, she was always handy and stayed on bravely in the closing stages.

"They went harder than they did in the Breeders' Cup last year, but to be fair, the last 150 yards, when I thought she was going to be completely swallowed up, she kept finding enough to finish in the money.

"She's a credit and kept battling."

Hart has a close affinity with the mare, who could be retired.

"She's been great for my career," said Hart.

Three local horses are vying for Scottish Racing's Horse of the Month.

Musselburgh winner Cracking Destiny from Ewan Whillans' stable and Kelso victor Eden Mill, trained by his uncle Donald Whillans, for the local TD9 racing syndicate are bidding for public votes to take the title.

The Iain Jardine-trained Half Shot is the third finalist.

It's time to check over the gear

Angling

With both the trout and salmon seasons now finished it is the time of year to make sure everything is cleaned, and any repairs done before the tackle is stowed away for the winter.

It is amazing the amount of dirt a line collects over a season. A simple wash in a light detergent and run through a soft dry cloth will add a yard or two to your casting distance.

There are also numerous line cleaners on the market which also keeps it nice and supple.

Rod rings should be checked for any signs of

wear and tear. It only takes a little crack to ruin a fly line.

■ The salmon spawning below the James Thomson Bridge attracted a lot of attention. Each pair of fish would lay some 15,000 eggs.

A tiny proportion will return in five years or so as adults. How they return to the river of their birth is one of nature's mysteries.

Whereas salmon only spawn once, sea trout, on the other hand, can do so multiple times.

■ The grayling season is under way. It takes a dedicated angler to fish at this time of year.

Wading in ice-cold water, coupled with the very cold air temperatures,

all make for trying conditions.

Since the season started on December 1 the water level has been up and down and not really settled to allow good fishing conditions.

It will be interesting to see what effect, if any, the low water and high water temperatures in the summer has had on grayling numbers.

Grayling fishing is gaining in popularity and the Teviot has some excellent fishing.

■ For the fly-tier, Christmas is an opportunity to gather some of the tinsels used to decorate Christmas trees or wrapping of parcels.

Something a bit

different catches the eye and can lead to a new pattern.

This is also the time to refurbish fly boxes. Although most anglers will have several fly boxes, they tend to use the same few patterns, but a range of patterns is essential to cover all conditions.

■ The social section annual general meeting will be held in the clubrooms on Friday, January 5, at 7pm.

The Angling Club annual general meeting will take place in the Evergreen Hall on Friday, January 19, at 7pm.

■ A reminder that all salmon returns should be in by now. Tight lines for 2024.

– FDW

Suddon in the swing

Golf

Thirty-two Hawick club members entered the D. Charters Electrical Services Ltd Winter League competition at the weekend:

Results: Division one – 1, Chris Burns, 41 points (bih). Division two – 1, Keith Suddon, 43 (bih); 2, Alex Caldwell, 43. Division three – 1, Elaine Millar, 41.

There were five twos – Alex Caldwell (2), Alan Reid, Walter Tait and Keith Turnbull.

Nearest the pins – 1st – Jack McColm; 8th – Keith Suddon; 13th – Walter Tait; 18th – Alan Reid. Thanks to pin sponsors Craig Oldham, John Mallin, Scott Walker and John Lyle.

PICTURE: DERICK THOMSON



Lewis Robertson was red-carded at Wilton Lodge Park



Matty Linton pulled a goal back for Waverley just after the break in cup defeat

Hard work pays off for lads

Salvesen CFC 1
Hawick Youth 2010 2

After their last two games were cancelled Hawick travelled to Forrester High School to face Salvesen and returned with the points.

Hawick were first to threaten after Calum Stevenson was found by Carter James, but his shot was always rising and went over the bar.

In a rare break Salvesen opened the scoring after an innocuous challenge in the box was deemed to be a penalty and the home player fired it past keeper Cullen Sutherland.

Playing some lovely possession football, Hawick grabbed the leveller midway through the half.

The returning Jay McCracken switched the play wide to Mikey Smith. He drove along the byeline and into the box and cut it back for Stevenson and his shot found the roof of the net.

Hawick gained the lead just before half-time, and it was a goal fitting to win any match.

Hudson MacLeod gained possession in midfield and played the ball to McCracken, who took a touch and rifled the ball into the corner.

The second period saw Salvesen on top with Hawick struggling to keep possession.

The away team were defending well and there were few chances created.

Hawick were breaking sporadically and Koby Robertson had a chance to put the game to bed but blasted wide.

Salvesen were going for broke to gain at least a point and their goalkeeper ventured up field for a last-minute corner, but Sutherland grabbed the ball and the referee blew for time.

A hard-earned three points with a match against unbeaten Penicuik to come at Volunteer Park on Sunday.

Best for Hawick was Carter James who put in a great shift up front.

United 'turn the screw', as Waverley crash out of cup

Selkirk Victoria 1
Hawick United 9

Hawick United turned on the style with a resounding Border Amateur B League win.

Kevin Strathdee got United's first in the seventh minute, and after Selkirk had equalised, Strathdee scored again.

Before the break Liam Lavery put Victoria into further arrears.

In the second period Strathdee went on to complete his hat-trick and further goals came from Ross Scott (2), Aaron Swailes and Martin Goldie (2).

Hat-trick ace Kevin Strathdee told us: "It was a good win for us.

"In the first half we did okay but in the second we turned the screw, knocked the ball about well and scored some goals. We could well have won by more had it not been for the young Selkirk keeper who pulled off some great saves."

He added: "All our subs got some time, too, and played well.

"And getting a big win like this was a good way to finish the year."

Hawick Waverley 1
Duns 6

Hawick Waverley got off to a nightmare start by conceding two goals in the opening eight minutes of this South of Scotland Cup second-round tie.

Duns added another before the interval.

With 11 minutes of the second period gone, Waverley reduced the leeway when Matty Linton found the net with a header.

Within three minutes of this, though, the Teries were down to ten men after Lewis Robertson was sent off.

Duns then put the game to bed by netting two more counters.

Waverley co-manager Craig McCutcheon commented: "I felt optimistic before the game and thought we were in with a good chance of getting a win.

"However, it turned out to be a bad day at the office for us. Nothing really went right. We conceded two very early goals, had a man sent off and lost our defenders Davis Hope and Jordan Yardley through injuries."

Santa comes calling at Youth 2015's party



Hawick Youth FC 2015s had their Christmas party at the Auld Baths, where coaches Craig Girvan, Kevin Strathdee, Malcolm Cooper and Dean Fry put on a morning of games and entertainment for them. They also enjoyed snacks and refreshments before being visited by a very special guest who presented them with a training/away shirt and a selection box. The players and coaches are indebted to the parents for their support, as well as sponsors Think Fitness 4 Less, Hume Roofing & Property Services, G10 Sports, Dragon Suites, Tofts & Kelly, Nisa Dickson Street, CCT Motors, JCK Base, Jamie and Nicky Barker, and Hawick Sings

BORDER AMATEUR B LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Highfields Utd	16	12	0	4	81	33	36
Eymouth Utd	13	11	0	2	70	15	33
HAWICK UTD	12	8	1	3	46	21	25
Leithen Rovers	11	8	0	3	31	15	24
Ancrum	13	7	1	5	42	27	22
St Boswells	13	7	0	6	37	30	21
Kelso Thistle	15	6	2	7	48	46	20
Gala FRA	13	6	1	6	36	34	19
Gala Hotspur	12	3	2	7	22	40	11
Jed Legion	13	3	2	8	25	55	11
Coldstream Ams	12	3	1	8	25	55	10
Lauder	13	3	1	9	16	57	10
Selkirk Victoria	12	1	1	10	17	68	4

PICTURE: DERICK THOMSON



Kenny Aitchison

Albert snap up 'proven scorer'

Hawick Royal Albert are "raring to go" for tomorrow's match at Livingston United – the third meeting of the two clubs this season, **John Slorance writes.**

Royalists have won one encounter, with the other being a draw, and have bolstered their squad for the latest clash against United.

Apart from a closed-doors game against Heriot-Watt University at Riccarton Campus in midweek, the Albert have been left kicking their heels recently, with four matches postponed on the bounce due to unplayable ground conditions.

Talking to *The Hawick Paper* earlier this week, Albert manager Kenny Aitchison said: "It's been a bit of a blow having had our last few games put off, but we're well prepared for Saturday's match."

"Training has been enjoyable and the players are raring to go."

He continued: "We haven't got a game next week [December 23] but the following Saturday we have Linton Hotspur at home."

"Both the Livingston and Linton games are winnable and we'll be looking for six points."

Adding, Aitchison said: "I've strengthened the squad with new signing Sean Aitchison, who is no relation by the way, and has been training with us."

"Sean played for Leith Athletic and is a proven goal-scorer."

Kick-off in this East of Scotland Third Division match at Station Park is 1.30pm.

■ The Border Amateur League has shut down for the festive break. Matches will resume on Saturday, January 6.

Gary Moffat clears the danger as Legion secure a league draw

Stewart McFarlane measures up his next move at Brunton Park

Robertson hails Brunton Park men in 'gutting' loss

Hawick Legion 2 Langholm Legion 2

By JOHN SLORANCE
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

A goal in the dying minutes of the game denied Hawick Legion their first Border Amateur A League win of the season.

It was a bitter blow for the Brunton Park men who appeared destined to lay this bogey to rest, one which has haunted them since early August.

Although matters were to improve greatly in the second half, the opening exchanges matched the bleak and miserable weather.

And on a heavy pitch, both sides struggled to make an impact, with goalmouth incidents few and far between.

Hawick's Joe Wylie had a shot kept out by Langholm number one Alistair Little, and Euan Gray came close to scoring with a dipping free-kick.

At the other end, teenage home keeper Calum Renwick, a recent signing from Hawick United, put up the shutters with excellent saves from Daniel Winter and Ryan Johnstone, while Ben Borthwick found the net

with a header only for his effort to be chalked off for offside.

With a minute of the second half gone, the game burst into life when Winter, taking advantage of some poor marking, put the visitors in front with a header from a Craig Cuthbert free-kick.

Two minutes later it was all square courtesy of substitute Liam Hunter, on for the injured Calder Law, who slotted away a Wylie cross.

Hunter, in turn, almost notched a second when firing wide after running on to a pass from Wylie.

Although underfoot

BORDER AMATEUR A LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Duns Amateurs	10	8	0	2	42	6	24
Langlee Ams	9	7	2	0	37	20	23
Greenlaw	13	7	2	4	34	28	23
Earlston R	10	6	1	3	29	21	19
Langholm Leg	14	5	2	7	35	40	17
WAVERLEY	11	4	4	3	26	26	16
Chirside Utd	14	4	4	6	33	34	16
Biggar United	10	4	0	6	29	34	12
Tweedmouth Ams	10	3	1	6	24	37	10
Tweeddale Rovers	11	3	0	8	19	39	9
LEGION	9	0	1	8	12	34	1

conditions were deteriorating, the pace of the game had picked up.

The hosts were gaining the upper hand and after having two net-bound shots blocked during a

goalmouth scramble, Wylie was then denied a goal by the woodwork when his well-struck drive hit the bar.

Hawick's pressure eventually paid off when the ever-dangerous Wylie polished off a move with a fine finish.

Victory appeared to be within Hawick's grasp but Langholm had other ideas and with a minute of normal time remaining, snatched a last-gasp equaliser through Cole Hamilton.

Giving his thoughts on the game, Legion manager Jory Robertson told *The Hawick Paper*: "Okay, we got our first league point of the season but I felt it was like a

defeat as we deserved to win."

"It was gutting not to have got the win and I feel for the players as they gave their all."

He added: "I was pleased with the way the boys reacted after going a goal down at the start of the second half by scoring right away."

"And after what had been a scrappy first half, we came on to a game and played well."

HAWICK LEGION: C. Renwick, J. Turnbull, B. Murdoch, G. Moffat, F. Gordon-Woolley, A. Oldham, C. Law, C. Murray, E. Gray, S. McFarlane, J. Wylie. Subs: M. Roberts, R. Olival, C. Hope, J. Hyslop, L. Hunter.

Campbells and Barrie sponsor the Legion



Legion committeeman Kevin Cannon receives match balls from club sponsors Amine Belhaffaf, of Campbells Newsagents, and Barrie Knitwear's Alan Renton



Linden deserved at least a point

Hawick Linden 22
Dunbar 35

By GARY ALEXANDER
 sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Rugby can be a cruel game and for Hawick Linden that was never more so on Saturday as they were left with no points in spite of a heroic effort.

They lost Kieran Murphy to a horrific injury and playing over 50 minutes with only 14 men after Liam Sharkey was red-carded.

They led by more than a converted score with 15 minutes remaining of the East Region Division Two match but thereafter three seven pointers from Dunbar, the final one with the last play of the game, painted a false picture of the game.

After Linden sent the kick-off straight out, their forwards set the tone for scrummage time with two great shunts, the second winning a penalty, the first of many in that phase.

An offside penalty gave the Royal Blues an early chance to open the scoring but farcically no kicking tee was at pitch side and the relatively easy kick was missed.

Dunbar went wide after a lineout on ten minutes and looked set to score but a great double tackle by Jordan Brockie and John Frew saved the day.

A score was only momentarily delayed as the Linden lost the lineout and a neat grubber kick unlocked the home defence for a converted try.

The Teri pack were dominating the scrums and, from one, Aiden Fairbairn hit up in the centre. The ball went wide to Frew whose quick feet in little space got



It takes two Dunbar opponents to stop Greg Scott's rampaging run



Jack Wilson has a battle on his hands to make progress

PICTURES: DERICK THOMSON

him almost to the line and scrum-half Euan Wood sneaked over from the ruck. Murphy's conversion tied the scores.

On 24 minutes came Murphy's horror injury as his ankle was caught in a double tackle when changing direction.

The seriousness was immediately obvious as both teams moved well away from the scene and the match was delayed for 35 minutes while he was attended by physios and then paramedics.

On the resumption a dropped ball by Dunbar allowed Craig Glendinning to kick ahead but a knock on ended the danger.

A crazy 60 seconds saw the Linden down to 13. Captain Tom Huggan saw yellow for backchat and a minute later Sharkey was shown a straight red for a comment to the referee.

That wasn't the end of the

TENNENT'S EAST REGION LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Dunbar	11	9	2	0	500	201	45
Penicuik	11	9	2	0	405	251	45
Dalkeith	9	8	1	0	345	117	38
Corstorphine	11	5	6	0	267	261	26
Livingston	10	4	6	0	260	292	20
QUINS	11	4	7	0	252	388	19
LINDEN	12	3	9	0	216	355	15
Duns	11	1	10	0	153	533	4

cards as another minute on and Dunbar's wing forward was also sent for a ten-minute break for the same offence.

In a match that saw several penalties marched on ten metres, neither side seemed capable of keeping their mouths shut when they needed to do so. As one former Linden coach once said at half-time after a verbally indisposed first-half, "All I want to hear in the second half is, yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir." Both teams would have benefitted from following such advice.

Meanwhile back at the rugby, a Wood box-kick had Dunbar in trouble and Graham Colville won a breakdown penalty.

Linden opted for a scrum which led to further penalties and a yellow for one of the visitors' props. Another go-forward scrum then saw Colville plunge over and Brockie struck an impressive conversion to send the Linden into half-time 14-7 ahead.

On 49 minutes the Linden then lost Wood to a head injury following a high tackle which perhaps could have resulted in a higher sanction than the penalty that Brockie sent between the posts for a ten-point lead.

The Royal Blues couldn't consolidate as Dunbar ran back a clearing kick and a searing break from deep led to their hooker going over for a converted try.

Colville then sent a

penalty to touch and, from the lineout, the veteran was on hand to dive over to put his team 22-14 in front with 16 minutes remaining.

Yet again the lead wasn't consolidated as the Linden ran from their own 22 and a dropped ball was pounced on for a seven pointer making it a one-point game.

Into the last ten minutes, Dunbar ran again from deep for a thrilling converted try that put them in front and had their large support roaring with delight.

The Linden heroes weren't for giving up and threw everything at chasing a potential winning score only to lose the ball in midfield.

Dunbar hacked on and went under the posts to deny the Linden even a losing bonus point which they truly deserved at the very least.

The effort shown by the Linden, especially when

down to 14, was absolutely immense.

All who pulled on the shirt deserve credit and, without singling out individuals, the pack, and front five in particular, were outstanding completely dominating every scrum against a much bigger pack.

While the end result was hugely disappointing, the most important thing is that Kieran Murphy makes a full recovery and to whom everyone sends their best wishes.

Thanks are due to those who kept him comfortable ahead of the paramedics' arrival, with a special thanks to both Aimee Spalding and the physio from Dunbar.

HAWICK LINDEN: J. Brockie; M. Brownrigg, C. Glendinning, K. Murphy, J. Frew; R. Graham, E. Wood; J. White, R. Ali, F. Turnbull, A. Fairbairn, J. Wilson, C. Gracie, T. Huggan, L. Sharkey; Subs: R. Borthwick, G. Colville, S. Tipping, M. Boyle, G. Scott, J. Ford.

'Tough shift' for call-off-hit Quins at Corstorphine

Corstorphine 52
Hawick Harlequins 0

By GARY HEATLY
 sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick Harlequins captain Liam Smith feels there has been "more positives than negatives" so far this season despite a pretty tough recent run in East League Division Two.

The Quins head into the

festive break sixth in the eight-team table with four wins and seven losses from the 11 matches they have played.

On their day since promotion from East League Division Three they have shown that they can compete with the other sides in their new division, but often away from home they have struggled due to lack of availability, while

injuries have also hampered things.

The Quins will head into the break off the back of losses to Dunbar, Penicuik, Livingston and Corstorphine and last won on October 21 when they were victorious away from home in the derby against Hawick Linden 23-13.

As a result, head coach Deek Armstrong and his charges will enjoy a rest in

the coming weeks before returning for three final league games and a tilt at the National Shield.

They will be back in action on January 13 with a game at home to Linden, and reflecting on Saturday's heavy loss to Corstorphine in Edinburgh.

Quins skipper Liam Smith told *The Hawick Paper*: "It was a tough shift for us with a few late call-

offs forcing us to adjust the team.

"The conditions on the day were very tough and we couldn't really get going at all, but we all stuck in right to the end.

"It has been an up and down season, but I would say there have been a lot more positives than negatives so far.

"The last few weeks have been a struggle with

small numbers at training meaning we have not been able to do much which definitely has had an impact at the weekends.

"But we are now aiming to regroup after the break and to get some positive results from the remaining league games and in the Shield.

"The boys will continue to work hard and stick together."

Drumlanrig seal Keown glory

By GARY HEATLY
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Drumlanrig's Warriors team and Stirches school were the winners of the Keown Trophy and Chrysties Quaich respectively on finals day last Friday.

Primary six/seven teams from local schools have been battling it out for the Keown Trophy and primary four/five teams for the Chrysties Quaich for a number of weeks now.

Last Friday saw round five of the action taking place in Wilton Lodge Park with a healthy crowd in attendance, before the finalists were decided and then finals played.

The Keown Trophy has been going more than 50 years after a young Kiwi named George Keown arrived in Hawick and the tournament was set-up based on participation and fun and running and passing, rather than winning at all costs.

The Chrysties Quaich now has a similar ethos for the younger ones.

Drumlanrig, the holders, had two squads in the Keown Trophy, but when the primary seven year group from the school was hit by illness last week it resulted in a number of players missing the finals day.

The Warriors and Terriers squads combined to take to the field to play a strong Wilton team in the final under the Warriors name.

"It was a fantastic game played in great spirits," Gary Johnstone, who coaches Drumlanrig alongside his dad John, told *The Hawick Paper*.

"The skill level and commitment was commendable in cold and wet conditions and Drumlanrig went in front with Wilton levelling up.

"Drumlanrig then took a 2-1 lead into half-time and the score remained unchanged for much of the second half with both teams defending well.

"With a few minutes left on the clock Drumlanrig crossed the whitewash for a 3-1 victory.

"Both sets of players – often team-mates on a Sunday at Hawick Minis – showed great sportsmanship and appreciation towards the referee and it was good to see



the values of the game being upheld.

"The Warriors captain, Parker Johnstone, lifted the trophy to the delight of his team-mates and, as coaches, we were delighted to have

two teams playing in this year's Keown Trophy and to see all players enjoying themselves while playing the sport we all love."

Graham Hogg, the Hawick rugby development officer,

added: "It was a really good final in the Keown Trophy, and congratulations to the Drumlanrig and Wilton players."

In the final of the Chrysties Quaich,

Drumlanrig Bears took on Stirches.

"Earlier in the afternoon, Drumlanrig Bears won the match between the two sides in the round-five clash, but later on in the final Stirches

managed to turn the tables in a cracking final where both teams gave it their all," Hogg explained.

"There were some great tries on show and also strong teamwork and

as Stirches bag Chrysties title

PICTURES: DERICK THOMSON



Keown Trophy winners, Drumlanrig, back row from left, Calan Pender-Mills, Ralfie Legge, Flynn Robson and Oliver Wight. Middle, Seth Beattie, Max Vevers, Ollie Lyall, Parker Johnstone, Joshua Harris and Ollie Turnbull. Front, Quinn Telfer, Harry Scott, Kerr Ferguson, Harry Drysdale and Ewan Smith



Keown Trophy runners-up, Wilton, back row from left, Lachlan Graham, Conor Young, Jake Huggan, Isaac Brown and Riley Gillespie. Front, Brogan Anderson, Rebecca Drysdale, Caelib Torrie, Blair Murphy and Ruairi Brisbane



Chrysties Quaich winners, Stirches, back row from left, Dusty Hedley, Jossy Hedley, Olly Colville, Jaxon Cowan, Lexi Notman and Logan Wilson. Front, Archie Butlin, Oliver Anderson, Scott Wilson and Max Hume. Also pictured are Keith Hedley from sponsors Chrysties Furnishing Centre, and Hawick RFC's Justin Tait, Finlay Douglas and Morgan Tait who helped with refereeing



Chrysties Quaich runners-up, Drumlanrig, back row from left, Harry Brown, Eirianwen Galbraith, Irvin Telfer and Finlay Mabon. Middle, Hector Rodgeron and Isaac McGuigan. Front, Kobe Richardson, Archie Hogg and Lachlan Galbraith

sportsmanship – just what the Keown Trophy and Chrysties Quaich are all about.”

Graham Colville, the Stirches coach, said: “I’m proud of the effort that

the players put in over the duration of the competition and at training.

“Their hard work eventually paid off against a very good Drumlanrig squad in the final, getting home ten

tries to eight in a brilliant match.”

Chrysties Furnishing Centre in Victoria Road have been great supporters of this event, and the firm’s Ryan Scott said: “Despite the cold

and wet weather last Friday, it was the standard of rugby that shone through, with the future stars of Hawick rugby showcasing their skills and fantastic sporting spirit.

“A special mention to all

who braved the elements and came along and supported this great event.”

Hogg concluded: “The weather has thrown up a few challenges this year, but I’d just like to take this

chance to thank all the players, referees, volunteers, coaches, teachers and others who have helped in recent weeks to complete the Keown Trophy and Chrysties Quaich for 2023.”



Every one of the Force squad played their part in securing a well-deserved championship win, with their dominance sure to deliver more success in the months and years ahead

Force's championship win delivers early Christmas joy

Melrose Storm 14
Hawick Force 24

By RORY BANNERMAN
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

On the 18th day of Christmas my true love – don't tell the wife – gave to me, a championship-winning Force squad.

Seventeen boys to men like 17-stoner Liam Graham, now a hard-to-stop brenger, who made several good tackles, too, and who has grown into some player.

Sixteen Ru MacLeods who was welcomed back into the side, with his new nickname of 'Kanga' after his trip down under, and his experience meant Hawick never lost a scrum on Friday.

Fifteen Eli Hamiltons, assured under a high ball, fast to think and never to be out run, he showed again why he is every inch a first team regular in the making.

Fourteen Sean McMichans, a winger whose tackle ratio has grown with every game and who the opposition rightly fear when charging with ball in hand.

Thirteen Justin Taits, as fiery on the ball as his shock of red hair predicts, once again he was too hot to handle for the opponents, replaced for the second half by equally effective James

Delaney, and both showing watching coach Douglas that if Messrs Armstrong and Mitchell ever falter they will be ready and able replacements.

Twelve drummers drumming signified the boots of centre Bailey Donaldson, a player who has given so much to Hawick rugby for years with unjustly insufficient reward, but the Force boys played to his tune here as he probed and kicked his side onwards drumming the opponents into the ground.

Eleven pipers piping was the sound of unsurprisingly more Teri supporters in the stand than home ones. They have been an invaluable addition to these Friday nights, like the inimitable Roy Cook, always there to support the team while piping out words of encouragement in smoke signals from the side.

Ten lords a leaping can only be the youthful Corbyn Cumming, who is imperious as he leaps at the lineout, winning far more ball than he is entitled to, along with Robbie Linton who plays anywhere that he is asked and in this lineout formation leapt successfully and combatively throughout.

Nine may be ladies dancing but stand-

BORDER JUNIOR LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
FORCE	9	8	1	0	320	119	41
Gala A	8	5	3	0	235	214	28
Kelso Sharks	8	5	3	0	227	177	26
Melrose Storm	9	4	5	0	203	178	25
Peebles Reds	8	3	5	0	146	230	20
Selkirk A	8	0	8	0	103	316	10

offs Owain Gray and (brilliantly returning) Cian Riddell danced round the opposition back row all night like they were not there. The flip-flop prince and the free shots host are half-backs in the mould of Colin Telfer, Colin Gass and Colin the Caterpillar.

The roles of the eight maids a milking fell to Aidan Redpath, Fraser Renwick and Sam Frizzell, who milked the broken play by tackling, jackaling and whacking their opposition into submission. Their play was the cream that rose to the top, as the Hawick side gradually found their feet and turned a 14-5 half-time deficit into a comfortable 24-14 victory.

There may be seven swans a swimming in the famous carol but on this rain-soaked river of a pitch sailed Ali Wear and Ben Scott. Wear kicked a pair of conversions and fielded accurately, while Scott made several telling breaks to set up tries for teammates. Both were serene on

top while paddling furiously underneath to ensure a victory.

The six geese a laying were the four try-scorers, each of whom assuredly laid the golden egg over the line to win the try count (against two interceptions for the hosts) and as usual Fergus Bell was twice on the scoresheet, along with other deserved scorers Frazer Anderson and Cian Riddell.

The five gold ringers of this Force side were cousins Fin Douglas and Glen Welsh who were both outstanding yet again, Northener Ryan Purvis who was brilliant with boot and secure in hand, together with Kenny and Regan Colville the grandfather and grandson ever-present, without whom this side could not possibly sparkle.

Four calling birds – if they will excuse the colloquialism – were wives, mothers and girlfriends of Messrs Bell, Gray, Donaldson and league-winning coach Landels, who had braved horrid weather conditions yet again to shout on their sweethearts.

The club's three French hens, who cluck around the changing rooms ensuring that kit, strapping, organisation and water bottles are always

in order are Adam Bell, Gary Hamilton and Tony Delaney, all of whom are very welcome additions to the squad this season, and without them the machine would grind to a halt.

Two turtle doves of peace were tonight signifying the white flags raised by the rest of the league whenever this side comes to town, but for one momentary unlucky break three months ago, this would have been an unbeaten league season for this remarkable group of young men.

On now after Christmas to add the knockout cup, as a second trophy, to this league title.

There was, of course, no partridge in a pear tree to be seen on Friday but instead it had been replaced by a side in green, who had flown to the top of the league, to be crowned worthy Border Junior League champions with still a game to play.

This was the first time that the Border Junior League had been played for in many's a year and when the boys in green learned that Gala last held the cup itself, many feared that it may have been used as a pail since then.

Thankfully when eventually the trophy was handed over to this young Force side at Melrose last

Friday, captain Sam Frizzell held the gleaming silver trophy proudly aloft, as we remembered departed friends and family, and we also toasted sorely missed integral players like Nathan Murray, Harris Brogan, Murray Renwick, Hughie Donaldson, Keith Davies, Sean Goodfellow, Dan Brooker, Grant Huggan, Dermott Callaghan, Morgan Tait etc etc, because a squad wins a league not just a team.

So as we head towards festive celebrations, forget the tinsel and turkeys and instead reflect upon the birth of a shining star in the form of a young Force side who will dominate this league for years. Well done lads, you deserve this.

This victory fell on the funeral day of the great Shane MacGowan, so his words are appropriate as we sign off the season's reports with the promise of more to come in the New Year:

*Goodnight and God guard you forever,
And write to me won't you, goodbye.*

HAWICK FORCE: E. Hamilton; S. McMichan, J. Tait, B. Donaldson, F. Douglas; O. Gray, B. Scott; L. Graham, F. Bell, R. Macleod, A. Redpath, R. Linton, F. Renwick, C. Cumming, S. Frizzell (C). Subs: C. Riddell, R. Purves, J. Delaney, G. Welsh, A. Weir, F. Anderson.

Relentless Hawick's nine tries

PICTURES: DERICK THOMSON

Hawick 59
Jed-Forest 12

By **ATHOLL INNES**
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The curtain came down on 2023 for Hawick with a nine-try romp against a relegation-threatened Jed-Forest side at Mansfield Park.

While the Greens still have to play their postponed match at Currie in January to complete the first half of the Premiership season, the coaches and players will welcome the festive break.

Hawick showed no sign of easing up with points difference a possible key factor at the end of the season, while all nine tries scored by different players, epitomised the strength in depth of their squad.

Saturday's victory also ensured the Robbie Dyes gained custody of the Skelly Cup, which is played for between the two sides.

The result delighted head coach Matty Douglas, who told *The Hawick Paper*: "I'm really happy with the performance. The big emphasis was playing for 80 minutes and I thought that we did just that."

"We scored some very good tries in the awful conditions and kept going even after we got the bonus point in the first half."

"We didn't ease off and really kicked on. I'm happy with where we are going into the break."

"We stuck to our plan and were able to bring on our bench earlier, and that will benefit these younger players."

Douglas praised the Jed effort, which was rewarded with two tries of their own. "They fought for everything," he said.

Adding, the head coach said: "In the past we have struggled and found it hard to stamp our authority, but we stuck to our task to get the result."

The first Hawick try came as early as the fifth minute through Lee Armstrong whose break and touchdown was the culmination of swashbuckling work by Andrew Mitchell and Connor Sutherland.

The second try four minutes later was almost a replica as Stuart Graham touched down following good work again by

TENNENT'S PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
HAWICK	14	13	1	0	487	215	61
Marr	14	11	3	0	450	313	56
Currie	13	10	3	0	469	235	51
Musselburgh	14	6	6	2	401	484	40
Heriot's Blues	14	6	7	1	388	401	39
Accies	14	6	8	0	387	333	37
Kelso	13	6	5	2	323	361	35
Selkirk	14	4	10	0	326	453	25
Hawks	12	3	8	1	316	332	23
Jed-Forest	14	0	14	0	253	673	4

Armstrong and Sutherland. Kirk Ford converted both.

It was one-way traffic as Jed toiled to contain the surge, and Hawick stepped nearer the bonus when Dalton Redpath drove over, with Ford again landing the conversion.

Jed rallied, and from a scrum close to the Hawick line, the visiting pack put the pressure on and Elliot Lauder was attributed with the try.

This sparked Hawick into greater efforts, and the visitors' cause was not helped when Ben Fotheringham was sent to the sin-bin after 35 minutes for a high tackle.

Compounding matters for Jed, Deaglan Lightfoot set up Hawick's fourth try by Connor Sutherland. Ford converted and the hosts led 28-5 at the interval.

Just after the break, Calum Renwick got his name on the scoresheet, followed by Clark Skeldon's try and Dom Buckley's conversion for Jed. At this point, Hawick started to ring the changes with all five subs getting on to the field.

Andrew Mitchell and Russell Anderson notched further touchdowns early in the second half, with Ford converting both. Charlie Welsh then rubbed further salt into Jed wounds with a try, converted by Kyle Brunton.

And although down to 14 men after replacement Tom Hope was sent to the sin-bin, the hosts were still able to increase their lead, with Lightfoot adding icing to the Hawick cake in the final five minutes.

The Greens have no more home fixtures with four away – but to finish as leaders will ensure a home play-off fixture.

HAWICK: K. Ford; C. Welsh, A. Mitchell, L. Armstrong, R. McKean; K. Brunton, D. Lightfoot; S. Muir, R. Anderson, N. Little, F. Wilson, D. Redpath, C. Sutherland, S. Graham, C. Renwick. Subs: M. Brogan, T. Hope, D. Brooker, G. Welsh, M. Tait.



Calum Renwick added to the Greens' tally with a try just after the break



Deaglan Lightfoot completed the scoring in the dying minutes at Mansfield Park



Try-scorer Stuart Graham leads the Robbie Dyes charge into Jed-Forest territory

GREEN ZONE

THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HAWICK RFC



TOUR DE FORCE: A huge congratulations to Hawick Force for winning the Border Junior League at Melrose last Friday night.

DOCTOR'S DEPARTURE: On Saturday, Hawick RFC said a fond farewell to greatly respected club doctor Morag Robertson who, over the last 12 years, has devoted countless hours of unstinting service looking after the players.

She was presented with gifts from both the committee and the players.

We wish her well for whatever the future may hold. Mansfield Park just won't be the same without you, Morag.

ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE: The winner of the HRFC 150th anniversary raffle was Tony Peters, president of Marr Rugby. He is generously going to donate £500 to a Marr RFC charity and £500 to a Hawick RFC charity.

GOOD LUCK: All at Mansfield wish the two Hawick Youth teams well for their Murrayfield finals on Sunday.

£100 DRAW: Supporters who have collected the nine home match programmes this season and want to be in the £100 draw are asked to hand them into the club office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10am to noon. The draw will take place at the Boxing Day bash.

200 CLUB: December winners were Charlie Bell, F. McCuinne, S. Berridge, R. Suddon and S. Elliott.

—IWL/DW



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PICTURE: DERICK THOMSON

Drumlanrig are crowned Keown kings

The victorious Drumlanrig school's Warriors team who lifted the Keown Trophy after a hard-fought 3-1 win over Wilton. Back row from left, Calan Pender-Mills, Ralfie Legge, Flynn Robson and Oliver Wight. Middle, Seth Beattie, Max Vevers, Ollie Lyall, Parker Johnstone, Joshua Harris and Ollie Turnbull. Front, Quinn Telfer, Harry Scott, Kerr Ferguson, Harry Drysdale and Ewan Smith. In the Chrysties Quaich, Stitches emerged winners in the final against Drumlanrig Bears

■ FULL STORY ON PAGES 36-37



League winners Force are 'grafters'

Hawick Force coach Matt Landels has praised the hard work the players have put in after they secured the Border Junior League title, **Gary Heatly writes.**

The Force made sure of lifting the silverware last Friday thanks to a 24-14 win over Melrose Storm at The Greenyards.

It means they have won eight of their nine league games so far with, potentially, one more match to play in the New Year.

"The squad have really bought into how myself and the other coaches want to play and that has been great," Landels said.

"They've all come together whether they are youngsters or guys who have played first-team rugby before and have worked hard.

"After the festive break there may well be a Border Cup and some matches with teams outwith the area and we'll look forward to that."

Captain Sam Frizzell added: "It was great to get the league won before Christmas and it's a nice way to go into the break.

"We've had a more consistent team this season and more players available each week which has helped us get the results that we've been getting. Everyone has played their part."

■ MATCH REPORT ON PAGE 38

Youths are aiming to make capital at finals

By GARY HEATLY

sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick Youth Rugby's under-16 and under-18 squads are both now just 80 minutes away from cup and shield glory at Sunday's national youths finals in Edinburgh.

The two Teri sides are aiming to end 2023 on a real high and will be backed to the hilt by their coaches, as well as club volunteers, family members and other supporters who are making the trip to the capital.

The under-16s will be on cup final duty at Murrayfield at 1.30pm versus Currie Chieftains.

While at 6pm at Edinburgh Rugby's Hive Stadium next door the under-18s will be in shield final action against Ayr/Wellington.



Garry Douglas

"This group of players have really grown together in the last few months," Eddie Brogan, part of the under-16s coaching team, told *The Hawick Paper*.

"There was a turning point when the boys took the long bus trip up to Inverness to play Highland in a cup group match in late September.

"No amount of coaching could have got them over the line that day. Instead, they got the 29-26 away win

because of sheer belief, hard work and working together as a team."

He continued: "There are no stars in this squad that everything goes through. It is a real team effort and that's what's been so pleasing about getting this far.

"And since the Highland game the boys have been so focused."

Under-18s head coach Garry Douglas added: "The boys have worked very hard this season and come on leaps and bounds.

"The other coaches and I were told at the start of the season when the first few results didn't go our way that 'you'll have a good side next year', but these lads have shown that they shouldn't be written off.

"Our leaders have stepped up and the group have all grown as a team."

He went on: "For us as coaches the hardest part has been selecting the squad of 22 for the final.

"However, it's the full squad that's got us this far and every one of them will get to enjoy the day and be part of it regardless if they are playing or not."

The club would like to thank David Martin, Linden Lads and a Trades man,

Keith Franklin, Bobby and Margaret McDonald, Jim Beattie, A. S. Crawford, Hawick Rugby Initiative, Embroidery Elite, The Bill McLaren Foundation and others who have supported them this season and for the big day out.

Adding, Hawick Youth president Elliot Jack said: "We're all looking forward to Sunday."



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