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# New high school on track for 2027

## Centre to open after Easter

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

Scottish Borders Council is committed to a new high school for Hawick by 2027, despite the “challenges” it is facing, according to Provost Watson McAteer.

He was speaking to the paper after councillors agreed a cross-party budget proposal for 2024/25 which, the local authority said, “commits to the delivery of planned projects and largely protects frontline services, despite continued rising costs”.

Part of the budget includes a £121.6million investment in major capital projects, including new schools and care facilities, as part of a ten-year capital plan worth more than £450million. Ensuring a “balanced position”, almost £10million from council reserves is being used to support the budget.

Mr McAteer, who is also SBC convener, told us: “This

collaborative, cross-party approach recognised the need to deliver services for Borderers without engaging in political points scoring – a position I know will be welcomed by many residents.”

He continued: “This budget has been described as the most challenging for the council in the past 30 years with a requirement to draw down from our reserves to ensure a balanced position.

“And while there was considerable debate concerning whether or not to agree the Scottish Government option to freeze council tax, the council decided that this would be the best option at this stage.

“However, the stark reality is that in future years indicative increases in the region of ten per cent may be required if no substantial increases are being provided by central government.”

■ CONTINUED PAGE 3

## GREENS GUARD OF HONOUR

PICTURE: ROB GRAY



Some of the young Terries who welcomed the Hawick players onto the pitch ahead of Saturday’s play-off victory over Kelso ■ BIG MATCH REPORT AND REACTION, PAGES 22-23

Hawick Business Centre is finally scheduled to open after the Easter holidays, **Hilary Mactaggart writes.**

In 2017, we revealed that a £2.6million Scottish Government funding package would pay for the facility on the site of the former Almsstrongs store in Oliver Crescent.

Plans were submitted for the three-storey building in October 2018, a process which the then leader of Scottish Borders Council (SBC), Mark Rowley, admitted “took longer than we hoped”.



Demolition started in December 2019 but was delayed due to the discovery of asbestos and the pandemic. The building work, thought to have been completed in August, will provide office space for around 15 small businesses.

A joint statement from SBC and South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) said: “The Hawick Business Centre is scheduled to open after the Easter holidays.

“SoSE is planning to run an accelerator programme in the centre and promotion will start soon.”

Adding, it said: “Initial feedback from businesses has been positive.”

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# Highland dance teacher Molly leaves a huge void

Renowned in and around Hawick as a teacher of Highland dancing for more than 40 years, Molly Marshall, who died suddenly in January, also touched the lives of many others through her decades-long association with Ss Mary & David's Roman Catholic Church.

She was among the first local contingent to visit Hawick's twin-town of Bailleul in 1970, performing Highland dances at various venues, much to the delight of the Mardi Gras crowds.

Molly's link with the French town was to endure, and she forged lifelong friendships with Cafe John proprietors John and Evette, and their son Bernard.

Her dancing prowess also gained the royal seal of approval when she entertained Princess Anne during a visit to Berwick many years ago. She also travelled to Austria and many other places with Hawick Pipe Band.

Converting to Catholicism in the mid-1980s, Molly became a devoted and active member of Ss Mary & David's. Her can-do attitude saw her become a leading light in the church's social group, helping organise events such as coffee mornings, dances, flower festivals, candlelit suppers and, the highlight of the group's calendar, the pensioners' Christmas party.

The latter was months in the planning, with fellow group members including Gillian Pringle, Anne Coburn, Anne Collinson and Hilda Wight, and a host of others, delighting the older parishioners with their hilarious takes on shows such as *Mamma Mia!*, *The Sound of Music*, *Sister Act* and *Calamity Jane*.

"They were happy days and we had the best of times," said Gillian, with whom Molly went on church pilgrimages to Rome, Salamanca, Santiago de Compostela and Fatima.

One of Molly's great passions was flower arranging, and she, along with Liz Jackson and Margaret Thorburn, would ensure the church looked its best on special occasions.

Molly Glover Mouland was born at the Wells Kennels on February 11, 1951, the youngest daughter of Reg Mouland and his wife Morag (née Glover). Reg worked on the Wells Estate, while Morag kept the family home.

Originally from Newfoundland, Reg met Morag at a dance in Glasgow during the Second World War. He was in the Royal Canadian Navy at the time.

Molly's sister, Sally, was born in 1947. Their brother, Bernard, was born in 1945, but tragically died aged just four months.

Moving with the family to Bedrule in 1954, Molly started her education a couple of years later at Denholm school. Also around this time, she attended the Bedrule Sunday school, under the tutelage of Rev. Tom McGinn, and 1st Hobkirk Girl Guides, led by Mrs Tweedie, of The Dykes.

The year 1959 was a memorable one for Molly, who took her first-ever plane journey, jetting to Newfoundland to visit the Canadian side of her family, including her granny and papa, Charles and Flora, who she was thrilled to meet. "We were treated like royalty," recalled Sally.

That year Molly also had her first Highland dancing lessons under the watchful eye of Maureen Robertson in Hawick. She was a natural and went on to dance at competitions up and down the country, picking up plenty of medals in the process.

Some years later, with Molly in her early twenties, she started her own Highland dancing school, teaching hundreds of young girls, and a few boys, the Highland Fling, Sword Dance and Seann Triubhas to name just a few.

The Moulands moved to Burnfoot in 1965, by which time Molly was attending Hawick High. She left the school a year later to begin her working life in the Pringle of Scotland invoice office alongside good friend Avril Elliot.

Molly met husband-to-be Tony in the late 1960s, with the pair married in the Catholic church on January 9, 1970. They set up home in Allars Bank, with son Jason



**Molly Marshall**

born in April that year, followed by daughter Sara in June 1971.

In his funeral tribute, Jason said: "Right from the days Sara and I came into this world, nothing else mattered to mam but the two of us, and, if anything, this devotion got stronger as we both got older."

Molly returned to work as a clerkess with Murray Brothers, the mail order knitwear firm, spending many happy years there alongside colleagues including Frances Paxton, Allace Ellams, Joyce Barlow, Fiona Johnstone and Jim Aitkin.

"We had a brilliant time at Murray Brothers, with so much laughter," said Frances, who remained one of Molly's closest friends for the rest of her life.

Moving job to become a receptionist at Pringle of Scotland's Braemar factory, Molly's warm and welcoming nature endeared her to the company's staff and many visitors, including sporting stars such as golfer Colin Montgomerie and footballer Ally McCoist.

When the Braemar factory closed around 2000, she was transferred to the reception at the firm's Glebe Mills, where she worked for around seven years before being made redundant.

Molly went on to take up administrative roles with Buccleuch Printers and Doncaster Bloodstock Sales, and then retired.

She loved her family holidays, visiting favourite places such as Scarborough, Whitley Bay, Great Yarmouth and Morecambe in the 1970s and 80s. They would invariably be joined by their great friends, Bobby and Shirley Froud, and their children, Gary and Tracy.

Later in life, holidays with the whole family – which now included Jason's wife Rachel, Sara's husband Bruce, and grandchildren Fraser, Hannah, Connie and Olivia – were enjoyed in the warmer climes of Benidorm, Majorca and Ibiza.

Other great friends of Molly and Tony's were Brian and Anne Hegarty and Alan and Ann Tearney, with whom they enjoyed many social occasions over the years.

Always willing to get involved in community events, Molly was a popular participant in the Think Fitness gym's Weel-Kent Face competition, and also took part in the Summer Festival's pram race. She also enjoyed attending concerts by Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell, and she and Tony would, on occasion, meet him during winter holidays to Tenerife.

The plight of youngsters languishing in Romanian orphanages tugged at Molly's heart strings, and she organised several coffee mornings to raise funds for them, and did the same more recently for Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

Following Jason and Sara with a move to Denholm in 1998, Molly busied herself in rural circles, as a former chairwoman of Bedrule SWI, of which her mum Morag was a founder member. She joined the Denholm Flower Show Committee, won many trophies for her flower arranging, and went on to judge classes in the latter category. She also started a popular line dancing class in the village, through which she made many new friends.

Molly's passing, aged 72, leaves a huge void in the lives of many, none more so than that of her devoted family. **-JM**

## Residents oppose Burnfoot's one-way trial

The three-month trial of one-way traffic in Kenilworth Avenue, to pave the way for the estate to link with the town's Active Travel Network, has hit the buffers with locals.

That's according to estate community council chairwoman Emma Clarke who was providing public feedback at Monday night's meeting.

She said: "I've still to meet anyone in favour

of it – and the people I've spoken to can't wait for it to end." The trial was launched in January amid concerns that it would lead to more traffic on surrounding streets.

Miss Clarke added: "I think ripping the hedge down in Kenilworth Avenue would be the best way forward to be honest. There would then be no arguments about who has to cut it back, which has been an issue for

years, and it would mean people wouldn't have to walk on the road."

Scottish Borders Council councillor, Clair Ramage, said: "I'm also aware from residents that removing the hedge would be the most popular move, allowing the pavement to be widened. I think the road around the school will return to two-way."

Adding, secretary Rachel Oliver said: "It would also stop people discarding their rubbish into the hedge."

# Common-Riding's Lesley 'a deserving winner' of trophy

By HILARY MACTAGGART  
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Photographer Lesley Fraser has been awarded the Chrystie Trophy "for service which promotes the Common-Riding spirit".

Donated by Bob and Marion Chrystie in 2014, to celebrate the quincentenary, the winner is chosen by the Common-Riding Committee and chairman.

Educated at Stirches and Drumlanrig schools, and then Hawick High, Lesley, 50, began her photographic journey taking animal portraits to help fund her university studies.

Explaining how her camera work blossomed over the years, she said: "I took photos of the Common-Riding in 1993 when dad's cousin, Liz Fraser, was Cornet's Lass; and in 1994 when my dad [Ian] and mum [Nancy] were Acting Father and Mother.

"Then, the following years, I was asked to do albums by the Cornets."

Lesley's love of all-things Common-Riding was fuelled from an early age.

She explained: "Dad has been on the various committees since I was young, and was secretary of the Mosstroopers for a long time. I was often asked to use my art skills for things when he was involved, including designing the junior Mosstroopers tie.



Lesley Fraser is presented with the Chrystie Trophy by Marion Chrystie

"Then I got asked for my photos to be used for things, and to help, along with [former high school art teacher] Judith Murray, with the 1514 art competition. This led to collaborations for Jed Murray celebrations [marking 150 years since his birth] by the Mosstroopers, and the build-up to 2014. Latterly, there were the poppy displays in 2019 and again this year, as well as the drapes at the Passchendaele silhouettes."

Lesley and Judith came up with the idea of a book to teach children about the Common-Riding, with the Bright Eyed Daughters formed to fund the initiative, with the help of Joyce Tinlin

and Lesley's mum Nancy.

She and her dad took on the role of secretariat of the Common-Riding Committee in November 2016. She is now sole post holder.

Lesley opened ILF Imaging at the Sandbed in April 2009, and as the business expanded she moved to the Howegate in December 2018.

Lesley said it was a "huge honour" to receive the award and added: "I've been lucky enough that my love of the Common-Riding has led to a career. And I get to share what I do with those who take part, recording for posterity their enjoyment of the Common-Riding."

Lesley is also trustee and

secretary of The Border Holiday Group, trustee and treasurer of Hornshole Greenway, and a member of The Border Club social club committee and the Friends of Hawick Mair Group.

Marion Chrystie, who presented the award, told Lesley she was "a very deserving winner", whose hobby from nearly 30 years ago has seen her become a talented and gifted photographer.

"You capture so many special moments for the Common-Riding. These moments turn into memories and a history of pictures telling the story for the Principals and the local community."

## 'Essential care village also in budget forecast'

■ FROM PAGE 1

Adding, he said: "Despite all of the challenges, Scottish Borders Council remain totally committed to providing a new high school for Hawick by 2027, with an essential care village also agreed in the budget forecast."

There will also be extra funding for local sport and leisure trusts, including an additional £1million for Live Borders above its £4.78million management fee.

Extra funding for the public transport network will include £243,000 over the next five years to combat inflationary pressures on bus contracts.

To support young people with additional care needs, there will be an extra £4.7million for out-of-area placements.

There will also be £379,000 funding in 2024/25 to retain one police

community action team, and an additional £1million in each of the next five years to manage increasing demand in social care.

Also part of the budget is a £21.6million capital investment in roads and transport infrastructure over the next three years.

Alluding to the use of council reserves, a local authority spokesperson cautioned: "These resources can only buy time to deliver permanent financial sustainability and extends the period over which the council is living outwith its means.

"It also depletes reserves going forward which reduces the council's ability to deal with as yet unknown pressures, including, for example, emergencies/period of recovery following an emergency."

■ COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM  
CUT, PAGE 5

## Ex-councillor fined £750

A former councillor who admitted careless driving has been fined £750 and had his licence endorsed with seven penalty points.

David Paterson – who served Hawick on Scottish Borders Council before retiring in 2022 – was initially charged with dangerous driving at Selkirk Sheriff Court and due to go to trial.

But the 69-year-old, of Beaconsfield Terrace, changed his plea to guilty to the lesser charge of careless driving by causing his vehicle to swerve on the road, drive in close proximity to other road users and enter a roundabout the wrong way.

The offence happened on the A7 between Hawick and Galashiels, Ettrick Terrace in Selkirk and on Abbotsford Road in Galashiels at the roundabout with Tweed Road on July 20. A £40 victim surcharge was also imposed.

## Driver found not guilty

A motorist accused of causing the death of a pensioner by careless driving has been found not guilty following a two-day trial at Jedburgh Sheriff Court.

Seventy-three-year-old Sandra Inglis died in hospital two days after being hit by a Toyota, being driven by David Johnston, while attempting to cross the road in North Hermitage Street, Newcastleton, in September 2021.

Before delivering his verdict, Sheriff Peter Paterson explained to the former teacher's family in the public benches that he had to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the 49-year-old, of McLagan Drive, had been driving without due care and attention.

He described it as a sad case for everybody involved. But the sheriff added that he was left with reasonable doubt and Johnston was found not guilty of the charge.

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# Ramage's bid to resolve mess behind shops issue

There has been some "good news" in a bid to tackle a Burnfoot eyesore, **Graham Ford writes.**

Speaking at Monday night's meeting of the estate's community council, Scottish Borders Council councillor, Clair Ramage, said she'd contacted two agencies about the mess behind the shops in Kenilworth Avenue.

"This has been an

ongoing issue for some time," she explained. "I was back up there recently to again see for myself.

"There were bins tipped over, bags of rubbish outside flats and an old couch which had obviously been lying there for long enough."

Mrs Ramage added: "I was in touch with Scottish Borders Housing Association and Scottish Borders Council which

sparked a bit of a ding-dong email exchange over what needed done, and by whom.

"Thankfully, they have each taken a level of responsibility, and I'll definitely be keeping an eye on this. It's been really frustrating as I felt I was going round in circles."

Community Councillor Billy Fletcher said: "This is good news. We've been asking about this for some time."

# Denholm head teacher concerns allayed

Concerns that Denholm school could "lose" its head teacher have this week been allayed by Scottish Borders Council.

The local authority was responding to a comment from villager Gordie Campbell at a recent meeting of Denholm Community Council, during which he said he understood pupil numbers were falling, and that teacher numbers would "fall commensurately".

He also predicted the position of head teacher would be "lost".

A council spokesperson told us: "Denholm Primary School will continue to have a head teacher next session.

"Each year staffing is allocated across schools based on pupil numbers, and generally concerns the allocation of other promoted posts, such as deputy head teacher or principal teacher, as well as class teachers. The staffing allocation is set at the end of each session in preparation for the following year."

The school head is Morag McCreadie.

## WEDDING ALBUM



Denholm couple Karen Bell and Andrew Suddon were married at Dryburgh Abbey Hotel

PICTURE: ILF IMAGING

## Marriages

The following notices of marriage were provided by the registrar: Today (Friday) – Andrew Brandon and Joanne Wight. Saturday, March 16 – Euan Henry and Jan Campbell. Saturday, March 23 – Alex Routledge and Stacey Brownlee. Tuesday, March 26 – Tony Jones and Harriet Wall.

## Statistics

Ten boys were among the 13 births registered in Hawick last month. Of the 15 deaths, seven were female. There were five marriages, four of which were by the registrar, and one humanist.

## Warrant

Mr R. Silverstein has been granted a building warrant for alterations at 23 Liddesdale Road.

## Weather

Week ending March 3: Maximum temperature 10.1°; minimum -1.1°; rainfall 20.58mm.



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## Play-off crowds out in force



Part of the large crowd at Mansfield Park on Saturday to watch Hawick secure their passage into the championship final after defeating Kelso 25-9

PICTURE: ROB GRAY

## 'Money-saving' Moor prices announced

The Common-Riding Committee have abolished the charge for cars entering the Friday and Saturday Moor, but have raised the price of tickets to £10.

The move was rubber-stamped at the committee meeting last Thursday night. Vice-chairman Frank Scott said: "The move will actually save some people money and will also ensure that we are handling a lot

less change at the gates. Cars will now be free, whereas last year costs were £7 per person and £7 for a car. So a couple going up this year would only pay £20, compared to £21."

It was also agreed to include 16- and 17-year-olds in the new pricing structure, at a cost of £5. Secretary Lesley Fraser said: "Changes are due mainly to the increased

costs in the overall running of things."

The cost of running the Moor was announced as just short of £28,000, comprising toilets, £6,596; public liability insurance, £1,709; security staff, £9,596; First Aid and paramedics, £1,600; security fencing, £972; skip hire, £2,520; waste and refuse, £1,748; and cleaning staff, £2,500.

## Appeal goes out as village house raided

Police are appealing for information after a break-in to a house in Denholm.

Thieves targeted the property in Westgate between Tuesday-Wednesday, February 27-28.

Detective Constable Nicky Batten, of CID, said: "I'd appeal to anyone who saw anything suspicious to get in touch with us."

"I'd also be keen to hear from those with dash-cam footage or CCTV, who may

have captured something that could assist our enquiries."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact police on 101, quoting 4212 of February 28, 2024.

# Fletcher's CAT cut assurances

By HILARY MACTAGGART  
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Police have moved to quell fears that a 50 per cent reduction in their community action teams (CAT) from two to one will lead to an increase in crime.

As reported on page three in today's paper, the cross-party budget, agreed by councillors at Scottish Borders Council, includes £379,000 funding in 2024/25 to retain one police community action team.

Speaking to *The Hawick Paper*, the region's top police officer said he didn't envisage a "negative impact" following the funding cut, but it remains unclear whether the officers no longer part of the CAT initiative will still be deployed locally.

Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher, the local area commander, said: "We are aware of the decision by Scottish Borders Council to reduce the funding for the community action teams.

"The officers that are removed will remain in the Borders or the wider division.

"I don't envisage this having negative impact as we dedicate our resources appropriately which allows us to provide the best service to our communities.

"As a national service, we have the ability to draw on additional or specialist resources as and when they are required."

Concerns have been raised by both Hawick and Burnfoot community councils.

Hawick chairman Cameron Knox told us: "Although I fully understand the financial constraints SBC are under just now, reducing the community action teams from two to one is giving out the wrong signals to certain elements of our local society.

"These officers make a valuable contribution to daily policing, including road safety, parking tickets, and antisocial behaviour - duties which are now likely to be taken on by other officers who are already overstretched."

Burnfoot chairwoman Emma Clarke said: "The community action teams are well respected by the children and wider community in Burnfoot due to the time they take to understand people's needs, and the fantastic work they have put into youth development.

"This has resulted in a drop in crime across the estate, and it's a real shame the initiative is being cut."

She added: "The police are already spread thin, and I

believe this cut in resources will result in crime increasing again."

"People will unfortunately lose faith in the police due to no fault of the officers."

Former police chief, Councillor Watson McAteer, explained: "The community action team was introduced in April 2018 specifically to deal with what was regarded as low-level crime that had a detrimental impact on the quality of life for residents.

"This was focused on tackling antisocial behaviour, dog fouling, parking and general minor crimes that were not being routinely prioritised by patrol officers.

"The CAT subsequently doubled in numbers and much of their time has been spent on a mixture of routine policing as well as the role the council is paying them for.

"As a result, the CAT is being reduced to a sergeant and six constables with an assessment made during the course of the next year to evaluate whether or not the investment can continue."

He added: "There is no doubt that the council's funding has helped increase police numbers in the Borders.

"However, paying 'extra' for what the Borders should be routinely entitled to is not, in my opinion, a long-term and sustainable position."

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## ■ SPONSORED CONTENT



Local MP John Lamont's Boost the Borders plan aims to give a sharp focus to things that matter to local people

# A blueprint to bring improved services

In my book, the Borders is already the best place in the country to live and work.

But our communities would still benefit from improvements to our

public services and our economy.

That's why I recently launched my Boost the Borders plan to focus attention on the things that really matter to

local people. My plan is a blueprint to improve key services

It outlines my top priorities for the future of the Borders. It aims to improve digital, physical and social connections.

It is focused on bringing people together around our shared priorities, such as improving local job opportunities, boosting digital services, boosting transport links, and boosting access to local health services.

My plan includes 18 key priorities, proposals and goals to enhance public services and aims to upgrade local infrastructure.

The most pressing issue, I believe, is cutting down NHS waiting times and recruiting more GPs and dentists.

Despite the best efforts of dedicated NHS staff, the SNP's handling of our NHS has been poor and left too many people struggling to get quick, face-to-face appointments and the treatment they need.

My plan also includes ways to improve connectivity by identifying mobile phone signal black spots and increasing broadband network speeds.

I also outline proposals

to improve transport links.

We must fix local roads, such as the A68 and A7. The A1 needs to be dualled. The SNP must increase funding for pothole repair.

We also need to expand bus services and extend the Borders Railway to Hawick, Newcastleton and Carlisle.

My full plan is available to view on my website, if you wish to read more about it.

These ideas have been developed from listening to the pressing concerns of constituents. I welcome all feedback from local residents on ways we can make the Borders an even better place to live and work.

Please get in touch with my office with your views or speak to me directly at one of my regular advice surgeries.

I look forward to progressing these positive proposals with Scottish Borders Council, the Scottish Government and the UK Government.

As your Member of Parliament, I will always remain laser-focused on your top priorities.

I hope my Boost the Borders plan can help improve the place we call home.

– JOHN LAMONT

## Sons of Heroes to open 14th film festival

*Sons of Heroes*, the 1964 Hawick-made film dramatising the Battle of Hornshole, will open this year's Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, it was revealed this week.

The screening, which takes place in Heart of Hawick on Thursday, May 2, will also see the film receive its world premiere in a newly digitised form, 60 years since its creation on 8mm cine-cameras by Hawick Film Group.

The special anniversary screening, which will be preceded in Heart of Hawick by a performance from Hawick Saxhorn Band, is to be held in honour of Scott Renwick, the film's director and Hawick Film Group founder member, who passed away in January, aged 91.

Complementing their award-winning year-round community film-making programme, Alchemy's annual flagship event is the biggest film festival of its kind in the UK. It will take place from May 2-5, and is set to welcome around 100 film-makers to town across four days of cinema screenings, film exhibitions and live performances.

*The Hawick Paper* is proud to announce its continued support as a media partner of the world-renowned event, which first took place in Hawick in 2010.

Alchemy's celebration of

*Sons of Heroes* will take place six decades after the Hawick Film Group production's original premiere in the Evergreen Hall. On that occasion, which itself marked 450 years since the 1514 skirmish at Hornshole, ticket sales generated enough income for the club to buy its Croft Road premises – which it converted into the community cinema that its membership still operates. "We are truly delighted to announce *Sons of Heroes*

Cornet Rob Brydon in *Sons of Heroes*

as the opening film of this year's festival,' said Rachael Disbury, director of Alchemy.

"And we're especially honoured to present it in a never-before-seen digitised format, marking our continued relationship with Hawick Film Group and our commitment to securing a digital legacy for our town's substantial film-making heritage."

Tickets to *Sons of Heroes* and all other Heart of Hawick screenings are priced £5, £7 and £9 on a 'pay what you can afford' basis.

More information at [alchemyfilmmandarts.org.uk](http://alchemyfilmmandarts.org.uk)

## Bridge 'evidence'

There is "clear evidence" that the ten-tonne weight restriction at Hornshole Bridge is being breached, a councillor has said.

Stuart Marshall was commenting on the results of a four-week survey of vehicles crossing the bridge, carried out by Scottish Borders Council in July and August last year, amid long-held concerns that HGVs were damaging the bridge.

Cameras recorded three vehicles with a potential gross weight of 26 tonnes using the bridge, as well as seven tractors or tractors with trailers, the weights of which were unknown.

Mr Marshall told us: "We now have clear evidence that the weight limit is not being adhered to. Vehicles travelling with over two-and-a-half times the permitted weight are without doubt causing unnecessary stress to the bridge."

Adding, the councillor said he hadn't received "guarantees regarding a permanent solution", from Scottish Borders Council, but he was encouraged that they would take "a further look at what options may be available in the new financial year".

**John Lamont MP**  
Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

### 6 ways to contact John

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John2Win

JohnLamontBorders

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The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources

# Burnfoot fly-tipping hindered 999 staff

By HILARY MACTAGGART  
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Two elderly women were forced to lift discarded carpets and other items from the entrance to flats at Robson Court to allow ambulance personnel access during an emergency, Burnfoot community councillors were told at Monday night's meeting.

Chairwoman Emma Clarke said: "While attending a Burnfoot Hub event, [secretary] Rachel [Oliver] and I were shocked to hear about numerous issues in the Robson Court area."

She went on: "The two women, who were in their late eighties, told us of the incident. It was quite appalling."

Rachel added: "All around the area is bad in terms of rubbish being dumped."

Pinpointing another area of concern, Community Councillor Billy Fletcher said: "Beattie Court is also a problem with overflowing wheelie bins. It's a mess."

Miss Clarke added: "We heard about residents struggling to even get up inside stairs within flats because of the build up of rubbish."



Some of the discarded items in Robson Court

"There is a lot going on in these areas. I know it's been highlighted before, but the problem has reared its head again."

"It's not fair on the residents who are trying to look after things."

Scottish Borders Council councillor, Clair Ramage, told the meeting: "I was down that way over the

last couple of days and it really is appalling. The flats are simply not being maintained."

Stuart Marshall, also a local authority member, told us after the meeting: "I was also alerted to even more fly-tipping in the area, and was appalled to see such a mess. Clearly yet another house had been cleared and items just left."

"It is now time landlords came down heavy on the tenants who are responsible for this."

He added: "The area affected does not belong to SBC and with budgets and resources stretched I'm told they won't intervene other than to assist with communicating with the landlords."

"Access to the flats is extremely difficult due to the high volume of fly-tipping and, at the moment, I fear the area is at high risk of vermin infestation."

# House refusal overturned

By HILARY MACTAGGART  
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

A planning officer's refusal of a new houses on agricultural land on the outskirts of the town was overturned by the local review body on Monday.

An application for the house on land west of the Garden House at Briery Yards, near Hornshole Bridge, was supported by a majority vote of councillors.

The applicant, Michael Johnson, of Marmion Road, applied to build a house on a holding at the site.

While the application was supported by Hawick Community Council, Scottish Borders Council planning officers deemed that it would not form part of a "recognised building group" and aired road safety concerns through additional traffic on a minor road.

Scottish Water also insisted on a private water supply to the proposed property.

In his report, the officer

questioned a "justifiable economic case" suggesting that the 22 acres used for grazing horses was "not an established agricultural rural business".

Councillor Neil Richards told the meeting: "As far as I am concerned, it is a viable site for a house."

"There are other houses round about it, so I definitely think it forms part of a building group."

"I also think that this horse business does demonstrate economic viability and support that business."

In relation to the question of road access, Councillor Richards added: "There is no evidence of any road crashes there, and it is a clearly defined junction."

Councillor Jane Cox agreed: "I don't think there will be any problem with the road, and I don't believe there is a shortfall in visibility."

Councillor Aileen Orr added: "I can't see anything at all to put me against it."

The only objection came from Councillor Donald Moffat who felt "25

acres is not a big amount of ground for a farming enterprise, and I don't buy that you have to have a house on site for looking after horses."

"I also don't think there

is a building group there."

He failed to get a seconder for his motion to uphold the officer's refusal, and the application was carried by majority.

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## Drumlanrig Court man's indecent images haul

A man caught with more than 9,000 indecent images and videos of children on his mobile phone has been jailed for 22 months.

Selkirk Sheriff Court was told the haul included the rape of babies by adult males.

Thirty-five-year-old

Stuart Barnes – who was previously jailed for possessing indecent images of children – downloaded the images onto a mobile phone.

Police, acting on intelligence, seized the device during a search of his ground-floor flat

in Drumlanrig Court on August 31, 2022.

Drew Long, prosecuting, said: "Some of the movies were very distressing."

The court heard a total of 8,995 still images and 223 videos were found on the phone – including 619 images and 11 videos in

Category A, which is the worst level of offending.

Barnes' lawyer blamed a difficult childhood and traumatic events surrounding the death of his mother for his client's behaviour.

But Sheriff Peter Paterson noted he had

been convicted of a similar offence before his mother died and said the court would be failing in its duty if a custodial sentence was not imposed.

Barnes was also made subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act for ten years.

## Trials

Thirty-year-old Steven Mercer, of Hawick, denies charges of vandalism and assault and will stand trial at Selkirk Sheriff Court on March 21.

■ Anthony Wade, 38, of Hawick, pleaded not guilty to a charge of assault to injury and had a trial date fixed for March 21.

■ Thirty-year-old Craig Robson, of Hawick, denies breaching his bail conditions and had a trial date set for May 21 at Jedburgh Sheriff Court.

## Delivery delays for blades

The first nine of 21 turbine blades for the Pines Burn Wind Farm, scheduled to be delivered in 22 days, took 118 days to reach the site around five miles south of Hawick.

That's according to Southdean Community Council's Philip Kerr who claimed the developer, EnergieKontor, "failed to take the [inclement] weather into account".

Mr Kerr was speaking at a meeting in Southdean Village Hall, attended by representatives from seven local community councils, Scottish Borders Council, and EnergieKontor.

It was chaired by local MSP Rachael Hamilton, who said she was pleased concerns over communication, community benefits, and traffic management had been raised.

The blade deliveries are planned to finish week commencing March 25.

## Charged

A man, named by multiple media outlets as former Scotland rugby captain Stuart Hogg, was arrested and charged following an incident in Hawick.

Police were called around 5pm on Sunday, February 25, after reports of an alleged disturbance.

The 31-year-old was taken to the police station where he was charged, before being released on an undertaking to appear at Jedburgh Sheriff Court at a later date.



**Geo. & Jas. Oliver W.S.**  
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# It's time to have your say on town's draft Place Plan

A public consultation event to further the town's "masterplan" – destined to bring millions of pounds of local investment – will take place on Sunday, March 17, at the Evergreen Hall, 11am to 4pm.

"The Town Team, assisted by professional consultants, are at the exciting stage of presenting a draft Place Plan to the people of Hawick," explained team joint secretaries Gordon Muir and Ruth Lyle. "They will have their chance to meet the consultants, view the draft plan and contribute their opinions."

As part of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Place Programme, £7.25million has been earmarked for projects in Hawick, Eyemouth, Galashiels and Jedburgh.

Consultants The Paul Hogarth Company and AtkinsRealis will develop and cost detailed plans, working closely with the Town Team. Their appointment follows last year's community-wide have-your-say days.



Consultants from The Paul Hogarth Company and Town Team members during a visit to the Moor

Early-stage proposals include more sports and recreation facilities, an arts and culture centre at the former Wilton school, and a reivers museum.

The Paul Hogarth Company, founded by Teri Paul Hogarth, is one of Scotland and Ireland's leading landscape, architecture and urban design practices.

Paul, who grew up in the town and played rugby for Hawick in the 1980s, told us: "I know first-hand how

passionate people are about this wonderful town."

Continuing, he said: "This process is an excellent opportunity for everyone to have their say and play a real part in shaping a vision for the future."

"I still have family in Hawick and my personal visits to the town are now substantially driven by my desire to give something back to my home town."

Other members of the consultancy team have been getting to know Hawick,

including Alison Hope, an urban designer originally from Peebles, who told us: "The heritage of the town has really struck us, both in terms of Hawick's fantastic buildings and also the events and traditions that are held so dearly."

James Hennessey, the director leading the Place Plan, remarked: "We've really enjoyed working with the Town Team and learning about Hawick through meeting local people. And, of course, we've

ended up sampling the local hospitality, from Dalton's pub and Locanda Romana, to Tony's Takeaway in Burnfoot."

The consultants have carried out "research and engagement" in the town since the start of the year, including a survey of local businesses, and workshops with schoolchildren.

Paul added: "We commenced the project with a town tour in early January this year and hope to conclude the plan in April."

## Bail refusal for banned motorist

A teenager who admitted driving a car while disqualified has been remanded in custody at Selkirk Sheriff Court.

Nineteen-year-old Finlay MacGregor, of Renwick Terrace, pleaded guilty to the offence which happened in Abbotsford Road, Galashiels, on August 8 last year.

He also admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice three months later in November by falsely stating to police he had stolen a car, again in Abbotsford Road, Galashiels.

Sentence was deferred for background reports until March 25 when the case will call at Jedburgh Sheriff Court.

Sheriff Peter Paterson refused a motion for bail and MacGregor was remanded in custody.

## Warrant

Minerva SIPP, of Carlisle, has been issued with a building warrant for two industrial units at 3 Bourtree Terrace.

## Your shout

With yesterday being World Book Day, we took to the streets this week to ask Teries about their favourite reads



My favourite book is *Robinson Crusoe*. I read it first as a laddie and have read it a few times since.

**DAVIE PATERSON**



*The Sure Thing* by Barney Curley. It's about the greatest coup in horse racing history. I read it every year on holiday.

**PETER BONINI**



I enjoy reading books about horse racing more than anything. *The Barry Brogan Story In His Own Words* has been the best one.

**KEITH STEWART**



I've not got a favourite but I like reading family saga novels which keep me going.

**GRAZIELLA FIORILLO**



I go to the library a lot and thanks to recommendations from lovely staff members I'm into a series of books by Mick Herron which are brilliant.

**SYLVIA HOGG**



I've always loved reading books. *My Friends the Miss Boyds* by Jane Duncan was my mum's favourite and it's also been mine. It's a great read.

**JUDITH MURRAY**

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## DEATHS

**ANDISON:** Suddenly and contently at home on Sunday, 3rd March, 2024. John, beloved husband to Ina, adored dad to Christine, proud papa to Kevin and Danielle, special papa to Florrie and Bryce. Service to be held on Wednesday, 20th March, at Borders Crematorium at 1pm. Club ties if possible. Family flowers only.

**BLACKLOCK:** Peacefully at the Margaret Kerr Unit on Wednesday, 28th February, 2024, Mary (née McHugh), loving wife of the late Jim, cherished mum to Margaret, Laura and William, mother-in-law to Dale, Tony and Sarah, doting granny to William, Daniel, Lucy, Eilidh, Innes and Harris, loving sister, sister-in-law and friend to all who knew her. Service on Friday, 22nd March, at Ss Mary & David's RC Church at 11.30am, with interment in Wellogate Cemetery at 1pm. Flowers open.

**BROGAN, DR. EDDIE:** Passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on 29th February, 2024. Requiem Mass on Monday, 18th March, at 12 noon in the Church of St Mary and St David, Hawick, followed by his interment at 1.30pm in Wellogate Cemetery. Family flowers only.

**McCOLM:** Peacefully at Borders General Hospital on Monday, 4th March, 2024, William (Billy), much loved husband of the late Dorothy, beloved dad to William, Brian and the late Colin, dearly loved father-in-law to Elizabeth, Jill and Lynne, adored papa to Lee, Laura, Neil, Dean, Jack and the late Paul, loving partner to Jennifer, great friend to all who knew him. Service to be held in Robson's Dove-tail Chapel on Thursday, 14th March, at 12.45pm, onwards to Wilton Cemetery for 1.30pm. Flowers open.

## DEATHS

**McMICHAH:** Peacefully at Borders General Hospital on Friday, 1st March, 2024, surrounded by his family, Cormac, much loved husband to Dorothea, adored dad to James and Katrina, father-in-law to Linda and Stuart, brother to Anne and the late Michael and Harriet, proud grandad and great-grandad to Craig, Lynsay, Amy, Erin, Sean, Ryan and Freddie, great friend to all who knew him. Service to be held on Tuesday, 19th March, at Ss Mary & David's Catholic Church at 10.30am, onwards to Borders Crematorium for 12 noon. Family flowers only.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**STIRRAT:** George, Doug and Pauline would like to thank all family and friends for the cards, flowers and messages of support following the sad loss of Chrissie. Thank you to Rachel Henderson for the wonderful service, and Robson's Funeral Directors and Hawick Community Hospital for their care and support. Thanks also to all who attended the services. Donations raised £430 for the Dementia Cafe.

## IN MEMORIAM

**RAE:** In loving memory of a dear wife and soulmate, Sylvia, who passed away 10th March, 2021. *Missed more every day* - loving husband, Jimmy.

**RAE:** Sylvia, 10th March, 2021. *Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I will miss you until we meet again. Missed so much* - Audra, Raymond, John, Kim, Robyn and great-grandbairns.

## CHURCH NOTICES

## ST CUTHBERT'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Slitrig Crescent : SC003140  
**Sunday, March 10**  
 10.30am - Eucharist  
**Wednesday, March 13**  
 10.45am - Eucharist  
**Monday and Thursday**  
 10am-2pm - Church open for quiet space  
**Tuesday**  
 11am-noon - Coffee morning

## HAWICK BURNFOOT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

SC004517  
**Sunday, March 10**  
 10.30am - Rev. Douglas Nicol

## CAVERS AND KIRKTON CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

SC004550  
**Sunday, March 10**  
 9.30am - Morning worship with Helen Howden

## SALVATION ARMY

6 Croft Road : 214779 / 009359  
**Today (Friday)**  
 10am-11.30am - Coffee morning  
**Sunday, March 10**  
 10.30am - Morning worship

## WILTON AND TEVIOTHEAD PARISH CHURCHES

SC017381 / SC006917  
**Sunday, March 10**  
 Rev. Lisa-Jane Rankin  
 No service at Teviothead  
 11am - Wilton



## GRUMPY AULD MAN

## BACK TO NATURE

Some 200 years ago the poet and painter William Blake, waxed lyrical about our "green and pleasant land".

If it were possible, I reckon most of us would choose to live in unspoiled, lush and verdant natural surroundings. So it's interesting that Scottish Borders Council has astutely jumped on the environmental bandwagon by drawing up a management master plan to 'naturalise' various locations across the region, including several sites in Hawick.

There have already been a few

experimental attempts to creating wild flower areas where grass had effectively been allowed to grow unchecked. This positively benefits plant, animal and bird life but some critics dislike the arguably unkept appearance of 'wilderness' vegetation.

The St Boswells-based local authority now plans what it euphemistically terms 'grass management pilots' in Dickson Street, Fairhurst Drive, Greenheads Terrace, Mayfield, Princes Street, Wellfield and Wilton Park Lane. Whether residents in these selected neighbourhoods will soon be enthusiastically singing the leafy lyrics of the Tom Jones hit, *Green, Green Grass of Home*, remains to be seen.

More contentious, however, is proposed naturalising in parts of Wellogate and Wilton cemeteries.

In the commendable pursuit of biodiversity, wild flower meadows are all well and good, but not at the expense of creating untidy and apparently neglected burial grounds.

And with the controversial policy of laying flat potentially unsafe headstones due to restart, we could all too easily end up with cemeteries no longer representing respectful and hallowed places of celestial rest.

## TALK IS CHEAP

A general election is evidently on the horizon with an upsurge in tiresome political propaganda dropping through letterboxes.

The latest parable from local MP, John Lamont, was headed 'Borders News', probably because calling it 'Good News' would be an affront to our intelligence.

Once again, for the umpteenth time, our man at Westminster assures all who are listening that he is "working hard" to see the Borders Railway extended to Hawick, Newcastleton and Carlisle.

Trains were restored between Edinburgh and Tweedbank away in 2015. Just remember, the repeatedly stalled £10million feasibility study, a crucial part of the rail extension campaign, was first announced in 2019. Ever since, we've had never-

ending platitudes and much hot air but, in terms of actual measurable progress, the reality is Sweet Fanny Adams.

As an allegedly influential Scotland Office Minister, our local MP should be more demonstrably much farther along the tracks in preparing the official groundwork for getting trains back to Hawick. It's definitely time to stop parroting the same empty electioneering promises of jam tomorrow.

Even dynamic local chairwoman of the Campaign for Borders Rail, Marion Short, has been driven to express extreme frustration at the continuing lack of copper-bottomed, genuine progress.

Having for years had many discussions with politicians and transport officials from both Westminster and Holyrood governments, she must feel like she's been shunted up a dead-end siding.

Politicians, both national and local, need to dramatically up their game and finally commit wholeheartedly to a project which could transform Hawick's fortunes.

## FADED GLORY

Like many town centres the length and breadth of the land, our own High Street has very definitely seen better days, certainly in terms of its retail vitality and economic performance

But Hawick does score highly for architectural merit, with over 120 buildings officially listed as being of historic or local importance.

Top of the tree is our impressive 'Scottish Barronial'-style town hall, built between 1884-86 at a cost of £16,000. It's certainly our most impressive landmark building, yet several areas of stonework have noticeably taken on a green hue.

Similar deterioration at the public library was recently addressed and a facelift for Hawick's most iconic edifice should now be pushed up the priority list.

## EXERCISE RESTRAINT

Getting older has many virtues. It means I no longer feel guilty about having an afternoon nap. It's also encouraging that my secrets are safe with friends because they can't remember them either.

Regularly strolling around Wilton Lodge Park can be something of an eye-opener. It's a bit difficult to believe in survival of the fittest when I see some punters of my vintage tottering around in jogging shorts.

There's no excuse for laziness but I'm working on it. A friend recently suggested that I ought to exercise more so I've moved the beer to the bottom shelf of my fridge.

## CHURCH NOTICES

## TRINITY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

SC013892  
**Sunday, March 10**  
 11am - Morning worship with Helen Howden  
**Tuesday, March 12**  
 2pm - Guild meeting in the hall

## ST MARY'S &amp; 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, March 10**  
 Conducted by Rev. Alistair Cook  
 Approach to Easter  
 Matthew 26:31-46  
 9.45am - Teviot Church  
 11.15am - St Mary's & Old  
 Cafe-style service  
 Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
 Miraculous powers  
 1 Corinthians 12:10  
 6pm - Teviot Church

The morning service will be recorded from Teviot at 9.45am and can be viewed afterwards at [www.smpo-tero.org.uk](http://www.smpo-tero.org.uk), on our Facebook page @smpo-tero or [teviot.online.church](http://teviot.online.church)

## HAWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

North Bridge Street : SC003568  
**Sunday, March 10**  
 10.30am - Morning worship with our pastor, Rev. Martin Smith, preaching from 1 Timothy 6:3-10. Everyone welcome. Refreshments follow the service

**Tuesday, March 12**  
 10am-11.30am - Mainly Play, a play-based session for under fives and their parents/carers. £3 per family.  
 2pm: Women in the Word looking at Proverbs

**Wednesday, March 13**  
 4pm - Prayer meeting in person/ Zoom  
**Thursday, March 14**

10.30am - Drop-in at The Well  
 7pm/7.30pm - Home groups meet

## HOBKIRK AND SOUTHDEAN LINKED WITH RUBERSLAW PARISH CHURCH

SC012830 and SC034629  
**Sunday, March 10**  
 9.30am - Hobkirk  
 11.15am - Minto  
**Monday, March 11**  
 9.30am-11.30am - Little Fishes Babies and Toddlers, Denholm Church Hall  
 2pm-4pm - Monday meet-up, Denholm Church Hall  
**Wednesday, March 13**

7pm - Film and chat evening, 'The Gospel of Mark', Denholm Church Hall

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# WHAT'S GOING ON?



## HAWICK HIGH SCHOOL

### Barrie team's focus on languages

Three members of staff from Barrie Knitwear – Katie Prentice, Linda McMichan and Ryan Strachan – recently spoke to S3s about the importance of modern languages within their business.

The aim of the visit was to show pupils the value of taking a modern language in terms of employability and the opportunities it opens up beyond school.

Barrie, owned by the legendary French fashion

brand, Chanel, has many French customers and various boutiques and retailers all over the world.

In Hawick, the company's staff have daily interactions with their colleagues in France, as well as business visits abroad and welcoming French customers to the town.

A school spokesperson said: "The value in young people having a language skill is hugely important for Barrie's future workforce and would make a candidate stand out significantly, should they wish to begin their career with them."

"We would like to thank Katie, Linda and Ryan from Barrie for coming along to talk to our young people, offering them a very insightful experience while they are in the process of selecting their subjects for S4."



Barrie Knitwear's Katie Prentice, Linda McMichan and Ryan Strachan

### Cameras roll for workshop students

Over several days, S2 students took part in workshops run by a team from the BBC, focusing on areas such as location-spotting, scripting, editing and filming.

The pupils' goals were to create a 'Hawick High School Sound Walk' where they would talk about and film significant places in Hawick and share their experiences of life in the town.

The students took on various media roles during the workshops, as well as learning how to use a variety of microphones and cameras.

Among the areas filmed by pupils were Mote Park, Wilton Lodge Park, The Horse, Johnstons of Elgin, and Borders Textile Towerhouse.

Shaun Fairbairn, an ex-



Pupils get to grips with the latest camera equipment

high school pupil and current Hawick Rugby Club player, volunteered to come into the school to allow students to interview him – and he relayed stories about his rugby and working life.

A school spokesperson said: "Our students worked very hard in the workshops, and are

looking forward to seeing the finished edit of their 'Sound Walk' which they'll share with the community."

The workshops were held in conjunction with Developing the Young Workforce, which supports young people to prepare for the world of work.

### Project pupils hone practical skills



Students pick up sanding skills

R-Evolve, the youth-centred employability project, is offering pupils a variety of activities that generate a range of practical and soft skills to enhance their employability.

A school spokesperson explained: "The programme sees our students explore employment opportunities and learning pathways, while developing practical skills in sanding, welding, cutting, and the use power tools."

The programme was delivered in partnership with Scottish Borders Council's Community Learning and Development department, which aims to improve the life chances of young people.



Eden Boutique headpiece competition winners Julia Czapnik, Freja Traynor, Rose McCluskey, Sophie Morozzo Della Rocca and Mariah Goncalves

### Headpiece winners' splash of colour

S3 students have been working closely with Sandi Spence, owner of Eden Boutique, on a competition to design and create headpieces that represent "the beauty of Hawick".

They were able to choose between two themes – 'Architecture in Hawick' and 'Nature in Hawick' –

and explored colour, form and texture, as well as experimenting with materials such as paper, fabric, wire and papier-mâché to come up with functional and striking designs.

From more than 70 eye-catching and unique headpieces, Sandi chose the five winners Rose McCluskey,

Sophie Morozzo Della Rocca, Mariah Goncalves, Freja Traynor and Julia Czapnik. Their entries were recently on display at Eden in Buccleuch Street.

Sandi also gave a talk to pupils on building a business in fashion, while local milliner, April Fleming, demonstrated hat-making.

### Lara shines marketing spotlight

Lara McGowan, of Borders-based McGowan Marketing, took time out of her busy schedule to meet with S2 students and some senior pupils to discuss the importance of marketing in the creative industries.

As part of the art and design curriculum, all S2s will be tasked with designing a social media logo for the school's Creative Technologies Instagram page, which will extend into a house championships competition.

Lara provided pupils with "key points" for logo development and underlined the ins and outs of social media presence.

A school spokesperson said: "Students were extremely respectful and listened closely to what Lara said. Her presentation was very informative, and senior students had a list of questions to ask her afterwards."

"We look forward to students completing their logo submissions and hope to have Lara return to help select the winner!"



Douglas House captain Anna Lewis, Miss Anderson, and diversity committee vice-chairperson Niamh Casson

### Diversity committee hits purple patch at bake sale

S6 students on the school's diversity and equality committee have developed educational resources and presented all year groups with assemblies focusing on defeating the stigma surrounding 'coming out'.

A school spokesperson commented: "The work was developed by students for students, and pupils were extremely receptive to the information they were provided with."

Students were also invited to show their support for and raise awareness of equality by wearing purple to school on February 23. Alongside this the committee hosted a bake sale for pupils, with all funds donated to LGBT Youth Scotland.

"They raised enough money from the bake sale to fund two counselling sessions for young people who need additional support with coming out to their families," added the spokesperson.

Meanwhile, the high school is past the halfway point in achieving a bronze award in the LGBT Youth Scotland Charter for Education.

The aims and intentions of the charter are to recognise schools in Scotland which positively support a safe and nurturing environment for all young people without prejudice – with particular focus on making schools a safe place for young people who identify within the LGBTQIA+ community.



By Alastair Redpath

# Helen Wilson Fell

## A WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST AHEAD OF HER TIME

**M**arch is Women's History Month, in which we commemorate and encourage the study, observance, and celebration of the role of women throughout history.

One name that has flown under the historical radar, at least locally, is Helen Wilson Fell, an activist, diarist, and philanthropist who made a name for herself in Australia but has all but been forgotten in her native Hawick.

Born Helen Wilson Thomson on July 27, 1849, she was baptised in the grey auld toon the following month and spent her formative years living at East Bank Manse – better known these days as Hamish D. Smith Jewellers.

Her mother was Helen Ritchie Wilson, daughter of hosiery manufacturer Peter Wilson, and her full siblings were Adam Thomson, Mary Selby Thomson (who married James Hogg, a bank manager), and Isabella Turnbull Thomson. To friends and family, Helen was simply called Nell.

Her father was the Rev. Adam Thomson, a Coldstreamer who was born and bred into a deeply religious setting. His father, Helen's paternal grandfather, was the Rev. Dr Adam Thomson who won fame as secretary of the Free Bible Press Co. which published 50,000 Bibles in Coldstream between 1839 and 1851, before being undercut by other printers.

He was the leader of the movement that abolished the Bible monopoly held by the Royal Printers and the

universities in Scotland.

Helen's father Adam was licensed by the Presbytery of Coldstream aged 18. He then declined a call to Dunoon Parish, instead accepting the role of assistant and successor to Rev. Henderson of East Bank Church, Hawick, where he was ordained and inducted on June 12, 1833. He remained a Presbyterian minister there for 27 years.

Adam is recorded as living at the East Port in Pigot's 1837 directory, and in July 1840 he and Helen Wilson were married. Through his time at East Bank he vigorously supported the Forbes Mackenzie Act which regulated public houses in Scotland, and, with John Bright, campaigned for the repeal of the Corn Laws and for educational reform.

In 1842, he oversaw the congregation's flit from the old East Bank Kirk at the foot of Trinity Gardens to a new purpose-built church at the top of the Wheathole, now called Trinity Church.

Following the death of his wife Helen in 1853, Adam would go on to marry a widow, Margaret Smellie (née Weir), who hailed from Gibraltar. Nell's stepmother would produce two half-siblings, James Smith Thomson and Annie Elizabeth Thomson.

For the first 12 years of her life, Nell grew up in Hawick, attended school there, and was imbibed with her father's fire and brimstone principles. The Rev. Adam often suffered from ill health, though, and spent two six-month spells recuperating in Europe, in 1852 and 1856.

With the onset of a further bronchial infection, the family was



Nell Fell

PICTURE: TROVE

advised to seek warmer climes – leading to Adam's resignation as minister on October 9, 1860.

Before his departure there was a special soiree attended by almost all the local ministers. Adam was presented with an illuminated address bearing the burgh seal, signed by the magistrates and about 800 other townfolk, as well as other gifts including a copy of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* from J. A. H. Murray on behalf of the citizens of Hawick.

The Thomson family, thereafter, emigrated to Australia, with Adam accepting a call to the United Presbyterian Church (later St Stephen's), Phillip Street, Sydney. They arrived at their new home on April 13, 1861.

The Rev. Adam won

esteem in New South Wales as an advocate of the union of the divided presbyteries and synods, acting as secretary of the Presbyterian Union Conference and later becoming the first moderator of the General Assembly of New South Wales. He notably opposed state aid to religion.

Supporting the establishment of an affiliated college within the University of Sydney, Thomson travelled extensively to collect funds.

When St Andrew's College was subsequently founded, he was elected to its first council in November 1870. A stone and window in St Stephen's Church, Macquarie Street, and a window in St Andrew's College Chapel, commemorate these achievements. A large

polyglot Bible presented to his father is also in the keeping of St Andrew's College.

So far, ample information on Adam, nothing at all on Nell. Let's rectify that.

In 1868, she began writing a diary which recorded her busy social life. One significant eyewitness account details the shooting of Alfred, Prince of Wales and Duke of Edinburgh, the second son of Queen Victoria, during a picnic held in the Sydney suburb of Clontarf on March 12, 1868. Although the prince was only slightly wounded, the event set off a rash of anti-Irish feeling in Sydney, and his assailant was hanged in record time.

The initial diary years of 1869-70 recorded a constant stream of visitors to their Sydney home, including Sir Edmund Barton, the first Prime Minister of Australia; Sir George Houston Reid, fourth Prime Minister of Australia; and Robert Richardson, journalist, poet, writer, and possibly the first Australian-born children's author.

On June 9, 1870, at Premier Terrace, Sydney, Nell married James Walter Fell who was two years older than her, in a ceremony conducted by her own father. James, a Glaswegian, was a shipbroker with the family firm of J. W. Fell & Son.

Her husband was a chemistry graduate and one of the first of the extended Fell family to migrate to Australia from Scotland. He had been pivotal in the amalgamation of two businesses to form the New South Wales Shale & Oil Company in 1872.

Like his uncle

Alexander, James was an expert in the field of shale oil processing. Both men had worked together at the West Calder Oil Company in Livingston, and later at Joadja.

James was also a founder of the North Shore Gas Company in Sydney, as well as an engineer for other gasworks, including the Australian Gas Light Company.

The couple's first child, John Walter Fell or Jack, was born in North Sydney in 1872; followed by daughters Helen Mary or May, born 1874, at Ashfield; and Catherine Isabella or Katie/Kit, born 1877 at St Leonards – by happenstance a suburb of Sydney.

While visiting London on work-related duties in 1882, James fell ill and died, aged only 35, leaving Nell and their children well provided for. The Fell family stayed on in Britain for a short time, with Jack attending Clare Hall Academy.

Prompted by grief, in 1882 Nell resumed her diary, these new entries being written as letters for her family to read. She grew into the role of a diarist, providing an evocative record of her growth in personal autonomy, her love for her extended family and church, her Scottish-Australian identity, and her gradual turning to public activities as a fully enfranchised citizen.

From 1885, she fittingly made her home at St Leonards in a house named Branhholme, a definite nod to her Hawick roots. This house stood at 820 Alfred Street, just below the crest of the hill, but has since been swept away for the Warringah Freeway.

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**Last week's winner:**  
IRENE GEORGE  
Closing date Tuesday 5pm

# Hawick-born police officer who defied cancer odds for years

An ardent teetotaler and strict Sabbatarian, Nell taught Sunday school at her local church, St Peter's, attended choir and prayer meetings, collected subscriptions for church organisations and, with the clergyman's wife, visited the sick of the parish. She also read the Bible to patients at the North Shore Cottage Hospital.

The church was an important training field for her public activities, especially through her membership of its literary and relief societies, and she helped to raise large sums of money for the church, becoming first treasurer of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Association.

Her son Jack was a talented university student who gained scholarships and notable prizes in physics, chemistry, and natural science at the University of Sydney. He eventually achieved first-class honours in maths, chemistry, physics, applied mechanics, and surveying – unparalleled in the annals of the university at that time.

Sadly, he died in 1891, an event which understandably devastated Nell and abruptly brought her diary to a halt.

She and her daughters, thereafter, returned to Scotland for five years.

It would have been easy for Nell to pack in her voluntary roles and seek out a comfortable middle-class life in Britain. However, upon returning to Branhholme in 1896, she supported many charities which looked after women and children.

Nell was appointed to the board of the National Council of Women and later the executive of the Women's Liberal League. She also became a life member of the Women's Reform League, during which time she took an active interest in the political machinations of the League of Nations, the first worldwide inter-governmental organisation whose principal mission was to maintain world peace.

She was additionally on the board of Crown Street Women's Hospital, a founder member of the Kindergarten Union of New South Wales (a movement continued in earnest by Helen Marion Fell, a relation through marriage), and she took an active role in the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the women's

auxiliary of the Association for the Protection of Native Races.

Nell latterly supported the Dunmore Hostel for Girls, St Andrew's Settlement House (a church-based welfare organisation), and was a founding member of the Presbyterian Social Services Committee and Burnside Orphan Homes.

During the years 1912 to 1927, Fell made a return to diary-writing, evidencing her as a "courageous, compassionate and determined reformer. She rarely condemned and regularly helped on an individual basis". One such entry read: "Did not feel well but after visiting a poor woman who seems to be dying of consumption and who has eight children, the youngest a baby two months old, I was cured... I felt I need never complain again."

She had no time for the Australian trade unions' xenophobic campaign against Chinese labour. "Talk of tyranny," she wrote, "I have great sympathy for the working classes but when they band together to become tyrants, there my sympathy ends."

Predeceased in 1927 by her daughter May, Nell gradually stepped down from her many committee roles until fully retiring in 1932. She died at St Leonards on April 13, 1935, and her cremated remains were interred at Gore Hill Cemetery.

Of her immediate family, her half-sister Annie gave a long and distinguished service to the YWCA in New South Wales, as did Nell's daughter Katie who became secretary of Australasian League of Honour. She later married the Rev. Fred W. Wood and settled in Collarenebri.

A grandson, John F. D. Wood, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at St Andrew's College, established the Fell Engineering Prize, in 1965, in memory of Nell, James and Jack. Helen's legacy also lives on in the Sydney area through several three-times great-grandchildren.

I wonder how many of them know of her humble Hawick origins?

*Credit: Australian Dictionary of Biography (2006), Judith Godden and Alan Dougan; Fell Diaries, State Library of New South Wales; Ancestry, Alexandra Wood and Melissa North; Trove; A Hawick Word Book (2024 ed.), Professor Douglas Scott.*

Kenneth 'Skip' Houston, who died last Wednesday at the age of 63, was a force of nature.

Diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer in 2013, he was given a life expectancy of three to five years. True to character, Kenny resolved to fight the disease tooth and nail, continuing to inspire everyone around him for 11 more years.

The retired police officer remained a beacon of positivity throughout his many treatments and surgeries. His decision to post regular Facebook updates on his condition won widespread acclaim.

No less impressive were Kenny's fund-raising efforts. The dinners, auctions, bike rides and team triathlon he organised helped raise more than £70,000 for the Borders Cancer Centre and the Katie McKerracher Trust, set up in memory of the 11-year-old daughter of best friends Andrew and Ann.

Kenneth Temple Houston was born in Hawick's Haig Maternity Hospital on November 8, 1960, the eldest child of Robert 'Bob' Houston and his wife Rhona (née Matthewson). Bob was a carding engineer in Blenkhorn Richardson & Co's Hawick mill, while Rhona was manager of the town's Scottish Wool Shop.

Kenny's sister Wendy was born the following year, but because of their mother's ill-health, the children were raised in their early years by grandparents Tommy and Una Matthewson at their Belford home in Northumberland.

On returning to Hawick, Kenny attended Trinity school, and under the tutelage of games master Bill McLaren developed a lifelong passion for rugby. After leaving Hawick High he spent six months as an assistant in Kennedy's chemist shop, before signing up as a police cadet – something to which he had always aspired.

His first day at Hawick police station saw him enter the muster room wearing a pair of large size 12 boots, prompting police officer Danny Finnan to exclaim: 'Look, it's Skippy the Bush Kangaroo!' From that day on he would forever be known as 'Skip'.

After a year spent shadowing Hawick police colleagues, Kenny undertook three months' training at Tulliallan Police College, followed by a year on the beat in Hawick, before returning to Tulliallan for a final ten weeks of instruction.

A posting to Jedburgh saw him work alongside fellow police constable Grant Stott, who would go on to become a leading Scottish broadcaster, television presenter and actor, and who remained a close and

valued friend. "I arrived in Jedburgh in 1986 as a fresh-faced probationer," said Grant, "and was aware of Skip before I actually met him. His nonsense approach to policing was well known, but I found underneath it all he was really a gentle giant, and was very happy to take me under his wing.

"We formed a lasting friendship, and I'd be hard-pressed to think of another pal who has been so supportive in everything I've done since leaving the force in 1990."

Kenny's first marriage to Norma was dissolved after six years, and in 1988 came another posting, this time to Newcastleton.

The Lockerbie air disaster occurred a few months later, with Kenny assigned to search and recovery duties and the collection of witness statements – a task that was to last almost two years.



Kenny Houston

Meanwhile, his telephone calls to G Division headquarters brought him into regular contact with the Hawick station's civilian receptionist, Shirley Henderson, of Selkirk, with both parties developing an easy rapport.

Romance eventually blossomed, and they were married in Caddonfoot Parish Church on October 27, 1990. Initially living in Hawick, the couple eventually settled in Selkirk, being blessed by the arrival of daughter Rachel in 1993, and by the birth of son Jack the following year.

At the end of his time in Newcastleton, Kenny spent 18 months working in the traffic department at Hawick, followed by a similar period in the same role at Galashiels. Next came a spell as custody manager at Hawick Police Station.

In 2004 he was chosen for a special six-month secondment to the International Police Training Centre in Jordan, where he helped train Iraqi police recruits in defensive tactics. On returning to the Borders he resumed his role as custody manager, this time in Galashiels.

For the final five years of his police career, Kenny served as the police

force's drugs awareness officer for the Scottish Borders. His outstanding communication skills earned him a regular spot on Radio Borders, reporting on police matters and related public service issues.

Chief inspector Vinnie Fisher, a close friend for almost 30 years, said of his former colleague: "Skip was a consummate professional – a very, very good cop who always ensured everything was done to the letter.

"I'd also like to get across that he was good fun, and helped show me there was a completely different way to view the job. Throughout his career he built up a massive network of friends and colleagues around the world, all of whom held him in the highest regard."

On retiring from the force in 2009, Kenny's skills and drive quickly found a variety of outlets. Among the most high profile of these was his employment for 14 years by UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), the national agency for protecting clean sport.

As one of UKAD's most respected doping control officers, Kenny officiated at sporting events from club level right up to full internationals. One of his most prestigious assignments was working at the 2015 Pan-American Games in Toronto, and latterly he had been promoted by UKAD to lead doping control officer.

He also served as a funeral celebrant, and appeared as various characters in the popular Scott's Selkirk court re-enactments.

An active supporter of Selkirk Common-Riding, a special moment came in 2010 when he was appointed Selkirk Merchant Company's Standard Bearer.

For some years he worked as a rugby commentator for Radio Borders, and for a time was a member of Selkirk Rugby Club's management committee. Son Jack's decision to join the police in 2016 was a source of particular pride.

Speedway and cricket remained lifelong interests, as did taking to the road on his trusty Triumph motorbike. In recent years he and Shirley enjoyed taking their motorhome all over the country, with Gairloch, East Lothian and Bamburgh among favourite destinations.

Never afraid to give his honest opinion, and always keen to make a positive impact, Kenny 'Skip' Houston was respected throughout the Borders and beyond.

He is survived by his wife Shirley, daughter Rachel, son Jack and sister Wendy.

A memorial service will be held in Selkirk's Victoria Hall on Tuesday, March 12, at 11.30am. –JS



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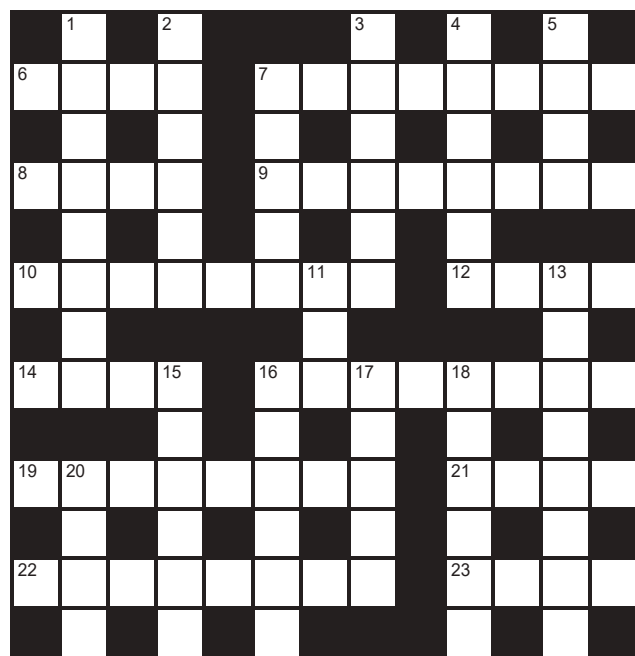


### ACROSS

- 6 “--- even go there!” (4)
- 7 Paint-mixing boards (8)
- 8 Bangkok native (4)
- 9 Vivacious (8)
- 10 Saw knees wobble for passion (8)
- 12 Protruding tooth (4)
- 14 Support (4)
- 16 On an aimless course (8)
- 19 Notes (8)
- 21 Time long ago (4)
- 22 Radiation belt scientist (3,5)
- 23 Renown (4)

### DOWN

- 1 Relating to the spiral-shaped cavity in the ear (8)
- 2 Threatened ski rat’s all over the place (2,4)
- 3 Asserts (6)



- 4 Charles I’s house (6)
- 5 “--- Only Just Begun” (4)
- 7 Mutual concord (5)
- 11 “The Old Man and the ---” (Hemingway) (3)
- 13 Complex of concurrent things (8)
- 15 Before hostilities (3-3)
- 16 Abuse (6)
- 17 Stone dresser (5)
- 18 Take a break (3,3)
- 20 Boast (4)

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## Sudoku

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

### LAST WEEK’S SOLUTIONS

**Across:** 7 Sri Lanka, 8 Aura, 9 Bunch, 10 Bird flu, 12 Displeasure, 14 Transmitter, 16 Got down, 18 Adios, 20 Dose, 21 Road trip.  
**Down:** 1 Argued, 2 Black sea, 3 Ink, 4 Vatican il, 5 Maid, 6 Brulee, 11 Classwork, 13 Up-to-date, 14 Took on, 15 Rookie, 17 Dies, 19 Aah.

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

## Quiz

By Brian Tait, Archaeological Society

- 1 Where was the Pesco hosiery factory located in early 20th century?
- 2 Which league do Hawick Royal Albert play in?
- 3 How many commemorative benches are located around the Elliot Bandstand?
- 4 When was Acreknowe Reservoir constructed to supply water to Hawick?
- 5 When did Hawick Rugby Club adopt the dark green jerseys worn today?

Answers: Page 16

## Word is ...

By Douglas Scott

### TRAIK

The loss of sheep or other livestock by death or straying. John Jamieson said: “He that has nae gear will hae nae traik” in Teviotdale in the early 1800s. He also gives the adjectival example: “He’s very traik”, meaning weak or ill. As a verb, the word means to decline in health, waste away or complain of ill-health. Hence we have “traikit”, meaning exhausted, weak or diseased. Henry Scott Riddell used the word in his biblical translations, eg: “An’ he gaeft thame galore for thair greed, but sendet ane traikieniss intil thair saul.”

### MUSIC CLUB

The latest concert, being held tomorrow (Saturday) in the St Mary’s & Old Parish Church halls at 7pm, features the highly-acclaimed Kleio String Quartet.

Described as “a wonderfully dedicated group of musicians who bring assuredness and freshness to everything they play”, the quartet comprises violinists Yume Fujise and Katherine Yoon, Jenny Lewisohn on viola and cellist Eliza Millett.

They won last year’s Carl Nielson International Chamber Music Competition, and are previous Tunnell Trust Award winners.

Their repertoire is Haydn Rider Opera 74 No3, Mendelssohn Quartet Op 44 in E minor, and Mozart Quartet K387 in G major, Spring.

The concert is being supported by The Tunnell Trust, which pays the fees of outstanding young groups to play for music clubs all over Scotland. Tickets are £15 for adults and free for under-18s. They are available from ticketsHMC@outlook.com and at the door. -VM

### ROTARY CLUB

Last Thursday, members heard local resident Susie Finlayson give an excellent talk on her work on The Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels.

She had become involved at a very early stage, tracing designs onto the empty panels and delivering materials to far-flung groups of stitchers. But then, partly through her mother’s participation as a stitcher, had become one herself.

Susie worked for a time as an assistant at the tapestry centre, before becoming a volunteer tapestry ambassador, giving talks to groups across the country. She, therefore, spoke ably and enthusiastically, recounting the history of the project while telling many anecdotes. Using an excellent PowerPoint presentation, she also highlighted the panels’ unique features.

Apparently, mistakes in the tracings can be removed by neat vodka, and blood spots can also be removed from the panels, but coffee stains persist.

While emphasising the licence the stitchers had to improvise in the designs, she showed members the duck which should have been a raven, and the helicopter carrying her husband which crash-landed in the sea off Orkney.

Scott Elliot’s vote of thanks focused on Susie’s infectious enthusiasm for the tapestry project.

Several members and friends who were present then took the opportunity to add stitches to a large panel for the entrance to the Galashiels building.

Last Friday, club members and friends conducted mock interviews at the high school, giving senior pupils practice in being interviewed for college and university places.

PICTURE: MATTHEW JOHNSON



The Kleio String Quartet

Later the same day, four members attended Jedburgh Rotary Club’s president’s night at Jed-Forest Rugby Club. -RS

### NEWMILL AND TEVIOTHEAD

Wednesday’s SWI meeting featured an interesting talk by Sue Briggs and Dennis Robertson, from The General Store in Selkirk, who take in any items that can be carried into the shop and have a go at repairing them. All the ladies are planning on a trip to Selkirk in the very near future with a variety of things!

Competitions: Decorated egg - 1, Kirsty Dunlop; 2, Nicky Watson; 3, Gill Francombe. Upeycled item - 1, Jan Little; 2, Kirsty Dunlop; 3, Nicky Watson.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 2, when members Kirsty Dunlop, Jan Little and Liz Howieson will give a talk on their ‘Kiwi Travels’ last year. Competitions: Holiday souvenir and spring flower arrangement. -MM

### STAMP CLUB

The theme ‘Nature’ was an easy subject with members able to show a diverse range of what is in the world around them.

Flowers were much in evidence from Great Britain, South Africa, New Zealand, Romania and Poland; as well as herbs, fish, animals, birds and the countryside from many countries. Also featured were images of British wild flowers and logerhead turtles on postcards; while one member produced an A-Z of countries with their issues conforming to the theme. -JC

### WILTON DEAN

The SWI’s February meeting saw Linda Lovatt, from Lovatt Galleries, demonstrate how to make a herbarium. Members then all had a go, taking a lovely herbarium home. Competitions: Decorated plant pot - 1, Sheila Armstrong; 2, Marj Stokes. Flowery scarf - 1, Lesley Birney; 2, Lyn Walker. The sales table raised £15. Raffle - Claire Mactaggart.

The next meeting on Tuesday at 7.30pm will feature Gail Hendry giving a talk on the history of gin. Competitions: three pieces of home-made traybake and favourite glass. -RG

## Letters to the editor

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

## Long may town’s Welcome Hosts smile

I heard a whisper that I hope is unfounded, namely that our Welcome Hosts might be “discarded” for this summer.

While I do not know if there are funding issues, these beacons of light and hope are a wonderful advert for the town.

We may not have an abbey, a tapestry or a mountain bike centre but these Teries outshine them all, and have done for 27 years. Long may they smile at visitors and locals alike.

R. BANNERMAN

I see Ken McCartney has dusted down his saltire-tinted spectacles and found what

he appears to think is a really serious subject ... free football on TV (*last week’s letters*).

Perhaps he has not noticed there are major problems with immigration, and deadly wars in the Middle East and Ukraine to name just a few topics which are far more worthy of his consideration. And the biggest laugh of all is when he accuses John Lamont MP of toeing the party line when the SNP are notorious for forcing their politicians to do exactly that.

Perhaps if all the allegations against the SNP are proven, he will again put pen to paper to criticise them - I don’t think so.

GEORGE STOREY

# There's a 'buzz' among cast ahead of opera curtain call

By JAKE COLTMAN

news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Derek Calder, combining the roles of producer and musical director for Hawick Opera's latest production, has praised the "fantastic work" and "dedication" everyone has put into bringing the show together.

*Our House*, the Madness musical, is the Galashiels Academy music teacher's fourth in the dual role.

He is backed by choreographers Emma Colman and Andrew Shields who only stepped into their positions in January.

Members of the cast, who started rehearsals in August, told us they are having "so much fun", highlighting the "buzz in the company".

The storyline revolves around the music of London multi-hit band Madness, combining comedy and romance, plus a host of their top numbers.

Earlier this week, the paper caught up with some of the main characters: Alexander Edwards, Sophie Hyslop, Charlie Marshall, Louise Szoneberg, Ashley Wolf and Andrew McGillivray.

Alexander plays two versions of a character called Joe Casey. "It's a great challenge being an antagonist and protagonist at the same time and I'm



Wednesday night's opera show rehearsals are in full flow

PICTURE: ILF IMAGING

excited to take on a main role," he said.

"I've previously played principal parts in *Hairspray* and *Barnum*, but this is my first time learning a full script as a lead."

Sophie Hyslop, who plays Sarah said there's an "amazing energy and enthusiasm" throughout the company, especially in the past couple weeks leading up to the show.

"I'm looking forward to bringing some madness to the stage!" she said, adding: "The nerves are starting to kick in a little, however, the audience have an amazing night out ahead with this show."

Playing Joe Casey's love

interest, this will be Sophie's second principal role with HAOS, having played in *Sunshine on Leith* last year.

Everyone is "digging deep" as the show approaches and since we started rehearsing it's been "a long journey, but an enjoyable one," commented Charlie Marshall who plays bad boy Reecey.

Charlie added that he is looking forward to next week and, the show being a Borders premier, it's really exciting doing something completely new and different.

"It can be a lot of pressure but once the nerves have settled, it's all fun. I've done many leading roles, but this

is so different to what I'm used to.

"We are all having so much fun," said Louise Szoneberg who plays Kath, Joe's mother. "It's a great role and I'm loving playing her."

"This is my second leading role, having played Jean in last year's production of *Sunshine on Leith*. That was the most amazing week and I'm now looking forward to being Kath this time round."

Ashley Wolf is "excited" to take on the role of Angie, one of Sarah's best friends, and said rehearsals have been fun and energetic.

"Everyone has put so much effort in to pull off this difficult show and I'm very excited to play this part," she

added. Ashley has had a few lead roles before in *Sister Act*, *9 to 5* and *Barnum*.

Playing funny guy Emmo is Andrew McGillivray who said he was "very lucky" and "excited" to have been given a main role as this was his first time with Hawick Opera.

"It's really awesome to be working with such talented people. I have worked with the Panto Group a few times but this is totally different, and I'm loving the challenge."

President Daniel Drummond told us:

"Following the success of last year's production of *Sunshine on Leith*, I'm delighted to welcome everyone to The House of Fun next week.

"Our production team and cast have been working extremely hard behind the scenes on this high-energy, upbeat show filled with all the favourite Madness songs. It's one not to be missed."

Andrew and Emma said they were "delighted" to be asked to choreograph this year's show. Rehearsals had been "fantastic" and the energy and enthusiasm from the cast "amazing".

They added: "We can't wait to see our creative vision come to life on stage, but also for the audience to see the story unfold with high-energy dances and an unforgettable musical theatre experience."

*Our House* runs nightly all next week with a Saturday matinee.

## Clyne's rink eases to triples title win

### Bowling

The semi-finals of Saturday's open triples, sponsored by Teviot Taxi, saw Bryan Hall, Ryan Brady and Fraser Clyne (skip) beating Jean Beattie, Marion Pearson and Caroline Hogarth (skip); and George Patterson, Bill Jaffray and Kenny Lyle (skip) getting the better of Sharman Macdougall, Pat McCartney and Sonya Roddan (skip).

The six-end final was a one-sided affair with Hall, Brady and Clyne running out comfortable winners against Patterson, Jaffray and Lyle.

■ A further open triples, sponsored by the Station Bar and Paul Burton Wines, will be held on Saturday, March 23. Entries to Chris or Duncan Macdougall as soon as possible.

■ Saturday's national seniors' competition ended in disappointment for the Teviotdale triple of Duncan Macdougall, Ged Smith and Norman Amos (skip) who were comfortably beaten in the semi-finals by eventual winners Coatbridge at the Lanarkshire stadium, Wishaw.

■ Tomorrow's Wilton team to take on Abbotsford at the Tweedbank stadium is as follows: Rink one – H. McClure, Rob Scott, G. Patterson and Chris Macdougall (skip). Rink two – S. Macdougall, S. Landles, B. Jaffray and F. Clyne (skip). Rink three – M. Thomson, J. Murray, P. McCartney and A. Taylor (skip). Rink four – D. Crozier, R. Jones, F. Donaldson and C. Sutherland (skip). Rink five – R. Eades, I. Wylie, K. Lyle and D. Macdougall (skip). Transport will leave the West Stewart Place clubrooms at 10am.

■ The Buccleuch club's annual general meeting will be held on Sunday, March 17, at 2pm. The pre-season coffee morning will take place on Saturday, March 23, in Lodge 424 from 10am to noon.

## Festival Sunday brings walk and high tea



HAWICK REIVERS FESTIVAL

Festival Sunday, March 24, is set to get off to a great start with the reivers town walk led by local historian Ian Lowes.

Entitled 'A day in Hawick is never wasted', the walk will see Ian telling the stories of many of the town's important landmarks.

A past-president of Hawick Archaeological Society, he has also

been a volunteer with Archaeology Scotland's Stobs Camp project since 2016 and is involved with the same organisation's 12 Towers of Rule project.

The walk is mainly on flat ground and will last around 90-120 minutes. Townsfolk and visitors are asked to meet Ian at the Civic Space ready to set off at 10am.

Also on the Sunday, the ever-popular high tea will round off the weekend. The event, which includes a main course followed



Ian Lowes

by scones, cakes and tea/coffee, will take place at Hawick Rugby Club where in-house caterer Debbie Brown and her staff will make sure everyone is well provisioned.



John Nichol

Special guest speaker is John Nichol, from Selkirk, who will be very familiar to many through his performances in countless plays, musicals and living-history dramas.

He has also worked as an actor, composer, writer and director for touring companies such as Rowan Tree Company and IDEOMS.

Tickets, £20, must be booked in advance from ILF Imaging, Dorward's or thelittleboxoffice.com/hawickreivers

A festival committee spokesperson told *The Hawick Paper*: "We're indebted to both these gentlemen for giving up their time and hope that folk will turn out to show their support."



# Drumlanrig set winning pace

## Athletics

By JAKE COLTMAN  
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

More than 600 youngsters from local primary schools took part in the 12th annual cross-country championships in Wilton Lodge Park last Thursday.

For the third successive year since the pandemic lockdown, Drumlanrig once again dominated the placings and were crowned the top team.

Hosted by Teviotdale Harriers in conjunction with the Active Schools network – and described as a “fantastic morning” – the aim is to give local primary-age youngsters the opportunity to take part in a healthy, outdoor sport.

Paul Scott, the local Active Schools co-ordinator, told the paper “What a fantastic morning of cross-country running. A huge well done to all of our runners who took part and congratulations to all of our medal and trophy winners.”

He went on: “A massive thank you to Teviotdale Harriers who made it all possible, also all our school volunteers who have been offering extra-curricular running clubs over the last few months ahead of this brilliant event.”

Adding, Paul called the event a “fantastic school-to-club partnership in action”.

If any youngsters would love to keep running and potentially try the Harriers junior section, they should contact Greg Walker on



Primary school runners turned out in big numbers to contest the 12th annual cross-country championships at Wilton Lodge Park. Below, Teviotdale Harriers president Rachel Halliday with Drumlanrig school's winning girls' and boys' teams, from left, Hector Rodgerson, Oliver Wight, Peyton Corrie, Andie Johnstone, Connor Davidson, Freya Walker, Josie Neish and Ivan Watson

PICTURES: ILF IMAGING



teviotdalesecretary@gmail.com for more information.

Harriers president Rachel Halliday hailed it a “great day” in the club’s calendar, and “amazing” to see so many youngsters taking part.

“Well done to all the runners taking part and

Drumlanrig’s overall team success.”

She praised Rory Anderson and his helpers for setting up the course, also timekeepers and marshals. “The day could not happen without them.”

Results: Primary four/five girls – 1, Freya Michie,

Wilton; 2, Josie Neish, Drumlanrig; 3, Andie Johnstone, Drumlanrig.

Primary six/seven girls – 1, Freya Walker, Drumlanrig; 2, Peyton Corrie, Drumlanrig; 3, Bonnie Scott, Stitches.

Girls’ team trophy – Drumlanrig – Josie Neish,

Andie Johnstone, Freya Walker and Peyton Corrie.

Primary four/five boys – 1, Connor Davidson, Drumlanrig; 2, Hector Rodgerson, Drumlanrig; 3, Harrison Combe, Drumlanrig.

Primary six/seven boys – 1 (equal), Ivan Watson,

Drumlanrig, and Finlay Prowse, Trinity; 3, Conor Young, Wilton.

Boys’ team trophy – Drumlanrig – Connor Davidson, Hector Rodgerson, Ivan Watson and Oliver Wight.

Overall champions – Drumlanrig.

## Father and daughter target more success

### Archery

It was a real family affair for the Macleod clan recently at the Bannockburn Archery Open when Ross and his daughter Sarah both competed. **Gary Heatly writes.**

Forty-two-year-old Ross’ love of the sport has been passed down to Sarah, who is 15 and in senior four at Hawick High School, and it was a milestone moment for the duo being involved at this event on February

24. They both compete for Balbardie Archers and, on the day, Ross shot in the seniors and Sarah in the under-18s in a Portsmouth competition.

A Portsmouth shoot consists of five dozen arrows shot in ends of three arrows on a 60cm target face at 20 yards.

They both came second in their categories and, as a result, Sarah was asked to join the under-21 Scottish Academy as she continues to learn.

Ross said: “It was great



Ross Macleod and his daughter Sarah in Bannockburn

shooting alongside my daughter, but nerves were high and at the beginning I was too interested watching her shoot to focus on my own shooting.

“I just wanted Sarah to have a positive experience and I’m glad she did.

“We both got into the swing of things and shot well.”

### Snooker

Border league week 25 (Thursday, February 29) – Hawick Burns C 6, Hawick Con D 0; Hawick Con C 6, Hawick Burns A 0; Selkirk Con A 3, Selkirk Con B 3; Hawick Con A 1, Hawick Burns B 5; Hawick Burns B 4, Kelso Legion 2.

Breaks of 20 and above – Darren Williams (Hawick Con D), Paddy Crolla (Selkirk Con A), Robin Bell (Hawick Burns B) and Gary Law (Hawick Burns D).

■ Last Sunday saw the finals of the Knockout Cup and Plate at Hawick Burns Club.

A six reds format over the best of 13 frames saw the

cup final between Hawick Burns A (Aaron Hogg, Neil MacAskill and Mark Riddell) and Hawick Con D (Michael Jeffrey Dougie Rae and Darren Williams).

The latter-named raced into a 4-1 lead before the Burns Club levelled the match at 6-6. A final frame decider between the captains’ picks of Neil MacAskill and Michael Jeffrey went down to the final black with Neil holding his nerve with a great long pot.

The plate final resulted in a comprehensive 7-2 victory for Hawick Burns B (Davy Halfpenny, Mick Hogg and Robin Bell) over Hawick Burns C (John Gallagher, George Gray and Rob Duff).

# Senior Maltman is first in from the cold on Moor

## Harriers

By **JAKE COLTMAN**  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Nick Maltman – a former Scottish and British veteran marathon champion – back with the Harriers this season after a spell away for some 20 years, coasted to victory in the Senior Cup race at the Moor on Saturday.

The 69-year-old, with a handicap of five minutes, was second at the bell in the four-lap, three-mile race.

Taking the lead in the back straight, he kicked for home to win by some 50 yards, leaving the rest of the close field to battle it out for the minor placings.

Winner of the Menzies Trophy in 1994 and 1995, and club champion 1999 and 2000, Maltman told the paper he found the race “tough”.

His verdict came as no surprise as conditions were particularly testing with a bitterly cold wind and driving rain sweeping across the course.

It is a credit to the youngsters especially who turned out to brave the elements. Every competitor lived up to often be called the hardy harriers.

Taking second spot was Michael Davidson (handicap 5.00), who earlier had witnessed his son, Connor, easily winning the under-11/under-13 boys’ event.

The ex-Cornet – who won the Langheugh Trophy in January – just missed out emulating his father, also Michael, winner of the Senior Cup in 1990, and captain in the 1985-86 season.

Finishing third was former Greens prop, Sean Linton (4.00) in his first season in the Harriers.

The fastest actual time of 18.21 was returned by Mark Young, running from scratch and finishing fifth.

Winner of the Glencairn Trophy as first veteran



Isla McHutchison



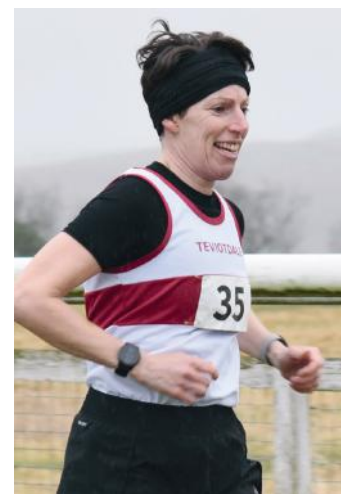
Connor Davidson



Returning Harrier Nick Maltman won the Senior Cup



Craig Watson



Kirsty Hughes

was Greg Walker, finishing fourth from a mark of one minute. He also held the trophy in 2021.

The Ladies Challenge Cup for under-15/under-17s and ladies, also over four laps, went to a “delighted” Kirsty Hughes (handicap 5.45), runner-up last year.

With two laps to go, Ann Aitken was in the lead, followed by Euro Tour orienteering winner Lindsey Knox. Aitken was ahead by 50 yards at the bell but in the back straight the ladies’ club champion Hughes took pole position. She also won the silverware in 2017.

Having a great second spell in the Harriers, Morag Michie (6.30), already a winner of two trophies this season, was runner-up, with

Knox (7.00) third. Hughes clocked the fastest actual time of 26.20.

The Mary Hughes Memorial Trophy for the first veteran went to Michie.

As with the senior men’s race, if the winner is a veteran they do not qualify for the veterans’ trophy, this goes to the next-placed in that category.

Hughes told us she was delighted to win the veterans’ trophy last year (she also had it 2018-2020), it being presented in memory of her mother-in-law, and “equally delighted” to take the challenge cup for the second time.

Running from scratch, Connor Davidson was a convincing winner, easing up coming in to the finishing

line, to lift the M & M Trophy in the 1½-lap race for under-11/under-13s.

The Drumlanrig primary five and club boys’ champion took the lead after just a half lap gone, stretching away down the back straight to win by 200 yards for his second trophy victory this season.

Runner-up was the holder, Callan Michie (.15), with Hugo Armstrong (.35) third. The fastest actual time of 7.50 was returned by Davidson.

A handicap of 3.05 was enough to secure the John Elliot Trophy, her second this season, for Wilton primary five Isla McHutchison. She won the under-11/under-13 event by some 200 yards.

twos – Craig Jardine, Pete Leishman, Chris Murdoch, Gary Murdie, Lewis Robertson, Ross Graham, Derek Nicholson and Adam

Middlesmass. Nearest the pins – 1st – Pete Leishman; 8th and 13th – Richard Allott; 18th – Lewis Robertson.

## Hawick fighter puts on a fine show

### Boxing

By **GARY HEATLY**  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick Boxing Club youngster Liam Rutherford was knocked out of the Golden Gloves event at the semi-final stage on Saturday, but he can be proud of his efforts.

The Boxing Scotland-run Golden Gloves event is held at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility in Motherwell and last week Liam progressed from his quarter-final into the last four.

In the semi at the weekend, he took on Yehor Tsoma of Lochend Boxing Club and, after a slow start, Liam returned to his corner and took on board instructions from coach George Telfer.

Liam then looked a different boxer in the second round and convincingly won it.

Into the third round, Liam dug deep and seemed to have done enough to take the decider, but it was his opponent who had his hand raised in victory.

“We were pleased with Liam’s performance and he is improving with every bout,” Andy Macfarlane from Hawick Boxing Club said.

Liam will be in action at the Falkirk Phoenix Show tonight (Friday) and at the Egremont Boxing Club Show tomorrow alongside Lennon Hope who will be making his debut.



Liam Rutherford

## Golf

Fifty-three members entered the weekend’s D.

Charters Electrical Services Ltd Winter League.

Results were as follows: Division one – 1, Chris Murdoch, 40 points; 2,

Mark Landles, 39. Division two – 1, Gary Murdie, 42; 2, Fiona Turnbull 40 (bih). Division three – 1, Scott Walker, 43. There were eight

two – Craig Jardine, Pete Leishman, Chris Murdoch, Gary Murdie, Lewis Robertson, Ross Graham, Derek Nicholson and Adam

PICTURE: GROSSICK PHOTOGRAPHY



Cracking Rhapsody won Kelso's prize pot for Ewan Whillans

## Whillans bags big Kelso win

### Horse racing

Teri trainer Ewan Whillans landed the biggest success of his training career when Cracking Rhapsody won the feature £120,000 Morebattle hurdle race at Kelso on Saturday.

Ewan had previously ridden the 2007 winner when he won the race as a jockey on Brave Vision.

Cracking Rhapsody relished the pace and jumped well to take the prestigious title under a great ride by Craig Nichol, who described him as "tough and brave".

The gelding is a half-brother to Cracking Destiny – who gave Ewan his first winner after taking out his licence.

Reflecting on picking up Kelso's richest prize, Ewan – who took over from his dad Alistair in 2021 – enthused: "It's unbelievable. I'm over the moon. Craig gave him a great ride.

"We were second in the Eider last week with Prince Des Fichaux and I thought that was our chance for a big race gone."

Ewan now has a trip

to Sandown firmly in his sights.

"There's a novice handicap final there on the last day of the season worth £100,000 and as long as the ground is okay, he'll not run again until then."

Escapeandevade completed a hat-trick of wins to land the concluding handicap chase for Langholm trainer James Ewart.

At Newcastle on Sunday, Sibyl Charm clinched the sprint by a nose for trainer Iain Jardine, who also had a winner at Southwell on Tuesday when Moonstone Boy landed the novice stakes.

Jason Hart rode One More Dream to a 12-1 win in the concluding seven-furlong handicap.

Hart also won the novice sprint at Newcastle last Friday on favourite Cast No Shadow, and got 16-1 chance Fox Flame up by a neck to clinch the middle-distance handicap at Southwell on Tuesday.

Over the jumps, Bruce Lynn rode Gypsy Lee Rose to win the mares' handicap chase at Newcastle on Tuesday.

—HM

### Rugby

Jardine Vevers led the way with two tries as Hawick Youth Rugby's under-18s reached the Border Cup semi-finals at the expense of Jed Thistle on Saturday, **Gary Heatly writes.**

The Teries won the quarter-final tie on the road 29-5 – after leading 14-5 at the interval – and are now waiting to hear who they will face in the last four.

As well as Vevers' try double, McLeod and winger Logan Robertson also scored while Riley Muir kicked two conversions and a penalty and Stuart Delaney a conversion.

"It was a well-deserved win and it means we are still in the hunt for silverware," team manager Paul McDonald told us.

"This weekend the under-18s are off over the border to play Carlisle Colts in a friendly tomorrow (Saturday) with a 12.30pm kick-off so we can watch the Italy-Scotland international with our opponents on TV afterwards."

This evening the under-15s are in action when they take on Gala Red Triangle at Volunteer Park at 7pm in the Law Cup match.

The silverware is named in honour of Tom Law who was a long-serving stalwart of youth rugby in the town

with Hawick Wanderers and was a well-known figure in Borders youth rugby in general.

This will be the 16th playing of the under-15 fixture and Hawick are currently on ten wins and Gala five.

The young Greens took the bragging rights last season, but Gala will be looking to win this time.

Hawick Youth Rugby said on social media: "We're hoping to get a big crowd down to the Volunteer to cheer on the boys."

The under-16s are not in action this weekend, but the Hawick High School under-13s and 14s are both playing Gala this afternoon

at Wilton Lodge Park at 3.30pm.

■ The Hawick Mini primary fives won their section at the Langholm Festival on Sunday.

They won all their games and then beat Gala in the final – there really was some great play on show.

The primary threes were placed second having only lost one game and the primary fours came second as they lost to Peebles in the final.

The primary sixes and sevens both finished third and lost one game apiece.

■ The Harlequins Primary School 10s takes place tomorrow in Wilton Lodge Park, 10am-noon.



The primary fives had a great day out at Langholm, winning all their section games and beating Gala in the final

## Youths rise to challenge as Waverley crash

### Football

#### Castlevale YDC 1 Hawick Youth 2010 4

Hawick travelled to face familiar foes in Castlevale YDC and recorded a vital win in a battling performance.

Hawick threatened goal first and Carter James shot meekly into the goalkeeper's hands, he followed this up with a header which was cleared.

Kai Telfer was marauding down the left wing and on two occasions broke through but both times dragged his shot wide.

Hawick broke the deadlock midway through the half, and it was a goal of the highest order.

Fabulous interplay between Jay McCracken, Koby Wilson and Telfer created space for Calum Stevenson and his shot from distance raged into the net.

Castlevale pushed forward but Cullen

Sutherland dealt with everything, and the away team kept their lead.

Seconds before half-time James was fouled and the referee awarded a free-kick, which McCracken curled into the top corner.

Hawick continued playing positively into the second period but were rocked when James was given a second yellow after an off-the-ball incident.

The red card motivated Castlevale and they grabbed a goal after a scramble in

the penalty area. Hawick replied with a third goal when Stevenson sent Mikey Smith through to score.

This would be Smith's last involvement because minutes later he, too, was ordered off along with his immediate opponent.

Hawick scored again when a Hudson MacLeod pass broke the line and Stevenson netted.

All the team played exceptionally well but Max Ferguson was the top performer. —SE

#### Langlee Amateurs 7 Hawick Waverley 0

The wheels came off for Hawick Waverley at Galashiels in this Border Amateur A Division encounter.

Co-manager Craig McCutcheon said: "In the first half we did alright, competed well and were as good as Langlee and everything was even.

"Langlee got two quick goals just before half-time and in the dressing

room at the break we were very still hopeful of doing something.

"We went for an early goal in the second half, which we almost got through Evan Alexander – who came really close."

A disappointed McCutcheon added: "After this, however, we just failed to turn up for the rest of the half.

"We were just terrible and the players are bitterly disappointed with their showing and the result."

# Victory keeps home run going for the Tangerines

**Hawick United** 4  
**Gala FRA** 2

By JOHN SLORANCE  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick United maintained their unbeaten home run at Wilton Lodge Park in this hard-fought encounter which produced six goals as well as ten bookings.

The Tangerines had to dig deep and go every inch of the way to get their three points though.

A youthful Gala Fairydean Rovers Amateurs saw to this with an impressive showing.

Aided by two superb saves by goalkeeper Dean Fry, a brace of goals from Martin Goldie and strikes from Ross Scott and Kevin Strathdee saw United accomplished the job they set out to do in bagging all three points.

After chances had been passed up at both ends on a heavy surface, United opened the scoring with 22 minutes gone.

David Strathdee swung a free-kick into a crowded goalmouth which Rovers failed to clear and the ball broke to the feet of Ross Scott who fired home.

With Kai Macrae and Lee Macrae showing up well, the visitors replied with a series of probing attacks and in the 38th minute the Gala men got a reward for their efforts when a fine passing move ended with Kai Macrae rattling a shot into the net.

Five minutes later, however, United regained their lead.

Martin Goldie netted the first of his brace tucking away an Andrew Coyle cross.

Poor underfoot conditions were to deteriorate even further in the second half but both sides got on with the job in attempting to play positive football.



United's David Milligan wins a tussle and, inset, Jamie Graham carries the ball forward

PICTURES: DERICK THOMSON

In the 66th minute the hosts added to their tally.

After shrugging off a number of challenges, Goldie found the net with a trundling effort that should have been kept out by Amateurs' keeper Gary Cleghorn.

Within two minutes, Gala were back in the mix, with Kai Macrae again their marksman after being set up by a cut-back from Lee Macrae.

Five minutes from time the ever-ready Kevin Strathdee sealed victory for United by notching his 24th goal of the season after having gained possession following a jostle with Tom Chandler.

Talking to *The Hawick Paper*, United co-manager Alan Campbell said: "We made heavy work of it and didn't play particularly well in spells but we got a win and that's what counts."

"Gala made it hard for us

and full credit to them for the way they performed as they are a young side.

"I was pleased with the way our guys battled through as there was no shortage of effort put in by everybody."

**HAWICK UNITED:** D Fry, D Milligan, B Mitchinson, D Strathdee, L Johnstone, G Tait, R Scott, J Graham, K Strathdee, M Goldie, A Coyle. Subs: A Colville, H Adamson, L Currie, N Gillie, F Turnbull, R Patterson, R Spratt.

## Legion in cup semis

**Langholm Legion 1**  
**Hawick Legion 3**

Hawick Legion sailed into the semi-finals of the Border Cup with a merited win on the 3G at Langholm.

Shining throughout, the Hawick men broke the deadlock with a well-worked goal.

Following a good build up move, Joe Wylie skipped past a defender before sending over a cross which Scott Duncan dispatched with aplomb.

After Langholm had equalised through Ryan Johnstone, Hawick regained their lead when Aidan Oldham scored with a close-range back-heeler from a Euan Gray corner.

Calum Renwick then brilliantly tipped a raging drive against the bar then prevented the hosts from drawing level with a second quickfire stop.

The Teries, however, were in the driving seat and on gathering a Grey pass, Wylie grabbed a third with an unstoppable shot that sizzled into the top corner of the net.

Hawick manager Jory Robertson was delighted with his side's victory and told us: "We made a few changes from the side that last week went to Biggar."

"We moved Joe Wylie from attack to midfield and that gave Scott Duncan a chance up front and the changes worked well."

"Everything just worked out great, all the boys were brilliant and it's great to have reached the semi-final of the Border Cup."

■ Royal Albert's East of Scotland League Cup first round tie at Livingston United on Saturday was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

### BORDER AMATEUR B DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Highfields Utd	21	17	0	4	110	35	51
Eyemouth Utd	19	15	1	3	100	24	46
<b>HAWICK UTD</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>
St Boswells	20	12	0	8	66	48	36
Ancrum	19	11	2	6	60	35	35
Leithen Rovers	16	10	1	5	39	25	31
Gala FRA	19	9	1	9	52	50	28
Kelso Thistle	19	7	3	9	59	57	24
Gala Hotspur	17	5	2	10	30	56	17
Jed Legion	17	4	2	11	30	74	14
Coldstream Ams	17	3	1	13	27	71	10
Lauder	18	3	1	14	20	75	10
Selkirk Victoria	17	1	1	15	19	103	4

## Waverley on hunt for points at Wilton Lodge Park

■ FROM PAGE 24

"Our tails are up now as we showed we can play a bit."

Also in the league Hawick Waverley host Greenlaw at Wilton Lodge Park and co-manager Craig McCutcheon told us: "It's our first home game for a

while. Greenlaw are just above us in the league so it looks like being a close game.

"We are in need of a win and will be going all out to get one."

Davis Hope returns to the Waverley squad but the

Teries are without Jordan Nuttall, who unfortunately has been ruled out for the remainder of the season through injury.

Third-placed Hawick United travel to face St Boswells – who sit in fourth position – in a B Division

clash. United coach Dougal Prowse said: "We haven't played St Boswells so far this season so we will be approaching the game with caution."

"It's a game we will be looking to win but we certainly will be treating

St Boswells with great respect."

The Tangerines are without the suspended Brian Mitchinson, but have Liam Lavery back in the squad.

All amateur division kick-offs 2pm.

# Force win again thanks to a wizard performance

**Hawick Force** 31  
**Selkirk A** 14

By RORY BANNERMAN  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The wind swirled in mysterious vortexes, the rain spat and splattered and sparkling light fell on patches of darkness, while out of the gloom emerged a thing of beauty that took time to take shape, but eventually revealed itself as the Hawick equivalent of Hogwarts.

Early exchanges found neither side, understandably, able to control the wet oval sorcerer's stone, with the Force less than sure-footed playing on the unfamiliar 3G surface at the Volunteer Park.

Perhaps the scene, set in the eye of a horrible storm caused by Buckbeak's flapping wings, meant that the lads took time to warm up, thus allowing the Soutars from Slytherin to draw first blood.

As the break approached the sizeable crowd wondered if the Force could break the spell set by a Ron Weasley stand-off lookalike in blue, but never doubt Finn Douglas (the Thorfinn Rowle of the boys in green) who flew past a well-drilled

defence to score, allowing young fair-haired Alastor Moody doppelganger, Owain Gray, to add the extras like he would do twice more amidst the thunderclaps and wailing sirens of a hauntingly unpleasant night with a conversion cry of 'alarte ascendare'.

The half-time whistle was met with the scores level at seven apiece, and the home team scurrying to the warmth of Snape's office, for words of wisdom from old Matt Dumbledore himself on how to concoct a potion to unravel the combative visitors' spell.

As the sides emerged from their cauldron cupboards into the half light of a meteorological curse for the second half, Hawick's own Hagrid, in the comely shape of Ru MacLeod, showed selectors why he is chapping on the door of the firsts, with strong running and an ever-willing pair of hands to carry the Quiddich quaffle forward.

A quick move allowed visiting Gav Naylor to pop up where least expected, Sirius Snape-like, on the wing to plunge over for the lead. Quickly after that MacLeod was then on the scoresheet himself, ably assisted by driving work from the Force's own Xenophilias Lovegood in his earthy



PICTURE: MALCOLM GRANT/HAWICK RFC

James Delaney looks for a way through the Selkirk ranks

shape as Murray Renwick, who was as willing, and precise at the lineout, as ever.

James Delaney is the dependable footsoldier of Gryffindor, on which much of this season has been built, never complaining and just getting on with his job, he was rewarded with a deserved try.

An often unsung hero, like Hermione Granger, Delaney formed a fine midfield partnership with Sirius Black Purvis from the North of Ireland.

Gray was then on hand to break free of the clutches of Selkirk's multi-legged Aragog defence line and

scored a fine try to stretch the lead further.

Selkirk's own Peter Pettigrew scurried under the tackles of the men in green to snatch a late consolation try but it was too little too late, for whenever else the visitors neared the hosts' line the word 'Expelliarmus' was shouted by a jackalling defender in green, who spirited away the danger to safety.

Word has to be given to the ball boys, scurrying around like miniature Filius Flitwicks in appalling conditions, they deserve an elderwood wand each as just reward for a tremendous

## JUNIOR LEAGUE CUP

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Hawick Force	5	5	0	0	151	55	25
Selkirk A	5	3	1	1	110	96	17
Melrose Storm	5	3	2	0	99	61	14
Kelso Sharks	4	2	2	0	80	55	11
Peebles Reds	4	1	2	1	52	80	8
Gala A	5	1	4	0	69	111	6
Jed-Forest A	4	0	4	0	10	113	0

night's work. However, the Harry Potter hero role has to be given to Grant Huggan. He cast spells all over the pitch, at times it felt like he was the only one tackling, the only one running and the only one able to beat a man.

Huggan's never-say-die attitude led the team forward throughout the game and he deservedly was crowned wizard of the match.

He must have been muttering 'Expecto Patronum' under his breath all night, as he saved his side from the dark arts of the opponents time and again.

If he is as good at his day job as he is at night time rugby then there will be fields of pearly-white smiling equine Thestrals the world over.

**HAWICK FORCE:** E. Hamilton, L. Crowford, J. Delaney, R. Purvis, F. Douglas, O. Gray, G. Huggan; S. Frizzel, C. Cumming, H. Donaldson, M. Renwick, A. Fairbairn, R. MacLeod, L. Graham, T. Hope. Replacements: G. Naylor, J. White, R. Ali, C. Riddell.

## GREEN ZONE

THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HAWICK RFC



**EXHIBITION:** A new exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Hawick Rugby club opened last Friday in Hawick Museum.

It will run alongside the Bill McLaren Centenary Exhibition.

A series of displays, showing hitherto unseen artefacts, trace the origins of the club to the present day.

All club members are invited to an open afternoon from 2-4pm on Sunday, March 10.

**SPORT IN FOCUS:** The final two episodes of Stuart Cameron's *ITV Border's Border Sport In Focus* will be a two-parter on the 150 years of Hawick Rugby Club.

Part one will air on Monday, March 11, at 10.45pm with part two on Monday, March 18, at the same time.

**REMEMBER:** Bobby's Cheltenham day – lunch and big screen racing – takes place at Mansfield Park on Friday, March 15.

There are still a few tickets available on 07956 845441.

# Late kick sees brave Quins bow out of Shield

**Broughton 42**  
**Hawick Harlequins 41**

Hawick Harlequins head coach Deek Armstrong says he "couldn't have asked any more of the players" as they were edged out 42-41 in a National Shield thriller against Broughton on Saturday, **Gary Heatly writes.**

Spirits in the Quins camp were high ahead of the trip to Edinburgh for the round three tie after their excellent performance at home last month in round two when they got the better of Haddington 50-19.

Haddington are a top half East League Division One side and so are Broughton, but East League Division

Two outfit Quins had shown they could cause a shock once and were keen to do so again.

Preparations this time around were not helped by some unavailability, but a squad of 20 headed up to the capital for a match moved from Wardie to Newfield.

By half-time an already stretched Quins squad had been forced to make four changes, but everyone kept battling.

And with three minutes to go in an end-to-end game, the Quins led by nine points and were on the verge of the quarter-finals.

However, there were a lot of tired bodies and Broughton took advantage to score a converted try and



PICTURE: @VINEPHOTO

Blaine Halfpenny shows the Quins fighting spirit

then kick a last-gasp penalty to turn a 41-32 deficit into a 42-41 victory.

The Quins players were out on their feet and disappointed at the end, but head coach Armstrong told *The Hawick Paper*: "In all my years of coaching in the game I have never seen a braver effort from a set of players.

"I really couldn't have asked any more of them, they all gave it everything that they had and some of the hits they were putting in defensively against a strong opponent were really impressive.

"We knew that we were stretched and that became even more the case by half-time, but the guys just rolled

up their sleeves.

"Whenever we got a chance in attack we seemed to take it too, so while the way things ended was frustrating, the club can take a lot from this.

"Everyone played their part, but special mention to Steven Mabon who came straight off a nightshift at work to play and then headed back to another nightshift and to Neil Douglas who came on and played very well.

"They typify the Quins spirit."

Dirk Kotze, Jack Watson, Finlay Douglas, Liam Smith, Jordan Hyslop and Gary Rodgeron scored the Quins tries, Adam Hall kicking 11 points.

# Greens power their way

**Hawick Kelso** 25  
9

By **ATHOLL INNES**  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

It was like old times at Mansfield Park last Saturday – with crowds queuing at the turnstiles, a packed stand, and hundreds more on the terracing despite the rain.

It was, of course, a Borders derby against Kelso with pride and prestige at stake in a Premiership play-off game that few wanted.

That included Hawick president, Ian Landles, who felt that teams which win the Premiership should be crowned champions.

Hawick finished top of the league, but if Kelso – who finished 25 points back in fourth place – had won then they would have had a shot at being champions.

In the end, the brave Tweedsiders – who have had a marvellous season under former Greens star Bruce McNeil – succumbed to the dominating power of the home pack.

Statistically Hawick, who led only 10-9 at the break, won the try count 3-0 and restricted Kelso to three penalties. The Greens also lost Gareth Welsh to the sin bin for a high tackle in the second half.

But it was Hawick's second-half power that decimated their opponents to earn what was a decisive semi-final victory.

Even on their own possession Kelso were under extreme pressure in



Dalton Redpath makes a break into space behind the Kelso line with scrum-half Gareth Welsh in support

the second 40 minutes.

The tries came from Welsh in the first half, Ronan McKean early in the second and Dalton Redpath close on the final whistle.

But the fact that play-offs are necessary at all has sparked continued debate.

“What a sad indictment of the schedule,” said Landles writing in the match programme. “The

need for play-offs is a controversial topic. Many believe that the trophy should be presented to the team which finishes top of the pile after 18 fixtures.”

While the president admitted that the two play-off games last season left a lasting impression, there are still those who are adamant that the league should be decided on the

final table of the season.

On the game itself, which was Hawick's first home game since December 9, coach Matty Douglas had nothing but praise for his players. “That was a massive result for us,” he said. “I am proud of the players and we definitely deserved it.”

“We have had a really good season We know what these games are about,

but we have to turn up and perform on the day.

“We went in 10-9 up in the first half, we were a bit below par, and we gave too many penalties away.

“We felt a lot frustrated as we had spoken about it. We gifted them nine points.

“But for that second-half performance... the pack deserve a massive pat on the back.

“I think our lineout time, set-piece, and driven maul gave us a good platform.

“Our whole pack was outstanding while in the front row Shawn [Muir] leads week after week.

“Our bench compared to theirs also made a huge difference. The pressure was on us to perform and I'm as proud as punch.”

There was a feeling that Kelso wouldn't score and relied on the boot of Dwain Patterson for their points.

From the Kelso perspective, McNeil's return to Mansfield, where he spent many years, was disappointing, but he admitted: “The better team won.

“We wanted to make sure we gave ourselves a chance in the second half, but we couldn't keep up the tempo.”

Yet it was Kelso who were the driving force early in the first half on the slippery surface. But it was Hawick who scored first with a Kirk Ford penalty in nine minutes.

However, a resolute Kelso side drew level with the first of Patterson's penalties.

He kicked a second for offside after Archie Barbour had gone close to scoring a try and the visitors led 6-3.

However, Hawick were aghast at the three points and scored the opening try when Charlie Welsh raced in at the right-hand corner from Jae Linton's pick-up and Ford's pass and the full-back converted.

Kelso stayed in the contest with Patterson's third penalty on the stroke of half-time.

On the restart, Hawick stepped up a gear and it was no surprise that McKean cashed in on Andrew Mitchell's charge for a second try.

Ford then kicked a penalty to leave Kelso needing two scores, but despite Welsh being in the sin-bin, Redpath put the icing on the cake with the final score and Ford converted.

Now Hawick face Currie in the final at Mansfield on a date undecided, which adds to the play-off arguments.

**HAWICK:** K. Ford, C. Welsh, A. Mitchell, O. L. Armstrong, R. McKean, K. Brunton, G. Welsh, S. Muir, F. Renwick, N. Little, F. Wilson, D. Redpath, S. Graham, J. Linton, C. Renwick. Replacements: R. Anderson, R. Graham, C. Sutherland, D. Brooker, D. Lightfoot, M. Tait, B. Donaldson.



Hooker Fraser Renwick feints and goes left, with Nicky Little urging him on



Andrew Mitchell draws attention as he breaks forward

# into championship final



Winger Charlie Welsh goes over for Hawick's opening try in the title semi-final, with Kirk Ford on standby

PICTURES: ROB GRAY / DERICK THOMSON

## McKean is glad to get back in the corner

By GARY HEATLY  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Ronan McKean admits he picked a good time on Saturday to score in the same Mansfield Park corner as his title-winning try in last year's Premiership final.

It was 12 months ago when the winger's last gasp effort won the Premiership title for the Greens against Currie Chieftains – and at the weekend he was at it again in the stand corner nearest the clubhouse to help them get past Kelso in this year's play-off semi-final.

Hawick were only a point to the good at the break, but second-half tries from McKean and Dalton Redpath, along with some excellent kicking from Kirk Ford, got them through 25-9 in the end.

"I hadn't actually scored a try in that corner since the final last season, so it was pleasing to do it in a big semi-final," McKean said.

"More importantly, it was great to contribute to another vital win for the team.

"We knew we weren't at our best in the first half and had not really got into our flow, but over the last few years this bunch of players have built up quite a bit of resilience and we never panic.

"The leaders in the group took control in the second 40 minutes and we managed to find a bit more space in attack and thankfully I was on the end of one of those chances.

"We can play better than we did on Saturday, but we found a way to win and that's what mattered."



Captain Shawn Muir readies for another assault on the Kelso defence



Fraser Wilson goes into contact, with Calum Renwick ready to assist

## Skipper pleased with second-half dominance

Hawick captain Shawn Muir was delighted that his side managed to pull themselves together and step things up after the break on Saturday, **Gary Heatly writes.**

He said they showed

"what we are all about" in that period to win the Premiership play-off semi-final against Kelso.

At Mansfield Park, the Greens led just 10-9 at the interval, but took the game

away from their Borders rivals after that to make sure of a 25-9 triumph and a final spot for the second year running.

"Fair play to Kelso, we knew exactly what they

were going to bring to the match and first half they maybe even edged things," loosehead prop Muir admitted.

"They had a lot of the ball in the first 40 minutes, but

after half-time we showed what we are all about and why we are the reigning champions.

"I always have faith in the starting team and the guys coming off the bench and we knew that if we just stuck to what we are good at and tightened things up then we

would be able to get over the line.

"Now we just have to keep working hard at training and building from here with a few big games still to come."

The date for the home final with Currie Chieftains has yet to be finalised.



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## Nine-man Albert hold on for victory

**Hawick Royal Albert 2  
Pumpherston 1**

By JOHN SLORANCE  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

With only nine men on the pitch, due to two second-half dismissals, Hawick Royal Albert chalked up a win under the Albert Park floodlights on Tuesday.

The result means the Hawick side are now just two points behind fourth-placed Pumphy and six behind Harthill in third – with games in hand.

The first period saw little in the way of excitement, but the second half was full of drama and controversy.

### EAST OF SCOTLAND THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Calder Utd	17	14	0	3	47	14	42
Bathgate Thistle	17	13	2	2	47	20	41
Harthill Royal	18	11	2	5	46	24	35
Pumpherston	20	9	4	7	44	36	31
<b>ROYAL ALBERT</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>
Lochgelly Albert	21	8	2	11	44	53	26
Stoneyburn	14	7	1	6	24	25	22
Edinburgh CFC	18	5	4	9	30	38	19
Fauldhouse Utd	16	5	3	8	29	25	18
Linton Hotspur	18	3	0	15	22	586	9
Livingston Utd	15	0	2	13	15	53	2

With four minutes gone, the Royalists opened the scoring when Harry Fowler rattled away a penalty.

Just minutes later Pumpherston were awarded a penalty of their own following a Tom Fowler handling offence – but Darren McGregor's spot-kick hit the bar.

In the 54th minute Harry Fowler doubled the Albert's lead with a shot that went in off the post before Pumphy hit back within six minutes through a Chris Rooney goal.

With the game in the balance, the home side then suffered a double blow.

Firstly Greg Ford was given a straight red card in the 70th minute then, four minutes later, Sam Cockburn received his marching orders for a second bookable offence.

Apart from Harry Fowler being denied a hat-trick by a save from Pumpherston keeper Sammy Baxter, the home men had their backs against the wall.

But they deservedly held out to take full points.



Albert hitman Harry Fowler celebrates after netting a penalty

PICTURE: DERICK THOMSON

## First-time meeting as Fulshie hit town

By JOHN SLORANCE  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

In what will be the first ever meeting of the two clubs, Hawick Royal Albert entertain Stoneyburn in the East of Scotland League Third Division at Albert Park tomorrow (Saturday).

The Fulshie moved up from the junior ranks in 2021 and sit seventh in the league table with the Royalists nestling two spots above them.

Albert are hoping to build on their midweek victory over Pumpherston. Kick-off 2.30pm.

Following their 3-1 Border Cup quarter-final win over Langholm Legion, Hawick Legion return to A Division action at Newtown.

Ahead of the game, Legion manager Jory Robertson told *The Hawick Paper*: "We might be bottom of the league with only seven points, but we go into the game with confidence after beating Langholm Legion in the cup.

"It was a really good performance at Scholar's Field. Ollie Stewart got the committee's vote for the player-of-the-match but it could really have been anyone in the team as everybody played well.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

# Italian job beckons for returning Patterson

By GARY HEATLY  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Denholm's Hector Patterson is fit again and "ready to go", according to Scotland Under-20s head coach Kenny Murray who has handed the scrum-half a start against Italy in the age-grade Six Nations tonight (Friday).

The 19-year-old, who helped Hawick win the Premiership title in 2022/23, did not feature in the defeat in Wales in round one of the competition. But he certainly made his presence felt in the next game at Edinburgh Rugby's

Hive Stadium versus France last month.

Scotland ultimately lost 29-14, but fought back in the second period. And Patterson, who is now part of the Edinburgh Rugby academy, played with real pace while he was on for around 20 minutes.

That cameo would have then seen him involved against England at the Hive in round three on February 23, but a hand injury meant he missed out as the Scots lost 30-17.

He has now recovered from that setback, though, and will be in the number nine jersey at the Stadio Comunale di Monigo in



Hector Patterson

Treviso. The match kicks off at 7.15pm UK time and is live on BBC iPlayer.

"We've got Hector back and we give him a start," Murray told us.

"He hurt his hand at training and has not been involved for a wee bit, but

he is good now and is ready to go.

Murray added: "He played well when he came on against France, so I'm looking forward to seeing how he does.

"We are focused on the game and trying to get a win."

■ Hawick have been handed a bye into the quarter-finals of the Scottish Cup after injury-hit Glasgow Accies could not raise a side for tomorrow's scheduled first-round clash at New Anniesland.

The Greens, who are the cup holders, now have a last-eight tie at Dundee Rugby on March 16.

■ The Force, Quins and Linden have a free weekend.

■ Rory Sutherland, the loosehead prop, was recalled to train with the Scotland squad this week ahead of tomorrow's Six Nations match against Italy in Rome.

Kick-off is 2.15pm UK time and live on ITV. Sutherland is not in the final match-day 23.

■ Lisa Thomson played for GB Sevens in recent events in Vancouver and Los Angeles and will likely be juggling sevens and Scotland Women's Six Nations commitments over the coming weeks.



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