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# Rocketing rate of local child poverty

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

“The Scottish Government have a target date of only six years in order to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030, but with yet another increase in statistics in my ward, I’m afraid they have a huge mountain to climb in order to achieve their goal.”

The reaction of Councillor Stuart Marshall to the Scottish Borders local child poverty report for 2023/24 which saw the number of children in relative low-income families in Hawick and Denholm jump from 203 to 260 – a 28.1 per cent increase.

Speaking at the full Scottish Borders Council meeting yesterday (Thursday), Mr Marshall said: “This report highlights very explicitly the undesirable but unavoidable truth of Hawick and Denholm once again topping the list when it comes to families in crisis,

and children in poverty. Child poverty manifests itself in many ways and there won’t be a week that goes by when I won’t be in contact with a parent or guardian regarding how best I can support them with a problem in their home.”

Mr Marshall highlighted issues including damp and mould, the need to access clothing grants, the use of clothing and food banks, heating and electric costs, and overcrowding.

He was responding to the report presented by Jenni Craig, director of resilient communities, which was seeking endorsement of the current situation, and an action plan for 2024/25 which has been approved by the community planning partnership and will be submitted to the Scottish Government.

The council priorities for 24/25 are set out in four key themes, identified by the Child

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## High school’s fantastic four

PICTURE: HAWICK HIGH SCHOOL



Hawick High’s new head team, from left, Isla Gibson, Jewel McGregor, Rory Adams and Chloe Patterson, was announced on Wednesday

■ FULL STORY ON PAGE 6

## First stage of facilities restructure

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

The long-term security of buildings in the Scottish Borders including sport, leisure and culture properties in Hawick moved a step forward yesterday (Thursday) when the local authority agreed to the first stage of restructuring facilities which were taken under the umbrella of Live Borders in 2016.

A joint transformational change programme has been progressing after Live Borders, as with other trusts across the country, experienced unprecedented challenges over the last five years from the pandemic, the subsequent slow recovery,

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Man raped girl aged 12

By **DAVE FINLAY**  
edinburghcourtspress@gmail.com

A man was jailed after raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl at a flat in Hawick.

Thirty-two-year-old Stuart Moffett assaulted the underage child after messaging her on the social media site Snapchat.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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# Candidates' Hawick hustings

Monday night's mild-mannered hustings saw seven of the eight Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk candidates facing questions from the floor, which mainly focused on national issues.

The event attracted a crowd of more than 100, and was held in the lesser town hall. It was organised by Hawick Community Council.

The candidates who attended were Ray Georgeson, Scottish Liberal Democrats; Hamish Goldie-Scot, Scottish Family Party; John Lamont, Scottish Conservative and Unionist; Neil MacKinnon, Scottish Green Party; Ellie Merton, Independent; Caitlin Stott, Scottish Labour Party; and David Wilson, Scottish National Party (SNP).

Mr Lamont had a "prior engagement" and had to leave 15 minutes into the hustings. Before his departure he answered several questions, two of which we have published, alongside candidates' views on three of the night's main topics:



Candidates at the hustings in the lesser town hall, from left, David Wilson, Hamish Goldie-Scot, Ray Georgeson, Caitlin Stott, Ellie Merton, Neil MacKinnon and John Lamont

PICTURE: DERICK THOMSON

## ■ BORDERS ISSUES

**DAVID WILSON:** From the people I'm talking to, it is public services, cost of living, and general apathy for politics because of the way they have been treated [that matters most to them]. We have depopulation across the Borders. We have an aging population which is part of why our public services struggle so much and why our businesses struggle so much. We need more houses, and more people. [There is] a lack of teachers, social care workers and nurses.

**NEIL MacKINNON:** The cost of living. People are struggling. The lack of inter-connectivity, especially in Hawick and Newcastleton. We need to be pushing to connect the train, and get it [the line] built. I have lived in Galashiels for 15 years; it is a very local policy and something that should be pushed through.

**ELLIE MERTON:** I'm being told that affordable housing is real problem in this area. Particularly for young families, in support of women. Our biggest untapped resource in what we can do in the jobs market. If we are given the support. To train up the youth in the area, so they can afford to live and thrive in the area.

**CAITLIN STOTT:** Scottish Borders Council has just declared a housing emergency – how is that possible? We need to get an injection of cash into public services to get assured that it is sorted and that there are enough safe, warm and affordable houses for people to live in in the area. We have lower wages than the rest of Scotland, and this is also something that needs to be addressed.

## ■ AFFORDABLE ENERGY

**HAMISH GOLDIE-SCOT:** As a party we recognise to alleviate poverty and to keep energy costs low, we believe it should not be dictated by ideology. To say no nuclear is an ideology. Current policy simply will not work because of a lack of a suitable national grid system. There is a huge gap in the production of energy. We would draw attention to these shortfalls and the real crisis of investment.

**CAITLIN STOTT:** I know that in some parts of rural Scotland one in two households are in fuel poverty at the moment, and that is not okay. There is one thing we will do and that is impose a windfall tax on energy giants, which will be used to create [the publicly-owned] Great British Energy [company] which will bring down and keep down fuel bills.

**ELLIE MERTON:** I'm one of those people who is in fuel poverty through disabilities as a result of Long Covid. I feel completely swamped by this. With the knowledge, I want to find a way of drawing together local organisations and to press policy makers in Westminster and Scotland to get the changes to the energy system we need, incredibly rapidly, as there are a lot of people moving the problem on to others.

**NEIL MacKINNON:** We need to be investing in our housing stock, including insulation, heat pumps and renewable energy, and to be less reliant on fossil fuel. We also need to be more independent so the electricity we generate isn't sent to other countries so we can gain income from it.

## ■ BREXIT FALLOUT

**RAY GEORGESON:** It feels like the damage has been incredible. Young people can't travel freely like they used to. In this election our position is one of warmth back to Europe to fix the broken relationship. They don't trust us anymore because of what happened, so we've got to, piece by piece, including university exchanges, to have a freedom for under-35s to live, travel and move around Europe to give them the chances that a lot of us had.

**NEIL MacKINNON:** Independent studies have claimed there is a £100 billion hole in our finances because of Brexit – the con trick played on the public by right-wing politicians who fostered hate and used immigrants and asylum seekers to stoke up hatred against Europe. We need an independent Scotland welcomed back into Europe.

**CAITLIN STOTT:** I campaigned against it. I would have loved for it not to have happened. It's heartbreaking that it happened. I think we have to deal with the world as it is, not how we would like it to be. We can either spend time talking about what happened or try to get the best possible deal in the future.

**DAVID WILSON:** It feels like everybody agrees Brexit is a disaster and our future is best served as an independent nation back in Europe, where we belong. Everybody talks about the wanting to go back. Is that not the best way forward for us, in the European Union? The overwhelming majority wants us where we were, where we belong, and where we are happiest.

## QUESTIONS TO AND ANSWERS FROM JOHN LAMONT:

**Q:** Why does the Tory Government believe it has the right to block legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament?

**A:** The view the UK Government took was that the gender recognition bill would impact UK equalities law, which is reserved for the UK Parliament.

The Scottish Government took the UK Government to court. The courts found in favour of the UK Government, and that legislation would impact on the equalities act, and its ability to serve people across the whole of the United Kingdom.

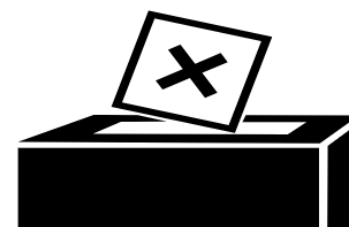
**Q:** What would you do to prevent the NHS having any more privatisation?

**A:** I fundamentally believe in the principle that the NHS should be free at the point of delivery.

The reality is a large part of health provision already has private components, whether it is dentistry or GP contracts.

A large part of that is a commercially negotiated contract, but the NHS should be free at the point of access.

■ FOR A FINAL WORD FROM THE CANDIDATES, SEE PAGE 8





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## Trio are riding high on fund-rasier

By GRAHAM FORD  
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Three talented junior horse riders have now raised more than £1,000 towards competing at Hickstead in August.

Eildon Warden and sister Torrin, along with Harper Tait are part of Drumlanrig school's first-ever equestrian team and have enjoyed a fantastic debut season competing together as Drummy Dragons.

In March, the talented trio qualified to compete as a team and individuals at the prestigious NSEA Grass Roots Championships at Hickstead on August 21.

They are working hard to raise funds towards the marathon 802-mile round trip, opting to ride the same distance on their ponies.

They recently tackled one of the biggest days of their challenge, riding from Torrin and Eildon's home at Skelfhill Pen to Harper's home at Ruberslaw.

"It was torrential rain most of the way, but the



Enjoying an ice cream on Ruberslaw are Torrin Warden, Harper Tait and Eildon Warden

girls battled on and had a great adventure over some stunning countryside," said Harper's proud mum, Elle.

She also thanked the land owners for their assistance.

Adding Elle said: "They enjoyed a welcome hot chocolate at the top of Ruberslaw after covering a total of 23.5 miles.

"So far, they have raised £1,030 on Go Fund Me."

The George Crawford Legacy Trust is covering the cost of stabling and entries.

The girls are sponsored by Carrs Billington, Muirhall Energy, and the Jeffrey family.

## Time to 'redouble efforts' in child poverty battle

■ FROM PAGE 1

Poverty Group partners and demonstrate a commitment to working together to deliver differently to tackle child poverty going forward under the themes of:

understanding local needs; using policy levers and resources; understanding the progress; and ways of working.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030.

Mr Marshall continued: "School life should be an equal playing field, but not having any money leaves kids feeling left out. And those youngsters often fall behind and the consequence of that means later in life they don't achieve the grades required to get a job."

"I sit on the council's anti-poverty reference group, and therefore I see first hand the outstanding work this

council does in supporting families who are struggling, but as a council and indeed the Scottish Government now need to redouble their efforts in driving down these terrible figures."

Colleague Clair Ramage said: "I have had quite a few meetings with local partners, police and head teachers trying to find a way forward to tackle all the issues in our ward. It is sobering that we are top of the league table which isn't good at all."

Mrs Craig added: "We will be focusing in the areas where we have the absolute poverty, how can we join up all of our collective resources, understanding what our challenges are and working to understand some of the solutions."

The corresponding date for Hawick and Hermitage saw a slight decrease of 287 children in relative low-income families in 2022 to 276 in 2023.

## 'Obvious concerns' over trust changes

■ FROM PAGE 1

increased utility costs and changes in customer usage.

At the meeting of elected members, options for the continued delivery of services were considered including a continuation of the current governance service model, an alternative trust model and returning all service to the council.

Members approved to progress a move to a single trust model, and in principle return Active Schools and sports development services to the council. A report on this will be brought before the council in August.

In September it will consider whether cultural and community services currently under Live Borders, such as the library, museum and town hall, will remain in the trust, be delivered by the council or a combination of both.



Who runs the library in the future is to be considered in September. It could revert to being council-operated

David Robertson, chief executive of SBC, said: "It was clear that changes were required to help Live Borders get on a sustainable footing and protect the continued delivery of key services to our residents and visitors.

"I appreciate that this has been, and will be for a few months yet, an uncertain time for Live Borders colleagues. Their ongoing commitment to customers and

service delivery, and the support provided to the transformational change programme is to be commended."

Speaking during the meeting, council leader Euan Jardine said: "This is about looking at what is best for our communities with emotion taken out of it. It's not about Live Borders, it is not about this council. It is about our communities who we are here to serve, and landing an option that

best serves them."

Following the meeting, Hawick councillor Stuart Marshall said: "There are obvious concerns about the implications of what is happening, which is why we are moving things forward quickly. The council and Live Borders staff who are caught up in this have to be first and foremost in the thoughts of any decision. Sadly, the situation as it stands is unworkable and needs to change."

Alison Moore, chairwoman of Live Borders, said: "The trust remains committed to delivering on our vision of supporting a healthier, happier and stronger Scottish Borders.

"The joint transformational change programme is key to ensuring that we can continue to do that into the future in a financially sustainable way."

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# 'Autumn' for path's reopening, says SBC

By HILARY MACTAGGART  
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The riverside footpath between Glebe Mill Street and Oliver Park is set to reopen "towards the autumn", Scottish Borders Council said this week.

Well used by residents in the Weensland area, the path has been closed for around two years amid "complex" flood protection scheme works.

Local ward councillor, Watson McAteer, commented: "I was pleased to hear flood scheme director Conor Price update Hawick Community Council [earlier this month] on the steady progress being made in reopening the Glebe Mill Street to Oliver Park footpath alongside the Teviot."

He went on: "I've received numerous



The path between Glebe Mill Street and Oliver Park remains closed

questions from constituents about the potential reopening of what is a favourite riverside walk."

Adding, Mr McAteer said he understood the area was "always scheduled

to be one of the last to be completed".

A council spokesperson added: "The construction work between Glebe Mill and Oliver Park commenced in the summer of 2022. The location represents a complex programme of engineering works which must be constructed in a specific sequence of stages.

"We anticipate that the construction work will be completed towards the autumn."

The spokesperson added: "To facilitate further access it is anticipated the new footbridge joining Lower Mansfield Road with Weensland will be operational this summer.

"This will open the area up for both spectators at the rugby and football clubs, while also allowing the community to enjoy the new Weensland landscape."

## WEDDING ALBUM

PICTURE: AGNES BLACK



Dr Cameron Taylor, formerly of Hawick, and Annabel Thompson, formerly of Kirdford, West Sussex, were married at Anton's Hill, Leitholm

## Trial date for accused

A woman accused of embezzlement at a charity will face trial next month.

Kirsty Anderson, formerly of Hawick but who gave an address in Yarrowford, is charged with stealing £3,169.26 while employed as manager of the Shaw Trust in Galashiels, between July-August 2020.

She has pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The trial will take place at Selkirk Sheriff Court on July 9.

## Extension

Mr Alistair Weir has been granted planning permission by Scottish Borders Council for a single-storey extension to the rear of 6 Bruce Court.

## Weather

Week ending June 23:  
Maximum temperature 21.4°; minimum 9.1°; rainfall 3.81mm.

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# Supervision for man with knife at GP surgery

A 32-year-old man who produced a knife during an appointment with a doctor has been placed on supervision for the next 12 months.

Selkirk Sheriff Court was told later that day at the police station Michael Regan made threats of violence against the doctor.

He pleaded guilty to charges of possession of a knife and also behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at Teviot Medical Practice and the police station on February 2.

Prosecutor Emma Laing told a previous hearing the accused had turned up for his appointment around noon and told the doctor he had been self-harming and cutting himself. She added that he then pulled a knife from his jacket and removed it from the sheath.

The fiscal said that Regan gave the impression he

carried the knife around with him for personal protection and that he did not trust people.

The doctor told police that Regan remained calm during the appointment but felt he should report it to police as Regan said he carried the offensive weapon regularly.

Ms Laing said police officers caught up with Regan walking a dog in Wilton Hill around 7.40pm and the bladed article was taken off him.

She said that Regan repeatedly asked if it was the doctor who had reported him and after being taken into custody said he wanted to make another appointment so he could punch him in the face.

Defence lawyer Ross Dow said his client had experienced significant mental health problems. He referred to the doctor's comments that the accused

represented a bigger risk to himself rather than anyone else and that he had remained calm during the appointment.

Sheriff Kevin McCarron said that he had initially felt custody was inevitable.

But he took into account Regan's mental health problems and added that the way he had produced the knife during the surgery was unusual.

The sheriff imposed a community payback order with 12 months' supervision and a curfew at his home in Howegate between 9pm and 7am for six months.

In addition, a non-harassment order was imposed for two years banning him from having any contact with the doctor or entering Teviot Medical Practice.

Sheriff McCarron warned Regan that if he breached the non-harassment order he would receive a "substantial" custodial sentence.



Danny Graham and Karolina Kral from the Coffee End and Friends of Hawick Community Hospital's Carolyn Oliver and Anne Kellett

## Coffee End's hospital donation

A local coffee shop has been hailed for its "generous donation" to the community hospital, **Jason Marshall writes.**

Earlier this month, the Friends of Hawick Community Hospital helped organise the catering for the visit by the Cornet and his party to the hospital.

And, to the their "utter amazement", when they approached the Coffee End they came back and said they would supply all the food for nothing.

"It was such a generous donation and such a beautiful buffet which was enjoyed by all," said the Friends' Carolyn Oliver

# Rapist awaits sentence

## ■ FROM PAGE 1

During the assault he made sexual remarks to the girl and touched and molested her before performing sex acts on her.

Moffett, formerly of Bannerfield Road, Selkirk, in the Scottish Borders, was accused of raping the girl in an attack on September 28 in 2022 during which he removed her leggings and moved her legs apart.

He denied aspects of the charge brought against him by

the Crown but accepted that he had sex with the girl.

Defence counsel Iain Smith told jurors: "He has admitted to you that he is guilty of rape. It is rape to have sex with a 12 year old."

He invited the jury to convict Moffett of rape but to delete parts of the charge, including an allegation of oral rape.

But the jury found Moffett guilty of the entire charge before them.

The trial judge, Lord Clark,

told him: "By the verdict of the jury you have been convicted of the serious offence of rape of a child and as you have heard there are no deletions from the indictment."

The judge adjourned passing sentence on Moffett until August 2 at the High Court in Glasgow and called for a background report to be prepared on him.

Moffett, who had been on bail, was remanded in custody and was placed on the sex offenders' register.

## Pole bid

Buceleuch Estates is seeking planning permission from Scottish Borders Council to remove the existing timber flag pole at Branhholm Castle and replace it with a new wall-mounted glass fibre one.

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## Head team's 'tremendous achievement'

Hawick High's newly-announced head team have a "vital part to play in shaping the school experience for students".

That's according to head teacher Lisa Scott who told us yesterday (Thursday) that the school was "incredibly proud" of the new incumbents, namely Rory Adams, Isla Gibson, Jewel McGregor and Chloe Patterson.

She said: "This is a tremendous achievement, and reflects all of the students'

outstanding qualities – their dedication to the school community, leadership potential, and commitment to representing the voice of their fellow students.

"Our head pupils will also play a vital part in shaping the school experience for all students.

"And they will have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills further, work closely with the staff to

represent the student body, and contribute to exciting new initiatives."

Adding, Mrs Scott said: "We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to their leadership during the coming year."

Before being selected, head team candidates were required to submit an application form, make a speech, and attend an interview.



■ GRADUATION, PAGES 22-23 Lisa Scott

## Young Zoe and Harper reach the gold standard

By HILARY MACTAGGART  
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Two young girls have struck gold, gaining top awards at Rainbows and Brownies.

Ten-year-old Zoe Reid and seven-year-old Harper Lynn-Stewart worked hard to achieve the prestigious accolades.

Zoe, a member of 2nd Hawick Brownies, was awarded her gold at a recent 24-hour event at Wilton Dean Hall, while Harper, who is in 3rd Hawick Rainbows, recently received her gold.

Ellen Halliday is leader of both girls' units, and extremely proud of them.

She told *The Hawick Paper*: "Zoe was determined to gain her gold award, and told me on her first night at Brownies.

"She completed with a glowing report.

"Zoe has excelled at everything she has taken



Zoe Reid

on and really challenged herself.

"She has worked so hard and through her determination and drive she absolutely smashed it."

Ellen is equally proud of Harper and continued:



Harper Lynn-Stewart

"She worked hard in the Rainbow unit and at home on her badges and her six theme awards, gaining every one.

"Harper is a real asset to our unit.

"She has taken on each challenge successfully

while displaying excellent behaviour and work ethic."

The girls were tasked with six theme awards of the Girl Guiding programme – Be well, know myself, express yourself, take action, have adventure, and skills for my future.

Meanwhile, two ten-year-old girls – Lily Jackson and Esme Roebuck – picked up bronze awards after completing two themes.

"Lily transferred to our unit and has worked tirelessly to achieve her badges," explained Ellen.

"She is a super young lady who is kind and caring."

Esme, a member of 2nd Hawick Brownies, also showed "great commitment" in earning her award.

"It is a fantastic achievement for all the girls and I'm very honoured to have helped them," added Ellen.

## Man to face trial

A 29-year-old man will stand trial at Jedburgh Sheriff Court on August 1 on five charges.

Joshua Morgan-Milne,

formerly of Hawick but who gave an address in Cheshire, appeared on two complaints at Selkirk Sheriff Court.

He denies two counts of threatening or abusive behaviour and also breaching three bail orders.

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# Mill chief Jan hails college for her career development

Local knitwear boss Jan Young has been reflecting on her career, and credits Borders College as playing a "key part" in the early days of her working life.

The managing director at Barrie Knitwear and recognised as a leading figure in Scotland's textiles industry, Jan was speaking as the college celebrates its 40th anniversary.

To mark the milestone year, it has been hearing from former students, and Jan began her studies there in the 1980s and early 1990s, studying HND Textiles and HND Business.

While working at Lyle & Scott in the late 1990s, she attended Northumberland University, gaining a CIPD degree.

"Attending Borders College was the start of my educational journey," she said.

"It helped me to develop my career professionally and functionally, while working full-time and balancing my family life.

"Gaining the qualifications also created opportunities to work in various departments and functions across each of the businesses I've been involved in."

Prior to her current role, she worked as an HR

manager and business partner with General Mills, and as an HR manager at Barrie.

With a robust skill set that includes human resources, personnel management, employee engagement, employee relations, talent management and more, Jan is able to contribute valuable insights to the industry.

She said he has a real passion for textiles – "an industry again flourishing after years of decline".

Talking about the employment available, she continued: "There are multiple opportunities across various sectors from creation, technical, handcraft and all the functional support, including planning and procurement, finance, commercial, health and safety and HR, as well as sustainability and CSR [corporate social responsibility]."

Returning to thoughts on her career path, she continued: "I've always considered where I am today, built on my self-awareness and found a good mentor to support my journey.

"Having a good educational foundation



Barrie Knitwear's managing director Jan Young

PICTURE: BORDERS COLLEGE

is also important, and studying at Borders College was a key part of my journey.

"Be aware that you will make mistakes along the way in your career, and you may try things that are not for you. However, with every move you make, you can adjust and take responsibility for your own destination, which, in turn,

will create opportunities."

■ The college's campus of decades ago was situated in Commercial Road, now home to Sainsbury's.

It was the "go-to place" for thousands of students studying subjects such as hair and beauty, catering, media studies, care, and sport.

Its current Hawick

site in Buccleuch Road is home to the Department of Enterprise and Business Innovation (DEBI), which works with organisations to "identify the most appropriate learning route for employees and offers a full range of interventions, from short courses to certificated work-based learning".

## Vanessa's accolade win 'delight'

An exiled Teri who helped to save a charity from closure has received a national award on behalf of its staff and volunteers.

Vanessa Rhazali is head of fund-raising and communications with SiMBA, which helps bereaved parents at the critical time of baby loss.

It was under threat last year due to spiralling costs and a lack of funding, but Vanessa explained that "thanks to the support of thousands across Scotland, along with the work of volunteers and staff, the charity was saved".

And capping a remarkable year for SiMBA, it won the people's choice accolade at last Thursday's Scottish Charity Awards at the Raddison Blu hotel in Glasgow.

"We were delighted to win this special award and would like to dedicate it to everyone who holds SiMBA close to their heart," said Vanessa, who is the younger daughter of George and Rita Storie, of Teviot Court.



Vanessa Rhazali

## Ex-provost's Hexham 'hopes'

A decade on from a service in Hexham Abbey marking the 500th anniversary of the capture of the priory's standard at Hornshole by Hawick callants, an informal exchange visit could take place later this year between the two towns, **Jake Coltman writes.**

Councillor Stuart Marshall, provost at the time of the service in June 2014, said: "It's hard to believe that ten years have passed since this special event took place which marked a very important milestone in our town's history."

He went on: "Entering the abbey I remember seeing hundreds of townsfolk filling the pews, eagerly awaiting the arrival of their Cornet and his Lass [Ross Gibson and Michelle Paxton]. It was such



Stuart Marshall

a momentous occasion.

"Hawick was made so welcome and I'll always be grateful for the help and support I was given in arranging the trip and, in particular, from ex-Cornet and ex-master of ceremonies John Hope who was instrumental in pulling the visit together."

Sharing his memories, deputy mayor of Hexham at the time and now mayor, Trevor Cessford, told us he

was delighted to be invited to the service at the abbey, and later to Hornshole to "recognise this landmark". He also attended several Common-Riding events in 2014.

"I met some absolutely wonderful people," said Mr Cessford. "My time in Hawick was outstanding and memorable."

He added that Hawick was "a wonderful town" with "a wonderful history" and "traditions that other places would love to have".

Councillor Marshall told us he kept in touch with the mayor and hoped to arrange an informal exchange visit later this year "where the warmth of friendship shown some ten years ago by both communities can again be rekindled".

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# Candidates make pitch for your votes

Battle hots up for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk seat ahead of polling day on Thursday, July 4

**RAY GEORGESON** Scottish Liberal Democrats

Many people have told me you're tired of the chaotic Tories in Westminster and the scandal-hit SNP (and their Green friends) in Holyrood.

You haven't forgotten Partygate, PPE contracts for their pals, or the expenses and gambling scandals. It's time for change, locally and in parliament.

Liberal Democrats have a bold, fully-costed plan to save the NHS and fix the care crisis.

We need to value paid and unpaid care and invest to relieve pressure on beds in the NHS. This is central to our plan which would improve our mental and physical health, tackle the climate crisis through a programme of home insulation, saving money and the planet, and speed up investments in the green, skilled jobs of the future.

So much more is needed, and the old guard are out of ideas and out of time. I will be a strong voice for the Borders in Westminster, with your future as my priority.



**HAMISH GOLDIE-SCOT** Scottish Family Party

From Edinburgh, but resident in the Borders for 25 years, I run my own small business; working internationally as an engineer, planner, environmentalist, and anti-corruption adviser. In my village, I am a community councillor and resilience co-ordinator.

The Scottish Family Party draws its support from across the political spectrum, from centre left to centre right, irrespective of a supporter's view on independence, or of their background, experience, or personal circumstances.

What unites us is our belief that public policy and practice should be based not on expediency or fashionable ideology, but rather on evidence of what works; competence in doing the basics well; and timeless underlying values.

Other parties argue over reallocation of spending. We focus on foundational issues and values, believing that strong families make for a strong nation, and that the many intractable problems facing us today can be better understood and addressed through honest, open and inclusive discussion rather than political posturing.



**CAROLYN GRANT** REFORM UK

My name is Carolyn Grant and I am the parliamentary candidate for the Reform party in Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk.

I have lived and worked in the Borders since 2005, working in IT for Scottish Borders Council and other organisations.

I am standing for Reform as I believe our country has been badly served by the Conservatives and the SNP for many years.

In the Borders, I am campaigning on farming, the NHS, education, and housing.

We need to support our farming industry by giving £3 billion worth of subsidies; as well as tax breaks to new doctors and nurses working in the NHS; ban transgender ideology in schools and introduce a patriotic curriculum; and repeal Section 24 which unfairly penalises landlords.

Everyone needs to look at what the parties are offering and ask themselves: What are they doing for me? What are they doing for my family? And what are they doing for this country?

The answer is to vote Reform.



**JOHN LAMONT** Scottish Conservative & Unionist

I want the next five years to be all about creating good jobs, reducing NHS waiting times, investing in schools, improving broadband speeds and fixing the roads.

I've set out positive pledges to deliver a brighter future for Hawick – and I'll focus 100 per cent on delivering those if I'm re-elected.

But to deliver local action on those key issues, we need to stop the SNP candidate, who we know would only obsess about independence.

It will be really tight here between me and the SNP.

A vote for any other party – or not voting at all – risks an SNP win.

So, if everyone who wants to beat the SNP comes together, I can once again keep the nationalists out here in the Borders, so that we can get the focus onto your top priorities.

Vote for me to beat the SNP and let's get all of the focus onto the issues that really matter to you.



**NEIL MacKINNON** SCOTTISH GREENS

According to climate scientists the last 12 months were the hottest in the last 100,000 years and all the evidence shows that the rate of change is accelerating, with the increased risk of irreversible damage to our environment.

We are in the last-chance saloon when it comes to taking decisive action to reverse this.

None of the other parties are willing to tackle this head on but the Scottish Greens are.

I am a proud Borderer and if elected would serve my region to the best of my ability in Westminster.

And while the NHS, cost of living and education are all important topics (that the Scottish Greens have some great policies to tackle), we have to lift our heads up from this and look at the bigger picture. Without a viable planet none of this matters.

On Thursday, please vote like your future depends on it, and it really does, vote Green.



**ELLIE MERTON**

If you tuned in to TD9 Radio or attended Hawick Community Council's hustings on Monday, you'll know, although new to politics locally, I'm known for playing viola in local classical music concerts.

Music and the creative industries as a whole are my top manifesto pledge – to make work in creative industries and education financially viable options for stable careers in the Borders – a key to making Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk the best place in UK to live, work, learn, thrive and visit.

My other top manifesto pledge is to lead efforts to pilot a ground-breaking nature restoration project (lifting the burden of nature conservation off hard-working farmers' shoulders), training and employing a local army of biodiversity champions, focused on hedges and field edges, creating miles of microhabitats with mature root systems filtering field water, while helping our rivers and coastal biodiversity, too.

Vote for me, Ellie Merton, Independent, on July 4.



**CAITLIN STOTT** Scottish Labour

Sometimes it feels like things in Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk have always been the same. People speak to me about low wages, crumbling health services, and friends and neighbours struggling to get by while SNP and Tory governments fight among themselves instead of concentrating on making things better.

None of us can afford five more years of this. I'm ready to work hard for people here, making sure their voices are heard at the heart of a Labour Government.

If I'm elected, I'll spend my time working to support the NHS, cutting fuel bills, delivering investment to public services, and a real living wage.

My opponents want to keep things as they've always been but this is a very tight race and, for the first time, Labour has a real chance to deliver the change people in the Borders need.

I'm asking voters to be part of that by voting Labour on July 4.



**DAVID WILSON** SNP

I can understand why voters may not want to bother voting, with faith and trust in Westminster politicians at an all-time low, and given everything that has happened since 2019, it is hardly a surprise that this is the case.

I'm asking voters across the Borders to turn out and to try something new. To elect an MP who hasn't spent their entire career trying to become a politician.

I am just as frustrated with Westminster politicians putting their careers and their party's quest for power above constituents they supposedly represent.

An SNP MP has two purposes: to fight for their constituents and to stand up for Scotland.

If elected, I will fight for the issues that matter to Borderers: defend the farmers and businesses that should be thriving here; protect the public services we all rely on; and be the voice we need at Westminster.

I will spend this term working for you, for a better future for the Borders and for Scotland.





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August 2024

Fr. **£559**<sub>PP</sub>

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August 2024

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## Turkey & Greece

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**DEATHS**

**DAVIDSON:** Peacefully in the Margaret Kerr Unit on Friday, 14th June, 2024, with his family by his side, David (formerly of "Ravenslea", Sunnyhill, Hawick), beloved husband to Christine, proud and loving dad to Alasdair, Giles, Jennifer, Quintin and Suzanne, adored grandad to his ten grandchildren, much loved uncle. Will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Funeral on Monday, 8th July, at Ss Mary & David's RC Church, Hawick, at 11.45am, followed by a private committal.

**LEES:** Peacefully at Buccleuch Care Home on Friday, 14th June, 2024, Jenny (née Shiel), loving wife to the late Jim, much loved mum to Ian, Mary and Colin, mum-in-law to Allan, Dawn and the late Dierdre, adored gran and great-gran, dear sister and aunt. Will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Service on Monday, 1st July, at Borders Crematorium at 11am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Buccleuch Care Home Comfort Fund.

**MEGAHY:** Peacefully at home on 19th June, 2024, Sheila (née Hogg), beloved wife of the late Thomas, much loved mam to Helen, Karen, Lynn and Elizabeth, loving granny to Steven, Craig, Lynsi, Sarah, Grace and Mackenzie, great-granny to Myah, Jacob, Mirren, Eden, Freya, Georgia, Ella and Innes, and a dear sister. Service in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church on Monday, 8th July, at 11.30am. Committal service thereafter at Borders Crematorium, Melrose, at 1pm. All friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

**RAE:** Peacefully at Borders General Hospital on 20th June, 2024, Jean (née Jack), beloved wife of the late Alan, much loved sister to Jim and the late Wattie, and a loving auntie. Service in Beattie's Acorn Chapel on Monday, 1st July, at 12.45pm. Interment thereafter at Wilton Cemetery at 1.30pm. All friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, for Borders General Hospital.

**DEATHS**

**SOLLEY:** Peacefully at Borders General Hospital on 17th June, 2024, Cecilia a beloved wife of the late Douglas (Dougie), and a loving sister to Ann, Mary and James. Service in Beattie's Acorn Chapel on Tuesday, 9th July, at 12.45pm, interment thereafter in Wellogate Cemetery at 1.30pm. All friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, to Deanfield Care Home.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**TRINITY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

SC013892

**Sunday, June 30**

11am – Morning worship with John Mackay  
**Congregational meeting after the service**

**CAVERS AND KIRKTON CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

SC004550

**Sunday, June 30**

9.30am – Morning worship with John Mackay

**ST CUTHBERT'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Slitrig Crescent  
SC003140

**Sunday, June 30**

10am – Joint service at St John's, Jedburgh. No service at St Cuthbert's

**Wednesday, July 3**

10.45am – Midweek eucharist

**Monday and Thursday**

10am-2pm – Church open for quiet space

**Tuesday**

11am-noon – Coffee morning

**WILTON AND TEVIOTHEAD PARISH CHURCHES**

SC017381 / SC006917

**Sunday, June 30**

Rev. Lisa-Jane Rankin  
No service at Teviothead

11am – Wilton

**SALVATION ARMY**

6 Croft Road  
214779 / 009359

**Today (Friday)**

10am-11.30am – Coffee morning

**Sunday, June 30**

10.30am – Morning worship

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**ELLIOT (née Robson), Matilda (Madge) Callaghan:** Kim, Sean and families wish to express their gratitude to everyone who sent and posted kind messages of support and sympathy following the recent sad loss of Madge. Special thanks to Rev. Alistair Cook, Andy Maybury and all who contributed at Teviot Church for the arrangement and delivery of a most fitting service for which Madge would've been humbled. Grateful thanks to all those who attended Teviot Church, Borders Crematorium, the Green Rooms and generously donated £740.79 in aid of Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Research Centre (ASDRC) at the University of Edinburgh. Thanks to staff at Real Life Options and Deanfield Residential Home for the care and attention devoted to Madge over the past seven years or so. Thanks also to Robson's Funeral Directors for a professional service carried out with care and dignity.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**ST MARY'S & OLD PARISH CHURCH LINKED WITH TEVIOT AND ROBERTON CHURCH**

SC005574 and SC005191

**Thursdays**

7pm – Prayer meeting on Zoom  
Contact Teviotchurch@gmail.com for link

**Today (Friday), June 28**

Noon – Lunch@SMOP  
Soup and sandwich lunch

Buccleuch Street hall

**Sunday, June 30**

Conducted by

Rev. Alistair Cook

9.45am – St Mary's & Old

11.15am – Teviot Church

A congregational vote will take place after these services for members of each church's congregational roll on the

Basis of Union

The morning service will be recorded from Teviot at

11.15am and can be viewed afterwards at [www.smop-tero.org.uk](http://www.smop-tero.org.uk), on our Facebook page @

smoptero or [teviot.online.church](http://teviot.online.church)



**GRUMPY AULD MAN**

**CASH ON TAP**

Well, what a turn up for the books. Five years ago, a £1.5million cash fund was set up to help regenerate and repair some of Hawick's oldest traditional town centre buildings.

Yet just £785,000, around half the amount available, has been spent so far, with the grant scheme due to end next March.

With several central properties looking more than a little rundown, one hopes efforts can be redoubled to get some long overdue facelifts under way.

But a fly in the ointment is that property owners themselves have to stump up a substantial proportion of any project costs. Of course, that's only fair.

However, some proprietors either don't have the loot, desire of perhaps vision to make any long-term commitment.

Nevertheless, Historic Environment Scotland, South of Scotland Enterprise, and Scottish Borders Council, the three bodies financially underwriting the scheme, must leave no stone

untuned in ensuring that every possible penny is allocated over the next nine months, thus helping to enhance Teridom's historic built fabric.

And while on the subject of time-sensitive cash windfalls, the outgoing UK Government, funnily enough, chose last month to announce almost £3million of Levelling Up funding "to support jobs in Hawick, boost the local economy and improve the local area".

It's part of an overall £20million bounty for the Scottish Borders which also pledges a £2.3million investment in the region's bus network.

Hawick's near £3million share was described by Hawick Community Council chairman Cameron Knox as a tremendous boost. He added: "It appears to be somewhat out of the blue, but very much appreciated."

The welcome largesse certainly comes after several false dawns. I don't know about it being a surprise package although cynics (who, me?) might speculate that next Thursday's electoral event isn't entirely unconnected.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**HOBKIRK AND SOUTHDEAN LINKED WITH RUBERSLAW PARISH CHURCH**

SC012830 and SC034629

**Tomorrow (Saturday), June 29**

Noon-1.30pm – Salad lunch

Denholm Church Hall

Suggested £4 donation in aid of Ruberslaw Church funds

**Sunday, June 30**

9.30am – Hobkirk

(Communion)

11.15am – Denholm

Rev. Una Stewart

**HAWICK BURNFOOT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

SC004517

**Sunday, June 30**

10.30am – Rev. Peter Wood

Annual stated meeting after the

service

**HAWICK BAPTIST CHURCH**

SCIO: SC053037

North Bridge Street

**Sunday, June 30**

Morning worship with Gordon Dickey preaching from

Genesis Ch 32, "Jacob becomes Israel". Everyone welcome.

Refreshments afterwards

**Tuesday, July 2**

No Mainly Play or Women in the Word

**Wednesday, July 3**

4pm – Prayer meeting in person/Zoom

**Thursday, July 4**

4pm – Drop-in at The Well  
7pm/7.30pm – Home groups

**LOAD OF RUBBISH**

As an unpaid and sporadic litter-picker myself, I salute those valiant volunteers featured in last week's paper after they blitzed the Stonefield housing estate.

The triumphant trash team did a tremendous job, gathering numerous bags of assorted flotsam and jetsam.

Unfortunately, anti-litter campaigners have already declared a crisis situation due to what has clearly become and out-of-control, 'throw everything away' collective mindset.

You know, even if refuse bins were provided every couple of yards, the couldn't-care-less brigade with their 'up yours' attitude would still deliberately chuck junk on the ground, largely just to irritate auld farts like me.

It's clear that local authorities simply no longer have the wherewithal or staffing resources to keep our streets and open spaces even remotely free of detritus.

So community interventions by conscientious citizens like the 'Stonefield Stormtroopers' may increasingly have to become the norm.

Perhaps we also need 'Burnfoot Barnstormers', 'Stirches Scavengers', 'West End Warriors' and more thrusting, dedicated and diligent neighbourhood task forces, to roll up sleeves and fight back against the litter lout bampots.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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# GIVE LAMONT THE BOOT THIS THURSDAY VOTE SNP FOR SCOTLAND

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## WHY VOTE SNP ↓ VOTE DAVID WILSON

### POLICIES

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### CONTACT

-  [DavidWilson@BordersSNP.scot](mailto:DavidWilson@BordersSNP.scot)
-  [@DavidWilsonSNP](https://twitter.com/DavidWilsonSNP)
-  David Wilson: SNP Berwickshire, Roxburgh & Selkirk
-  [linktr.ee/DavidWilsonSNP](http://linktr.ee/DavidWilsonSNP)

### Sarah Douglas

*Local Hawick Campaigner fighting against the Minimum Income Requirement*

"I recently contacted David to ask his views on an issue which is causing so much distress to my family. He replied immediately and took the time to set up a meeting with me. David listened, with empathy and genuine concern for my situation then offered his full support and practical advice.

I feel confident that he would work hard for all of his constituents and be a strong voice standing up for the Scottish Borders in Westminster!"

### Bill Johnstone

*Former lead Rugby Commentator for BBC Radio Scotland*

"I am delighted to support David Wilson in his campaign to become our local MP. He has shown quite amazing energy over the last few weeks in covering every nook and cranny of the constituency to get out to speak with hundreds of voters. David is a very astute candidate, he has a strong instinct for understanding the needs of this part of Scotland, and I have no doubt that, if elected, he will be a first class representative for us all.

In endorsing David's candidacy, I urge Borderers to vote SNP on July 4 and so return a Guilty verdict on years of Tory local inaction and express our hope and confidence in Scotland's future and independence."



**GRUMPY AULD MAN**

**HAUGH GRUMBLES**

Having the region's largest free vehicle park, enhanced with community toilets, plus a sluice facility tailor-made for the campervan fraternity, makes the Common Haugh a veritable feather in the cap for Hawick.

But why, oh why, do the powers-that-be all too often slip up when it comes to those little touches and attention to detail which appeal to visitors and help create positive impressions?

The pedestrian entrance near the toilet block features several information boards. These contain useful data on the town and surrounding area but badly need cleaning to return them to spick and span condition. Manky and rather neglected marking panels hardly befits our 'Queen of a' the Borders' boast.

Meanwhile, how much longer must we tolerate that nearby, dilapidated and scruffy-looking electric vehicle charging machine? It's been out of use for ages and should surely either be fixed, replaced or removed pronto.

The bottom corner of the Haugh also seems to have become a bit of a dumping point for abandoned cars. Some jalopies have languished there for weeks, almost turning part of our parking asset into a glorified second-hand car lot that even dodgy salesman, Arthur Daley, of *Minder* TV fame, might have been proud of.

# Coffee morning's three good causes

Organisers of a fund-raising coffee morning are aiming to brew up funds for three good causes, **Graham Ford writes.**

Local woman Laurie Coburn is being joined by members of Ss Mary and David's Church social group in a bid to boost the coffers of Royal Melbourne Hospital's (RMH) intensive care unit.

Back in December, Laurie's sister Meghan was involved in a life-changing car accident in Australia,



Laurie Coburn, right, and her sister Meghan

and it was RMH staff who fought to keep her alive.

Funds will also be donated to Air Ambulance Victoria whose crew

members flew Meghan more than 200km for that specialist, life-saving treatment.

Meghan suffered severe injuries, but this week Laurie, the practice manager at Tweed Chiropractic Clinic in North Bridge Street, said she was "doing great and still battling as she moves forward".

The event will also raise funds for endometriosis charity, Endo SoS. Both sisters suffer from the debilitating condition, and

prior to Meghan's accident it had been Laurie's intention to support the charity's work.

Adding, she said: "I wanted to thank the Borders branch who were there for me when I was at my lowest.

"It is something of a taboo subject and hopefully that can change, and more people can receive vital support."

The coffee morning will be held tomorrow (Saturday) from 10am to noon in Ss Mary and David's Church hall in Buccleuch Street.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Scottish Borders  
Your community



www.scotborders.gov.uk

**(Douglas Road, Hawick) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024**

The Scottish Borders Council (Douglas Road, Hawick) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force at 09:30 on 1 July 2024 and is expected to remain in effect until 23:59 on 10 July 2024 – 24 hour closure. The Order is required for Scottish Water works.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along Douglas Road, Hawick from Number 15 to Number 17.

The alternative route for eastbound traffic is via Douglas Road, St Ninian's Road, Twirlees Terrace and Douglas Road to the point of closure, for westbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing.

A map showing the restriction and alternative routes can be seen at www.tellmescotland.gov.uk.

**(Bath Street, Hawick) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024**

The Scottish Borders Council (Bath Street, Hawick) (Temporary Closing) Order 2024 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force at 08:00 on 1 July 2024 and is expected to remain in effect until 18:00 on 12 July 2024 – 24 hour closure. The Order is required for drainage works.

When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along Bath Street, Hawick from Commercial Road westwards for 25 metres.

The alternative route for eastbound traffic is via Bath Street, Backpaling Lane, Albert Road and Commercial Road to the point of closure, for westbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing.

A map showing the restriction and alternative routes can be seen at www.tellmescotland.gov.uk.

**N MCKINLAY Director of Corporate Governance**

**Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013  
Notice of Applications to be Published in a  
Local Newspaper Under Regulation 20(1)  
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas)  
(Scotland) Act 1997**

Applications for planning permission, listed building consent and conservation area consent listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells between the hours of 9am and 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and 9am and 3.30pm on Friday.

Written comments may be made to the Service Director – Regulatory Services, Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA within 21 days from the date of the publication of this notice. Alternatively, representations can be made online by visiting our web site at <http://eplanning.scotborders.gov.uk/online-applications/> It is also possible to visit any library and use the Planning Public Access system to view documents. To do this, please contact your nearest library to book time on a personal computer.

Please state clearly whether you are objecting, supporting or making a general comment. Under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, representations may be made available for public inspection.

Ref No	Proposal	Site
24/00706/LBC	Installation of insulated wall linings to internal walls	Flat 3, 12 Oliver Place, Hawick
24/00719/FUL	Change of use to form amenity space including seating area and active area with outdoor gym equipment	Land West Of 1 Dovecot Mews, Hawick

Scottish Borders – the place to live and work

# Art Club's show 'will not disappoint'

Art club members are set to showcase their "various styles and skills" at their annual summer exhibition which opens on Thursday, **Jake Coltman writes.**

President Vanda Mercer told us: "After the winter it is a chance to get together in the summer and give members their own small closed exhibition."

Committee member Denise Leather added: "The exhibition will be eclectic, with various styles and skills." Some stunning works include club artist-in-residence Emma Jolly's



depiction of a polar bear swimming through water; while Denise Leather has captured a seascape particularly well, and her

sun and sky study is also eye-catching.

Vice-president Fiona Mackay, an abstract artist, shows her view on Covid

with *It's gone viral*, and Barbara Pollock displays two beautiful felts.

Other artists exhibiting include Sandy Jarvis, Jackie and Bob Bigwood, Anne Forsyth and Judith Murray.

The vice-president told the paper: "We have a lot of gifted club members. The summer exhibition has proved hugely popular in the past and this year's exhibits will not disappoint."

The works are on view at The Well in Bourtree Place, from Monday to Saturday, 10am-4pm. The display runs until Saturday, July 13.

## Your shout

### Mixed bag as we take to the High Street to ask townsfolk about their vote in general election



I've always voted Labour and will be sticking with them.  
**SHONA FORSYTH**



The gulf between rich and poor is getting bigger and things are a mess. I don't trust politicians and won't bother voting as I'm on holiday.  
**MALCOLM COOPER**



I've voted but I'm not saying who for. It was a hard decision as there's not really one [candidate] better than the other.  
**ANNE MOLLOY**



No idea yet but it won't be Conservative that's for sure.  
**ROBIN GIBSON**



I haven't made my mind up, but I'll be voting as it's very important.  
**LUCY BRENNAN**



I'm going for Nigel Farage as he talks about what matters which means a lot.  
**STUART HUNTER**

## Return of Hawick Sings

Local band, The Cheeky Blinders, will headline Wednesday's opening Hawick Sings concert, organisers revealed this week.

The Burns Club is once again the venue as the fund-raising music nights enter their 23rd summer season.

A spokesman said: "From small beginnings in 2000 at Thorterdykes Roadhouse, Hawick Sings has grown and grown, with a regular audience of more than 100 now each Wednesday night during July and August."

Admission is free, while there is a raffle and a voluntary collection, with all proceeds going to local and national charities. "Over the years we've donated an estimated £40,000 to various causes," added the spokesperson.

The music starts at 7.30pm and entertainers old and new are welcome.

## 'Mindless' thieves

Thieves have struck again at the Walled Garden in Wilton Lodge Park.

Last week we reported on potatoes, onions and strawberries having been taken, and this week, potatoes were again targeted with the shaws replaced in a bid to cover up their diabolical deed. But strangest of all is the theft of a section of blue and gold Common-Riding bunting which was on display.

Several visitors to the garden expressed their "disgust" at the "mindless" acts.



# VERTISH HILL SPORTS

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PICTURES: ILF IMAGING



Penny Anderson and dad Nicky



Above:  
leading  
the way on  
the approach  
to the  
Vertish Hill  
is the Saxhorn  
Band, with  
Cornet  
Ryan  
Nichol just  
behind,  
followed  
by young  
Terries  
and their  
mums,  
dads,  
grannies  
and papas

Left:  
Making a  
dash for  
it to be  
among  
the first  
to pick up  
their £5  
notes



There were plenty of happy faces after receiving their monetary gift from committeeman Alan Grief



# Drumlanrig feeling just champion again

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

Wilton's Conor Young and Bonnie Scott, Stirches, emerged boy and girl champions following some keen competition between local schools in the 143rd Vertish Hill Sports on Saturday afternoon.

Both the boys' and girls' relays were won by Drumlanrig, recipients of the Vertish Hill Sports Cup as the school with most points.

The champion title is back in Drumlanrig's sole custody after they tied with Wilton last year. Wilton were victors in 2022 and Drumlanrig in 2019.

There was great enthusiasm in all age groups, with well over 1,000 local primary school children entered.

Twelve-year-old Conor Young finished first in his flat race and obstacle race and was runner-up in the hurdles.

Bonnie Scott, 11, took the honours in the skipping race, was second in her flat race and third in the egg and spoon event.

Twenty-five boys and 25 girls took part in the under-fives' races and each received £1.

The procession of 343 children to the Vertish – slightly down on last year – was led by the Saxhorn Band, followed by Cornet Ryan Nichol and the Scout Pipe Band who also entertained during the sports.

Each child who took part in the walk received a gift of £5 on arrival at the hill. A total of £1,715 was handed out to the children in the procession.

The weather remained dry, although a little chilly, but that didn't deter a very good crowd attending.

Sports vice-president Ian Nichol told the paper: "We're extremely grateful for all the sponsorship received from local businesses and a special thanks to our main sponsor, Muirhall Energy."

Other sponsors were: Think Fitness 4 Less, Marchwinds, Hawick Motor & Tyre Company, Wilton Carpets, Lowrie Roofing, Lowrie Property, Hamish D. Smith Jewellers, Hawick Auto Care, Gibson Insurance Services, 1514 Club, Bannerman Burke Properties and The Baby Shop.

Reflecting on the sports, a delighted Drumlanrig head teacher Jeanette Gordon told the paper: "I loved seeing the energy and enthusiasm from all the children. The highlight for me is always the relays and it was even more special with Drumlanrig girls and boys winning their relays."

Continuing, she said: "We're very grateful to all the parents, carers, family and friends who came along with the children. Their cheers of encouragement really boosted the children and I'm sure everyone had a fun day."

The school held a special celebration assembly earlier this week, at which the boys and girls shared their recent achievements from out-of-school activities and events. And adding, Mrs Gordon said: "The relay winners were delighted to share their medals and, of course, show everyone in the school the overall winner's trophy. We were all feeling very proud of this collective achievement from everyone who took part."

Sports officials found the kids to be "very polite" and all expressed their thanks when picking up their prizes.

Committeeman Keith Anderson, captain of the ring, presented the prizes to the champions.

Vice-president Nichol added: "Thanks go to our collectors, hard-working committee and the new treasurer, Alan Grief, as well as Judith Hope-Wilson at the golf club for the hospitality afforded to the committee following the sports."

The gate, street and lorry collections, as well as donations for teas and coffees, totaled £527.40, which were on a par from last year.



Girls' relay race winners, from left, Drumlanrig's Aiofe Whillans, Peyton Corrie, Leah Lavery and Mia Swistek



Drumlanrig also tasted success in the boys' relay event thanks to Ivan Watson, Ollie Wight, Max Vevers and Calan Pender-Mills



## Saturday's results

### FLAT RACES

Five year olds: Boys – 1, Max Robertson (W); 2, Robbie McConnell (W); 3, Harley Smith (D). Girls – 1, Macy Hush (S); 2, Caris Anderson (D); 3, Ellie Blacklock (T). Six year olds: Boys – 1, Harry Williams (D); 2, Samuel Richards (Den); 3, Quinn McGeorge (T). Girls – 1, Sophie McAuley (T); 2, Rosie Lyall (D); 3, Dorei Currie (D). Seven year olds: Boys – 1, Cason Parker (T); 2, Tyler Stavert (S); 3, Henry Easton (D). Girls – 1, Enid Reid (W); 2, Callie Purves (W); 3, Juliette Terblanche (D). Eight year olds: Boys – 1, Zacariah Nwoke (B); 2, Matthew Womack. Girls – 1, Alba Hedley; 2, Elsie Sutherland (D); 3, Ollie Ryan (D). Nine year olds: Boys – 1, Hugo Armstrong (W); 2, Scott Wilson (S); 3, Connor Davidson (D). Girls – 1, Freya Michie (W); 2, Annabelle Kyle (S); 3, Nina Hartop (D). Ten year olds: Boys – 1, Harrison Combe (D); 2, Alistair Butlin (D); 3, Ollie Lyall (D). Girls – 1, Aoife Whillans (D); 2, Lana Pringle (D); 3, Ayla Reid. Eleven year olds: Boys – 1, Oliver Wight (D); 2, Ivan Watson (D); 3, Kerr Watson (D). Girls – 1, Mia Swistek (D); 2, Bonnie Scott (S); 3, Leah Lavery (D). Twelve year olds: Boys – 1, Conor Young (W); 2, Max Vevers (D); 3, Lennon Hope. Girls – 1, Lucy Oliver (T); 2, Nikki Blacklock (T); 3, Robyn Wilson (W).

### OBSTACLE RACES

Under nine years – 1, Ashton Bain (D); 2, Zachariah Nwoke (B); 3, Nathan Marshall (W). Nine-12 years – 1, Conor Young (W); 2, Harvey Wilson (B); 3, Max Vevers (D).

### SACK RACE

1, Ivan Watson (D); 2, Kerr Ferguson (D); 3, Joshua Harris (D).

### EGG AND SPOON RACE

1, Leah Lavery (D); 2, Erica Ferguson; 3, Bonnie Scott (S).

### HURDLE RACES

Under nine years – 1, Zachariah Nwoke (B); 2, Matthew Womack (D); 3, Tyler Stavert (S). Nine-12 years – 1, Max Vevers (D); 2, Connor Young (W); 3, Oliver Wight (D).

### SKIPPING RACE

1, Bonnie Scott (S); 2, Lucy Oliver (T); 3, Leah Lavery (D).

### RELAYS

Boys – 1, Drumlanrig; 2, Wilton; 3, Burnfoot. Girls – 1, Drumlanrig; 2, Stirches; 3, Wilton.

### CHAMPIONS

Boy – Conor Young (W). Girl – Bonnie Scott (S). School – Drumlanrig.

Key: (B) Burnfoot, (Den) Denholm, (D) Drumlanrig, (S) Stirches, (T) Trinity, (W) Wilton.







PICTURES: ILF IMAGING





PICTURES: ILF IMAGING



Committeemen Doug Rolland, above, and Les Casson



Champion boy Conor Young

Champion girl Bonnie Scott



Hawick Scout Pipe Band were in great form

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# Graduates are set for 'amazing things' says high school head

Hawick High's graduation ceremony earlier this month marked the culmination of outgoing pupils' "six-year journey at the school", which had been "filled with learning, challenges, laughter and friendships".

So said head teacher Lisa Scott, who was confident the students were "ready to take that journey far beyond the familiar corridors of Hawick High School".

The pupils' preparedness would not have been possible, however, "without the unwavering dedication of our incredible teachers, mentors and support staff", said Mrs Scott.

Their "tireless efforts in shaping these young minds deserve our deepest gratitude."

"They ignited a passion for learning, fostered critical thinking skills, and instilled a sense of responsibility that will serve them [the students] well in the years to come."

The head also had a few words for the pupils' parents and carers, telling them: "Your unwavering love, support, and guidance have been the wind beneath their wings."

"You instilled in them the values, resilience, and determination that propel them forward."

Addressing the students, she continued: "The next chapter for you all will be varied and we have a huge amount of talent sitting in this hall this afternoon – and so much to be proud of."

"You will all have your own paths to tread and I

am certain that there will be varied and challenging journeys for you at times.

"But I hope that we have prepared you well for this and that some day I can welcome you back to Hawick High School with open arms as I would like nothing more than to find out how you have done."

Concluding, Mrs Scott urged the pupils to remember that this was not an ending, but a thrilling beginning.

"Embrace the challenges, celebrate the victories, and never lose sight of your dreams," she said.

"Everyone at Hawick High is incredibly proud of the young adults you have become. You are all intelligent, compassionate, and ready to make a positive impact on the world."

"We can't wait to see the amazing things you will achieve."

Also giving speeches at the graduation were the four-strong head team, with Stroma Beukes highlighting the teachers' "determination and care" which was "vital to all of us being able to sit here today, with a bright future ahead of us", she said. "Some of you have known us for six years, some only for one, but all of you have shaped us in some way, helped us to get to where we want to go."

Joseph Wear hailed sixth year as an "unforgettable experience", and he, too, thanked the teachers and, in particular, Miss Williams, for her support in English, which he is going on to study at university.

Rhianna Smillie heaped praise on the senior prefects who were "integral to ensuring all younger years of the school feel safe and supported".

Addressing the S6s on behalf of the head team, Grace Gibb added: "We hope you feel proud and happy with all you have been able to achieve here, that all of the people you have met, and the things you have been fortunate enough to experience, have fulfilled you."



Millie Allison



Stroma Beukes



Stephanie Bird



Angela Burska



Macy Casson



Niamh Casson



Katie Scott and S6 head Shona Murray



Joseph Casson



Connor Crawley



Iona Douglas



Brodie Elliot



Alex Forrest



Lewis Forbes



Olivia Foster



Head teacher Lisa Scott



Nina Gale



Grace Gibb



Vanja Hatilovic



Ava Hughes



PICTURES: ILF IMAGING



Aimee Hume



Lexi Keown



Sylvie Khawam



Marli Kiore



Filip Kubiki



Robbie Landles



Rubi Lee



Charlie McCaig



Darice McDonnell



Freya Morrozo Della Rocca



Iona Morrozo Della Rocca



Zoe Pearce



Emma Price



Amy Renwick



Emma Rooney



Rhianna Scott



Rhianna Smillie



Noah Sommerville



Lana Stanger



Alissa Telfer



Maria Todica



John Torrie



Joey Torrie



Toby Turnbull



Joseph Wear



Samantha Whitelaw



Beka Wilson



Kyle Wright



Wiktorja Wydro



Catelyn Yallop



# Bert Scott

# The worthiest Cornet aya

PICTURES: ILA CULTON



By Alastair Redpath

**(Pairt threi):**  
“Frae eastern  
gleam tae  
western glow”

On September 12, 1945, while awaiting to be processed, medically examined and treated by American soldiers, Bert looked out across the mountains surrounding Nagasaki harbour and contemplated a return to rolling hills of the Borders, having spent a scarcely imaginable 1,295 days in captivity.

Small boats conveyed the former PoWs to larger warships in the bay, navigating through house-sized chunks of concrete and debris deposited in the water by the blast of the atomic bomb. Nagasaki was a shattered city which became a place of healing for shattered men.

Stretcher cases, skipping the normal procedure, went straight aboard the USS *Haven*, while walking cases were given coffee and doughnuts as clerical staff filled out both army and medical forms. Once processed, each case was put through a shower and sprayed with DDT (for malaria and typhus), before

being issued with a new set of clothes and ‘toilet gear’.

Bert, however, was taken aboard HMS *Implacable* – the largest aircraft carrier in the world at that time – and kitted out in Royal Australian Air Force uniform with a “great muckle big Canadian coat”. In as much as the Japanese had plentiful supplies of ammunition, coal and iron, soap was still a luxury – even in liberation. Fresh water was also in short supply, so the men were told to be mindful of how much they used.

*Implacable* had been emptied of her usual containment of Fleet Air Arm Avengers, Seafires and Fireflies, leaving plenty of space for evacuees. “It could not offer comfort but it was truly divine when compared with previous transportation,” said Bert. He was grouped into a makeshift mess of 100 men with an officer, and was tasked with filling in “bore” interrogation forms. There was an information centre in the upper hangar and regular entertainment bulletins were provided to stave off boredom.

Although suffering mainly from malnutrition and avitaminosis (severe vitamin deficiency), the bulk of the freed men were injected with thiamine to combat beriberi. Bert’s ailments were at the more serious end of the scale, however, with the added complexity of a burst appendix and jaundice. He was therefore “set free and flown back to civilisation” in the Philippines.

Upon arrival he was put in touch with the Red Cross for the first time since serving in Singapore. With a maximum of two telegrams



Picking Night, May 1947

on offer, he thought long and hard about who to contact first. The obvious choice was his mum, Maggie Storie, of 7 Upper Village, Hawick. The last she’d heard from her youngest son was on August 12, 1943, by postcard, stating that he was well. It had been “damaged by fire in transit” and was postmarked ‘June 20, 1942’ – among significantly delayed mail that the Japanese had attempted to burn.

One well-intentioned PoW from Galashiels, who’d last seen Bert alive in the Philippines, had visited his brother Dave’s butcher shop at the Sandbed to say that nobody could have survived the sinking hellships. Word to the contrary only reached mother Maggie in October 1945.

The second telegram was a more difficult choice. Prior

to the war, Bert had been seeing a girl in Galashiels but, this being wartime, she had moved on and was now engaged to somebody else.

He instead sent a thank you message to June, a farmer’s daughter in Australia, who had posted him books, newspapers and other comforts during his time in Singapore. She dreamed of marrying a Scotsman and, a few years later, settled for a sailor who had emigrated down under.

Among correspondence headed Bert’s way, he received a letter dated September 1945, sent by George VI and Queen Elizabeth, from Buckingham Palace, sharing thoughts of sympathy for his time spent in captivity, while mourning the loss of his comrades. The royal couple wished his return

would bring “a full measure of happiness” to Bert and his family in Hawick.

Teridom was not his first destination, however. A medical ship subsequently took Bert and other gravely ill soldiers on a ‘cruise’ to Canada for three months, to rid them of worms, treat their ailments and wounds, and tackle all kinds of tropical diseases – eventually disembarking at Southampton.

Arriving on the Saturday, he spent a short stint in hospital on the south coast afore departing for London by train for an onward journey to Hawick. His carriage was chock-full of displaced men, women and children all trying to get home following years of chaos.

As the train gradually passed through Hawick,

Bert asked a mutual acquaintance named Mr Morrison to jump off and tell Dave that he was headed to the Peel Hospital at Caddonfoot. It had been four full years since he’d last seen his family, and Maggie soon rushed to be at her son’s bedside.

In fact, Bert was the first former Japanese PoW to come back to Peel. A special screen was put up for privacy from other patients, but, on the instruction of the Selkirk doctor in charge, all young nurses were brought to his bedside for an education that couldn’t be bought. Bert had been reduced to a skeleton. He was more jaundiced than a newborn baby. They could scarcely believe he was still alive.

He would remain an in-patient at the Peel for

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six months as doctors refused to discharge him until he was fully fit. Bert acclimatised to his new living quarters and became the ward postie.

On the day he was supposed to arrive back in Hawick, his family turned out en-masse at the railway station to greet him... but he was nowhere to be seen. Little did they know that, when the train slowed down on approach, Bert had jumped off down the banking at Mansfield and headed straight to his mother's house, where he was later discovered fast asleep!

This was a man who was determined, more than anything, to attend the first post-war Hawick Common-Riding. In fact, if he'd been fit enough, Bert was to be Cornet in 1946. Instead, it would be his friend Charlie Bell's time to shine in office.

"Oo'll hae tae git back for the Common-Riding," Bert stated often to his fellow PoWs.

Because he'd been a prisoner for so long, he didn't realise that festivities had actually been cancelled for the duration of the war. "Tell mei when June comes

roond, ah'll write it doon," he'd say – marking off each ride-out and chase along the way.

This infectious love of Hawick's ancient customs and traditions started with his elder brother Dave who'd followed on horseback since he was a boy. He used to get Bert down to the stables to help muck out and clean the harnesses.

In 1929, aged 13, Bert was a 'hauder' for Right-Hand Man Ian Mactaggart and his horse Rufus, receiving half a crown for his troubles. He followed Cornet Viv Grieve to MossPaul that year on a pony bought from Border Gypsies at the Common Haugh, and loaned another horse for Denholm.

For 1930, Bert secured auld Neddy, "a big cairt horse", followed by a jumping pony from Synton for the years 1931 and 1932. In fact, Dave's racehorse and Bert's hired pony were best of friends and his brother's steed even refused to start races up the Mair without first seeing his wee pal!

For taking good care of his horse and getting him shod, the farmer at Synton reimbursed Bert his £1 10s hire fee. An act of kindness

that meant the world to him.

Reflecting on those fond teenage memories, Bert believed that Dave would have been Cornet in the 1930s but for a lack of money. Principals received a paltry allowance in those days and had to pay for almost all clothing, horse-



Cornet Robert Verdun Scott

hire, meals and other expenses out of their own pockets.

There were two ride-outs apiece to Bonchester, Lilliesleaf, and MossPaul. Ladies were able to gain a Mosstroopers' badge and no fuss was made about their presence. Bert remembered

the women being "guid riders" who were skilled at jumping and gymkhana. A maximum of 50 to 55 riders made up the cavalcade for the Friday... and half of them were butchers! Places like Galashiels, of course, had just started their own festival, meaning fewer travelling Principals from other towns.

In April 1946, while still an in-patient at the Peel, Bert went to see Cornet-elect Charlie Bell about securing a horse. There were two for sale at Midlem and he plumped for a silver yin which was stabled with Dod Ormiston, friend and butcher. Bert would leave hospital on a Saturday to ride it and return to the ward on a Sunday to convalesce!

He managed to follow on every ride-out that year, a phenomenal achievement for someone who was supposed to be in a hospital bed.

For the big week it was a case of "let's sei whit the doctor says". On the Tuesday he was sent to Edinburgh Castle to be examined by a captain of the Red Cross who, in turn, ordered him to York, by train, to be signed

off sick. He was to receive £5 a week.

Bert took the midnight service and arrived in York at 6am on the Wednesday. He stopped by a cafe for tea and a roll and saw outside that the 'sick' queue stretched right around the school playground (the enrolment centre), ten men deep. Superhuman queues were no obstacle to a man who was used to waiting his turn each day for a spoonful of uncooked rice.

However, he got chatting to a sergeant-major who asked him about his war experiences and what lay ahead. Bert told him he needed to be back in Hawick within a day, as he didn't want to miss the Common-Riding. Rank was quickly pulled and Bert, as a surviving Japanese PoW, was sent straight to the front of the queue.

The officers offered him an overcoat and a proper pair of trousers. Papers were signed, a train was caught, and Bert, sure enough, arrived back in Teridom on Common-Riding Thursday – racing his way up the Nipknowes to make the Hut.

In 1946, he managed a single race up the Mair

which almost ended in disaster. His horse sustained a broken leg and had to be sent to the kennels to be put down. Bert, thankfully, avoided serious injury and received more than what he'd paid out in insurance. He'd go on to ride at Hawick and Selkirk that first year back.

On May 6, 1947, a sealed envelope was escorted from Hawick Town Hall by Halberdier Bob Naylor to the doorstep of 29 Wellogate Place. Crowds of bairns thronged the street and sang *The Border Queen* as the knock on the door was answered. Never has a Hawick man been more warmly received than when Robert Verdun Scott accepted the call from his ain auld toon and achieved a lifelong ambition of becoming Cornet.

As one of his favourite Hawick songs goes: "I have wander'd as in dreamland, but I like auld Hawick the best."

Credit: Ila Culton and Jake Coltman; The Ian Landles Archive, SCRAN; The British PoWs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 1945 (2020), Dr Joseph Quinn; British Newspaper Archive.

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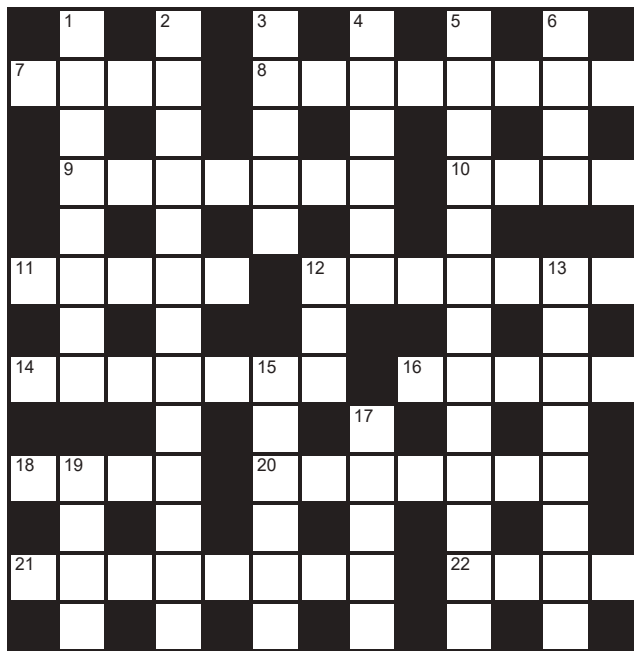
**Crossword**

in association with



**ACROSS**

- 7 Hue (4)
- 8 Adore his crazy country, once (8)
- 9 Kind of fisherman (4-3)
- 10 Kind of pipe or pigeon (4)
- 11 Pool of money (5)
- 12 Nation on the Dniester (7)
- 14 Hanukah symbol (7)
- 16 Piano key (5)
- 18 Malayan dagger (4)
- 20 Cheese you can gorge on? (7)
- 21 Short of the necessary (8)
- 22 Razor mishap (4)



**DOWN**

- 1 Air passage (8)
- 2 Intent on pasta, so ruined ability to focus (9,4)
- 3 Lovers' liaison (5)

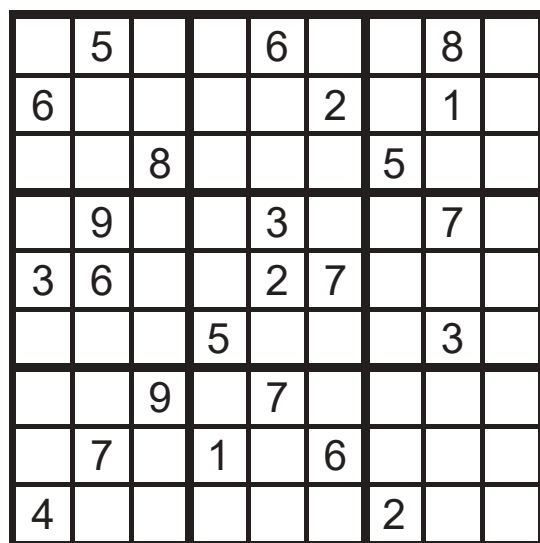
- 4 Warhol's soup-can flavour (6)
- 5 Debatable financial consequence of the USSR's collapse (5,8)
- 6 "--- of Lambeth" (Maugham novel) (4)
- 12 Speed camera concern (3)
- 13 Rolling (4,4)
- 15 Take or receive (6)
- 17 Fuses (5)
- 19 "Puttin' on the ---" (Berlin tune) (4)

**KHB ROOFING**  
ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING UNDERTAKEN

**GUTTERING REPAIRS / CLEANING - FREE ESTIMATES**

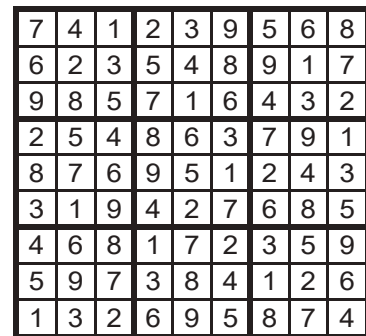
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**Sudoku**



**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**

**Across:** 6 Biblical, 8 Owe, 9 Private school, 10 Lawns, 12 Remind, 14 Eve, 15 Etched, 16 Burst, 18 Impressionist, 21 Tee, 22 Numerous. **Down:** 1 Pier, 2 Eleventh, 3 Scots, 4 Dosh, 5 Recounts, 7 Lustre, 11 Attempts, 13 Mourners, 14 Edison, 17 Firms, 19 Reek, 20 Shun.



**Quiz**

By Brian Tait, Archaeological Society

- 1 Who is the president of the 1514 Club?
- 2 What type of tree has been planted in the Oxnam Water valley as part of the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme?
- 3 The following lines - *The perfum'd thyme and heather bell, Bloom beauteous where soft winds prevail* - come from which Hawick song?
- 4 What was the Sandbed called before the 1850s?
- 5 Who presented the barometer outside the town hall to Hawick in April 1883?

Answers: Page 32

**Word is ...**

By Douglas Scott

**ATWEEN**

Adverb between, as in "there's no much atween them in height". J.E.D. Murray wrote: "As springs that gutter doon the hills, atween overhangin' fern and heather." J.B. Selkirk wrote: "Atween the clumps o' purple heather." And David Hill wrote "Snakin' atween the Slitrig hills."



The Wilton club's Robert Main Trophy winners, from left, Jake Murray, Alistair Brown and Lorna Notman

**Bowling**

**BUCCLEUCH**  
The seniors were well beaten 69-35 by hosts Jedburgh in last Tuesday's league encounter.

Details: T. Turnbull 28, J. Reilly 6. R. Hogg 12, G. Johnstone 14. J. Taylor 16, J. Williams 10. D. Munro 13, B. Rorrison 5.

Last Wednesday night's third division match saw the men record a comfortable 65 shots to 43.5 victory over visitors Gala Waverley B, who were forced to play with one triples rink.

Details: K. Lyle 17, R. Fulton 10.5. J. Williams 15, J. Amos 12. J. Reilly 18, J. Dickson 13. B. Rorrison 15, B. Brownlee 2.

**HAMILTON TROPHY**  
On Saturday, three local players - Norrie Amos, Hawick; and Ryan Brady and Fraser Clyne, both Wilton - were part of the Border Bowling Association team which recorded a good 130 shots to 103 win over Fife at Chirnside.

Their triumph, which included wins for four of the six rinks, keeps them in position to qualify for the national quarter-finals.

The Borderers' final game is against West Fife at Peebles on Saturday, July 6. Trial ends start at 2pm.

**HAWICK**  
The seniors lost a close league match 53-48 at home to Melrose/Earlston last Tuesday morning.

Best for the Teries were Gordon Solley, Alan Leithead and Norrie Amos (skip). Details: B. Anderson 13, I. Crawford 11. N. Amos 19, A. Cossar 9. J. Anderson 13, W. Swanston 14. B. McDonald 3, B. Beattie 19.

Last Tuesday night, the ladies were also at home with a league match against Newtown St Boswells. And with both sides winning one rink each it was the visitors who returned home with

the points by 3-2 on overall shots.

The gents' A team edged past hosts Gala Waverley by 56 shots to 54 in last Wednesday night's league match.

Best for the visitors were Simon Spalding, Mark Reilly, Phil Smith and Kirk Ford (skip). Details: D. Miller jr 16, M. Christy 14. R. Thorburn 11, K. Ford 17. D. Wilson 13, N. Amos 14. R. Nicholson 14, A. Brady 11.

The gents' B team were also away with a tie at Lauder - against whom they competed well, despite being a player short due to some late call-offs - and were beaten by 78 shots to 49.5.

Hawick's only winning rink comprised Alister Howden, Norman Dobbie, Eddie Hall and Rob Johnstone (skip).

Details: G. Young 21, S. Johnstone jr 13. G. McDonnell 15, D. Johnstone 10.5. L. Wilson 13, R. Johnstone 16. R. Hutton 29, N. Anderson 10.

**POW CUP**  
The final will take place tonight (Friday) at Wilton. Trial ends 6.45pm. Spectators welcome.

**WILTON**  
The four-triple senior team notched a comprehensive 91 shots to 30 win in the league at home to Newtown last Tuesday.

Last Thursday, the seniors chalked up another victory, this time a hard-fought 65 shots to 57 success in their rearranged league clash at Jedburgh. The originally scheduled match was rained off.

Details: J. Taylor 13, C. Sutherland 10. D. Munro 14, A. J. Kyle 19. R. Hogg 17, K. McCredie 18. T. Turnbull 13, K. McCartney 18.

The four-rink A team found home side Jedburgh in good form in last Wednesday's 17-end league game, and were defeated by 73 shots to 51.

The only winning Wilton

squad was Jim Thomson, Davy Gray, Colin Sutherland and Chris Macdougall (skip). Details: A. White 17, R. Brady 12. S. White 26, A. J. Kyle 6. G. Nagle 19, A. Brown 16. E. Lindores 11, C. Macdougall 17.

Saturday's Robert Main Trophy mixed triples competition, comprising three games of eight ends for each team, was won by Lorna Notman, Jake Murray and Alistair Brown (skip).

The victors notched two wins (+12 shots), and although tied with Joan Kyle, Sheena Graham and Michael Notman (skip), it was Brown and co who took the spoils as winners of the head to head between the two teams.

The Notman trio picked up the Phil Marsden Trophy as runners-up.

On Monday night, the gents' Top Ten team got off to a great start in their quarter-final at home to Langholm New, with Ryan Brady seeing off the visitors' Ian Scott by 21 shots to 13.

Also tasting victory, the Teri triple of Stuart Anderson, Gavin Brady and Chris Macdougall (skip) did the business by 22 shots to eight against P. Mitchell, I. Earsman and M. Grieve (skip).

In the rinks, a tight game saw the host club's Duncan Macdougall, Barry Sutherland, Colin Sutherland and Andrew J. Kyle (skip) beaten 18-14 by D. Johnstone, D. Pool, R. Innes and L. Tolson (skip).

Wilton suffered another narrow defeat, this time in the pairs, with Fraser Clyne and Alistair Brown (skip) going down by 18 shots to 17 versus A. Warwick and P. Warwick (skip).

The latter two defeats were not, however, enough to derail the home side's challenge, and they emerged winners by 74 shots to 57.

The semi-finals will be played at the Waverley and Gala clubs on Sunday, July 7.



# Mitchell takes gold at worlds

## Taekwondo

By GARY HEATLY  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Finlay Mitchell enjoyed the World ITF Taekwon-Do Championships in Edinburgh and came away with a gold and two silver medals.

The 14-year-old, who has just finished senior two at Hawick High School, attends Paul Priestley's classes in the town and, has been making positive strides in the sport.

At the Oriam on the outskirts of the capital

at the weekend, he was competing as part of the Scotland ITF national team in the male blackbelt 1st dan category for 14 to 17-year-olds.

He has just stepped up to that age-grade so it was tough, but he got his head down and competed well.

His gold medal came in the individual sparring (height category 160cm) event while the silvers came in the individual patterns and team patterns events respectively.

"The big competitions are always really good to be part of," Finlay told us.

"There are always people

there that you've never met before and now I've gone up an age category I'm up against lads I haven't competed against for a couple of years.

"That was really good and I was pleased with how I did."

His mum Michelle said: "We are proud of Finlay and how he did at the weekend.

"A massive thank you to our friends, family and all his coaches who are always so supportive of Finlay and to the Young Teri Future Champions Awards for their support, too."

Paul Priestley added: "Congratulations to Finlay



Teenager Finlay Mitchell with his haul of medals

who showed a terrier attitude competing in a higher age category."

Craig Anderson and Freya Norman from the Hawick classes also

competed and put in some great performances while Billy Caswell, Oliver Levell and Izzie Morrison were umpiring in their first competitions.

## Fighter Tierney is another rising star

### Boxing

By GARY HEATLY  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick Boxing Club youngster Shea Tierney secured a brilliant win at the Workington Town Boys and Girls Club Show down south on June 15.

Shea, who is 11 years old and in primary seven at Knowepark Primary in Selkirk, boxed Lewis Scholey from the Egremont club and his hand was raised in victory at the end of the bout in Cumbria.

He comes from a well-known boxing family and absolutely lives for the sport.

Although he has only been officially involved in boxing for a short period he is progressing well and is looking forward to his future in the ring.

"The win in Workington meant the absolute world to me and has boosted my confidence massively," Shea said.

He's hoping to one day reach the same level as his young coach Liam Rutherford who has been dedicating his spare time to mentor Shea on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Princes Street-based club.

"The support I receive from Liam, the other coaches and my gym mates at Hawick Boxing Club is great," Shea added.

At the same show, young Teri Lennon Hope lost to the host club's Kane Shepherd, and Hawick's Nina Gale was just edged out by Courtney Wolstenholme from the Middleton Select.

# Players geared up for touch tourney finals

## Rugby

The AS Crawford Trophy touch rugby tournament began on Saturday with six teams competing each made up of mixed ages from Hawick Youth Rugby's under 15, 16 and 18 groups.

All teams played each other once in a group format to determine the pairings for finals day which takes place at the Volunteer Park tomorrow commencing at 1pm.

Hawick Youth president Mark Palmer told us: "It's a fun event to get boys moving before training starts in July and then games in August."

The Wooden Spoon match is between Conk's Crushers and Stuart's Stormers, the 3rd/4th play-off sees Swailes' Sharks take on McGinty's Goats before the final when Dylan's Destroyers play Filip's Flyers.

Matches consist of two ten minutes halves and parents are welcome to attend.



Alex Cross, Mikey Swailes, Dermuid McGuinness and Douglas Miller try and stop Sam Fenech bursting forward

## Golf

### HAWICK

EOD Medal (Sunday, June 23) - 1, Kenny Forsyth, 41 points; 2, Nikki Walker, 40; 3, Adam Middlemass, 36.

Medal & Millennium 2 (Thursday, June 20) - 1, Fiona Turnbull, 90 (18) 72; 2, Laura Spalding, 105 (28) 77; 3, Susan Coltman, 108 (28) 80.

Festival Cup (Sunday,

June 3) - 1, Liam Megahy, 78 (14) 64; 2, Logan McGow, 95 (28) 67; 3, Naomi Forsyth, 110 (38) 72.

### MINTO

Tuesday Stableford No 8 (Tuesday, June 11) - 1, Barry Scott and Ian Lister, 38 points; 2, Kerr Scott, 37; 3, Angus Scott and Chay Caldwell, 36.

A total on 28 gents took part in this competition.

Minto Masters Series Summer Major and Fox

& Hounds No5 (Saturday, June 15) - 1, Craig Elliot, 80 (17) 63; 2, Andrew Richardson, 76 (8) 68; 3, Craig Black, 85 (16) 69, and Chay Caldwell, 99 (30) 69.

Thirty-six gents took part in this competition.

David Marchbanks Trophy (Thursday, June 18) - 1, Anne Paterson, 95 (28) 67; 2, Joyce Michie, 113 (37) 76; 3, Dorothy Elliot, 100 (17) 83.

Par 3 Open (Monday,

June 22) - 1, Robert Johnson, 68 (17) 51; 2, Drew Minto, 69 (16) 53; 3, Eric English, 71 (17) 54 and John Law, 69 (15) 54.

Thirty-three gents and nine lady players took part in this successful competition.

Gents' June Medal and Fox & Hounds No 6 (Tuesday, June 23) - 1, Craig Richardson, 88 (18) 70 and Barry Scott, 79 (9) 70; 2, Graeme Lothian, 77 (5) 72; 3,

Neil Douglas, 81 (8) 73.

Nineteen gents took part in this competition.

The seniors have had a great run winning their matches both home and away, led by Ron Elliot and Andy Mitchell.

Results - Rothbury away, Minto won 3.5-2.5; Peebles away, Minto won 4-2; Ladhope home, Minto won 4-2; Goswick home, Minto won 5-1; The Woll home, Minto won 4.5-1.5.



Shea Tierney



PICTURES: MARK HOGARTH / ERIC SCOTLAND / IAN BELL



Pamela Turnbull



Jill McColm



Heather McCormack



Angela Mulvee



Wendy Fair

# Belles show their pedal power in latest Midsummer Breeze

By GARY HEATLY  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The Hawick Belles didn't think they could top their previous excellent Midsummer Breeze Sportives, but Sunday's edition certainly came close and was a wonderful event.

On a sunny day, 79 female cyclists met up outside the Hawick United clubrooms next to the Walled Garden in Wilton Park Road and set off on their way to cover two distances of 29 and 42 miles.

The event this year was raising funds for the Marie Curie Hawick Fundraising Group and MS Border Group and, although the final total is not yet confirmed, the amount brought in is set to be more than £2,000.

That means that through the years to date the Belles have raised over £12,000 in total for various charities. Organisers Tracey Sharp, Lizzie Mitchell and Linsey Renwick told us: "Seventy-nine inspirational ladies took part in this year's event and it was lovely to welcome new faces along with lots of returning ones."

"As in previous years, the fabulous Hawick Scout Pipe Band were on hand to cheer the cyclists over the



Lizzie Mitchell, Linsey Renwick, Nadia Cranston, Christine Suddon

Leap Linns and onwards to Lilliesleaf where the wonderful Marie Curie Hawick Fundraising Group were waiting to ensure they were fed and watered and raring to go for the next leg.

"Given the heat, Sarah and her daughter were a breath of fresh air, ensuring the cyclists got a top up of water and some sweets to get them back to Hawick where Judith [Hope-Wilson] and her team at the Pavilion Café were ready with a superb cream tea."

At the end cyclists were given a goody bag containing a number of things including something made by the talented Billiedoo and a perfume sample donated by Lindsay & Gilmour.

The organisers continued: "Thank you to

Scottish Borders Council for their help with the gravel and potholes on the route, to Hawick United AFC for opening up their clubrooms, Scott Killey who supplied the tunes and the Friends of Wilton Park for letting us use their tables and chairs.

"Mark Hogarth, Ian Bell, Paul Wright and Eric Scotland captured the day perfectly with some amazing photos."

"Thanks to our mobile mechanic Kevin Mitchell, and Benjamin Wilson, our sign man and broom waggon."

"Thanks also to all of our marshals, as without you we couldn't ensure the safety and guarantee our ladies stayed on track as well as Nadia Cranston who stepped in on the day."



Elaine Charters

"We couldn't make this day happen without the support and help of our families and friends and local and UK wide businesses."

"To Morrisons, Lidl, Sainsbury's, Hunter's the Bakers and Beth Hart, thank you for fuelling our ladies."



Sukanya Turnbull

"Thank you to Bowhill House for supplying the most beautiful cups for the ladies hot beverages, and thank you also to Endura, Breeze Network Scotland, Barrie, Johnstons of Elgin, Love Scottish, Lovat Mill, Eden, The Barn at Dormouse Cottage, Flowers



Lou Challinor

by Forster, Colin Purvis Fitness and Conditioning, Style-A-Head Hair Studio, HMC, Hawico, Christina Hendry, Christine Suddon, Pauline Capaldi, Hamish D. Smith Jewellers, Beth Hart, Mary Lloyd and all our Belles who kindly donated prizes for our raffle."





Lorna Hyslop and Linda Borthwick



Amanda Nichol and Lorna Farquharson



Suzanne Murdoch and Helen Hart



Lorna Notman and Shirley Gillies

## Record-breaker Elliot is Northumberland champ

Hawick Cycling Club's Ian Elliot got the better of a tough course, awful conditions and coming off his bike to win the North East TT Championships in his age group on Sunday.

In April we heard how Ian was celebrating after a Scotland age group record he broke in Stirling in 2023 was confirmed.

In more recent times, he has clocked a 24 minute 50 second ten-mile time trial at the St Christophers Cycling Club event in Glasgow and an even better time at the same distance of 23 minute 20 seconds elsewhere.

As a result, Ian, 74, went into the North East 50-mile time-trial event at the weekend – which started in Cramlington in Northumberland and then went up the A189 before turning up to Amble with

a ten-mile loop to finish – feeling good.

“I won the v70 50-mile TT in two hours 11 minutes,” Ian said.

“It was not a personal best, but it was a difficult course with wind and 26

roundabouts.

“I also hit a pothole and came off the bike which was not ideal, but I was happy with the win in the championships to go with the North East ten-mile TT win earlier in the season.”



Ian Elliot stormed to success in the North East TT

## Armstrong aiming to develop players

### Rugby

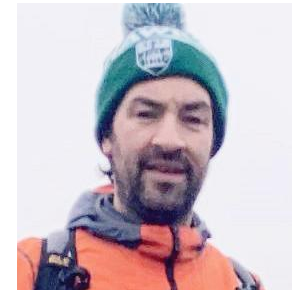
By GARY HEATLY  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Former Greens centre Ross Armstrong is looking forward to getting back involved down at Mansfield Park during the upcoming rugby season after he joined the Force as backs coach.

The 41-year-old will be teaming up with Matt Landels, the forwards coach who headed things up with the second team last term, while they will also work closely with first team head coach Graham Hogg and others.

The Force had a great 2023/24 and they will be keen to continue that in 2024/25.

Last term they clinched the Border Junior League back in December and, at



Ross Armstrong

Volunteer Park in April, added more silverware by winning the Border Junior League Cup after a 50-29 win over Selkirk A in the final.

“I am looking forward to getting involved with the Force,” Ross, who had a bad injury when he was 17 and played for Hawick in two spells during his senior playing days as well as for Selkirk and Hawick YM, said.

“Last season I helped out Hawick Linden a bit

with coaching and I was keen to get my teeth into something a bit more regular so when this chance came up I was keen to give it a go.

“Matt Landels and the Force players did really well last season and hopefully I can just add to that and help to bring more and more young players through who are then able to compete for first team jerseys.

“The plan is to have the first team and the Force squads training closely together in pre-season and into the season, and that will only help the guys who are knocking on the door of playing in the Premiership to show them what it's all about.

“The more strength in depth we have at the club the better. A strong Force can help with that and I'm keen to do my bit.”

## Thomson's 'feeling good'

■ FROM PAGE 32  
contracted player would not have it any other way.

“This season has been long and pretty difficult at times, but I wouldn't change it,” she said.

“It has been mentally challenging with a lot of ups and downs in terms of performances and other things as well as flipping between the XV's and sevens sides.

“I have really grown as a person and have learned to cope with a lot of different situations and am feeling good going forward.”

Isla Norman-Bell, whose grandmother Moira Bell is the partner of Raymond

Corbett who used to play for Hawick RFC, is also in the Team GB squad.

The Olympics in France run from July 26 to August 11. The men's sevens start before the opening ceremony with the women's sevens in the Stade de France between July 28 and 30.

■ Lisa and Isla are currently in Hamburg representing GB Sevens in a Rugby Europe Championship event which begins today (Friday). They are two of the three squad co-captains in Germany.

■ Teri Lana Skeldon missed out through injury as Bristol Bears lost the PWR English top flight XV's final to Gloucester-Hartpury 36-24 in Exeter on Saturday.

## Patterson's trophy hopes

Hector Patterson says he and his Scotland rugby team-mates are aiming to win the upcoming under-20 World Rugby Trophy event in Edinburgh.

The Scots, with Patterson part of things, went to Kenya last year looking set to be the team who would get promoted from the second-tier into the Championship.

But it didn't work out as they lost a pool game to Uruguay and then Spain went on to win overall.

With all this summer's matches in the eight-team tournament being played at Hive Stadium in Edinburgh between July 2 and 17



Hector Patterson SNS

expectations are high.

And Edinburgh Rugby scrum-half Patterson, the 19-year-old from Denholm who helped Hawick RFC win the Premiership title in 2022/23, is ready for the challenges ahead.

“I'm looking forward to

playing in the Trophy,” he said.

“It is going to be a good couple of weeks, there will be some tough games but we are hoping to come out on top and win the tournament, that is the aim.”

Scotland will meet Samoa in their first Pool A match on Tuesday with Hong Kong China and Japan also in the section. Kenya, Netherlands, Uruguay and USA are in Pool B.

All of Scotland's matches will be available to watch live on BBC ALBA with the Samoa game kicking off at 5.15pm.



# Terries make it a double of Buccleuch Park wins

## Cricket

By GARY ALEXANDER  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

**Hawick & Wilton 196 all out Marchmont 2nds 169 for 7 Hawick won by 27 runs**

Hawick & Wilton won their first East 3 match of the season on Saturday, beating Marchmont 2nds at Buccleuch Park.

The result made it back-to-back home victories for the Terries after their romp over St Boswells on Friday night.

Delighted captain Ryan Johnston told *The Hawick Paper*: "We set a good total with the bat and followed that up with an excellent bowling and fielding performance, especially towards the latter stages which got us over the line."

After the early loss of Gareth Welsh, Justin Tait struck a six to bring up his century of runs for the weekend before falling for 15.

When Phil Mactaggart was out lbw Hawick were 47 for 3 but a crucial 95 run partnership followed between Johnston and Evan Alexander.

The skipper hit six fours and four sixes in his 72 runs with Alexander striking six boundaries and two maximums in his 65 as both batsmen exploited



Batsman Phil Mactaggart tries to add to Hawick's total

PICTURE: DERICK THOMSON

the short pavilion side boundary.

The tail helped push the score up to 196, Hawick's highest total of the season so far, which would have been more but for four late wickets to paceman Jonty Small.

A slower ball from Johnston deceived Ramachandra and Zac Stewart bowled Bushell to put Hawick on top early in Marchmont's innings.

Jeffreys and Thomson sparked a recovery until a smart stumping by Tait off

Stuart Hair dismissed the former for 24.

A run out by Mactaggart and then a stunning one-handed catch off his own bowling by Hair left the visitors 93 for 6 and Hawick were again in the ascendancy.

Thomson and Small put on 72 runs and Marchmont were back in the hunt, however, tremendous bowling and fielding by the Terries meant the required run rate continually crept up.

Stewart bowled two

excellent overs at the death defending the short boundary and dismissed Small for 37 to all but clinch the game.

Thomson fell to his namesake, Craig, off the final delivery for a fantastic 74 as Marchmont finished 27 runs adrift on 169 for 7.

Describing his feelings, skipper Johnston said: "It was amazing to get that first [league] win on the board, especially after being in great positions in multiple games and results not going our way."

■ Tomorrow, Hawick & Wilton travel to Selkirk, and then host Kelso on Wednesday night.

■ Hawick & Wilton eased to their second Borders T20 victory of the season, defeating St Boswells at Buccleuch Park last Friday evening.

A fantastic 94, not out from Justin Tait and 77 from his brother Morgan, were instrumental in the 111 runs winning margin.

Hawick were 22 for 2 before the Tait brothers put together a partnership of 147 in 14.1 overs.

Morgan hit seven fours and two sixes with Justin's runs coming off 59 deliveries with 11 fours and three sixes as Hawick ended on 193 for 3.

St Boswells were never in the hunt as only Scott Marshall and Peter Valentine made double figures as they were bowled out for 82.

Hawick wicket-takers were Calum Murray (4), Zac Stewart and Evan Alexander (2) and one each for Robbie Pringle and Cullen Sutherland.

Talking of his innings, Justin Tait said: "It felt great to get such a high score. I was slightly annoyed I fell short of my first century but it was great fun."

He added: "It was great to score the majority of runs with Morgan as we both passed 50 together."

## Gelding makes it three out of three

### Horse racing



By HILARY MACTAGGART  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Townhill made it three wins from his last four starts with a victory at Newton Abbot on Tuesday to the delight of his local breeder Bruce Mactaggart.

The gelding made all to land the three-mile handicap hurdle race.

"We sold him privately as a foal, and I've really enjoyed watching his progress," said Bruce, who still has Townhill's three-year-old brother and a related filly foal by Vadamos at his Greendale home.

"It's great to see so many we have bred winning."

At Beverley the same afternoon, in-form Jason Hart won the middle-distance handicap on 7-1 chance Cockalorum, while Rowan Scott won over the same distance on favourite Little Venice.

On Sunday, Hart posted another 7-1 win when The Turpinator scored in the concluding six-furlong sprint at Pontefract.

Hart produced an impressive finish on Sunshine State to record a winning debut for Amo Racing and trainer Charlie Johnston in the opening six-furlong maiden on the all-weather at Chelmsford last Thursday.

The winner, purchased for 140,000gns as a yearling, powered home to beat 2-1 favourite Cyclonite by half a length.

In the last at Lingfield the same evening, 18-year-old Archie Young rode favourite Spring is Sprung to victory in the concluding five-furlong sprint.

Teenager Rhys Elliot rode favourite Hot Team to win the concluding mile at Hamilton last Wednesday.

Over the jumps, Bruce Lynn rode Malangen to a 10-1 win in the opening conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle race at Hexham on Sunday, while Craig Nichol landed the two-and-a-half-mile handicap chase on Backbyjet

# Competition hotting up for Kelso Games

## Athletics

The Border Games circuit winds its way to Poynder Park in Kelso on Sunday, **John Slorance writes.**

On an open athletics meeting card, the sprint handicap is usually the main event of the day but at Kelso the 200 metres handicap tops the bill.

Made up of four heats with winners and one fastest loser qualifying for the final, this event has all the makings of a cracker.

The 200m races in recent weeks have brought about fiercely competitive

running. Going from a back mark spot is home hope Douglas Young of Kelso who is on 4 metres.

Victor of the Langholm Games 200m at the tail end of last season and the recent winner over the same distance at Hawick Games and emerging a close second in the 200 metres handicap at Selkirk Games the week afterwards, Hawick Riverside Peds Jack Wilson has been placed on a mark of 2.4m by handicapper Bob Inglis.

Daniel Paxton who has been showing up well is off 25m.

Kyle Potts (13m), Chloe Inglis (31m), Samuel Fenech (15m), Ryan McMichan (8m), David Lauder (30m), David Hush (46m), Connor McLeod (11m) and Sean McMichan (17m) also go for Hawick.

Back marker in the 100m handicap is Craig Tindle of TLJT (0.5m).

Hawick athletes getting down on the marks in the sprint are Sean McMichan (8m), Jack Wilson (13.5m), Samuel Fenech (7m), David Lauder (14.5m), Chloe Inglis (15m), David Hush (25.5m), Ryan McMichan (4m), Daniel Paxton (13.5m), Connor McLeod (5.5m) and

Kyle Potts (7.5m).

Having recently returned home from the United States, Thomas MacAskill hits the track for Hawick in the 800m and 1,600 metres handicap.

MacAskill competes from 45m in the mile, which also includes fellow Hawick runners Robbie Welsh (50m), Greg Walker (70m), Mark Young (70m), Calum Renwick (95m), Irvine Welsh (100m) and Jessica Smith (300m).

The youths' events have conjured up a splendid entry for all events which is very encouraging to see.

Thirty-two are poised to

run in the 1,600m.

This is a big field and includes Hawick's Craig Watson (120m), Greg Watson (140m), James Wood (170m), Alfie Walker (210m), Connor Davidson (230m), McLaren Welsh (260m), Dane Smith (270m), Callan Michie (290m), Freya Walker (300m), Freya Michie (400m) and Amber Smith (430m).

Oliver McCraw (4m), Abigail McCraw (25m), Ivan Watson (21m), Max Vevers (16m), Chloe McLeod (22m), Oliver Fenech (14m) and Carra McLeod (13m) run in the youths' 100m handicap.

The games start at 2pm.





Coronation Cup and Shield winner Jake Huggan, his brother Jared, and Mosstroopers president Steven Drummond and vice-president Keith Douglas-Hogg



Jamie Gormley, Old News owners Brian McDonnell and Glyn Martin, and Steven



Steven with Phil Nichol who presented the Lydia Nichol Rosebowl to the Magical Fools syndicate's Tommy Easdon, Gordon McLean, Gary Milligan, Ian McKean, David Waugh, jockey Sean Huggan, Norman Leadbetter and David McLeod

# Magic result at Mosstroopers for local fancy

By HILARY MACTAGGART  
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Magic Dancer had a second success this season at the Moor on Saturday night for the local Magical Fools syndicate under a well-judged ride by Teri jockey Sean Huggan.

Huggan came home to rapturous applause after winning the seven-furlong contest at a well-supported Mosstroopers fixture where a total of 26 runners went to post across a four-race card.

"It was a good win and that's two out of two for him this season," Huggan said.

"The race worked out really well. I just sat nicely in behind the horse in front and tracked him all the way down the back to the mile pole and then decided to pull out and challenge them going into the bend.

"When I asked him to quicken up heading into the straight, he did it really well and finished strongly."

The Magical Fools syndicate has been together now for two decades, and comprises locals David Waugh, Ian McKean, Tommy Easdon, Norman Leadbetter, Russel Fair and Mark Batten, along with Gordon and Brian from Irvine.

Magic Dancer is likely to bid for the hat-trick at Langholm on Sunday.

"We have had him for a year now," explained David Waugh, who shares the riding out at home with Ian McKean and Tommy Easdon.

"He was recommended to us by his previous owner and trained by Mike Smith.

"He has now won four times from ten runs and this was his second win this season, both at Hawick."

David said the syndicate was "delighted" to see him back in top form "after a couple of below par runs" and praised jockey Huggan.

"He has now won on him three times," he said.

"He jumped off and sat in third place, taking it up two furlongs out and stayed on well to score by two lengths.

"We plan to run him on Sunday at Langholm but there is no seven-furlong race so he'll maybe have a step up in trip."

Magic Dancer won the race ahead of Right Said Fred, with Wee Woodie third.

Sean Huggan shared last season's champion jockey title with Langholm's Jamie Gormley, who also rode a winner at the fixture.

Gormley produced a strong finish aboard Old News in the eight-strong mile race, getting up by a neck to defeat well-supported Irish newcomer Homepark.

He was to the fore from the off, before Think Again took up the running going well clear until the fast pace took its toll.

It looked as though the favourite had the race in the bag, but Gormley brought Old News through to clinch victory by a neck from Homepark, with Starjik finishing well in third.

A first prize of £800 was up for grabs in the opening six-furlong sprint, where five went to post, and it also produced a thrilling finish.

Young Dylan O'Connor had Hardtogetherim to the fore from the off and also went on to score victory by a similar neck margin.

Lewis Hislop made eye-catching ground on Tradesmen's winner Days Like These going down the back straight, just failing to catch the winner, while Jim finished in third.

Seven took their chance in the mile-and-a-half race with favourite Nobody's Kimmy setting a cracking pace.

Panic Attack was in hot pursuit, with Micmacmania, and True Grit to the fore, with local runner Tap on the Bar well behind in the early stages.

Panic Attack stayed on strongly to take the spoils from the fast-finishing Tap on the Bar, with Nobody's Kimmy in third.

PICTURES: DERICK THOMSON



# Sport



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## Porter primed to do town and country proud

Teviotdale Indoor Bowling Club president Danny Porter can't wait to play his part in the Para Home Nations, **Gary Heatly writes.**

He is part of the Scotland team up against England and Wales at the National Centre for Bowling in Ayr from today (Friday) until Sunday.

Porter, *right*, recently returned from South Africa after representing Scotland at the International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) World Championships and, ahead of his next big assignment, he said: "I'm really looking forward to the Home Nations series this weekend. "This will be my fifth



time representing Scotland in the event, but the first time on home soil so that makes it special.

"Personally, I have a good record in this meet with 12 wins and a draw from 16 matches.

"Unfortunately, Scotland haven't won it for a number of years, but with a larger pool of players fighting to make the cut this time around we have put together a strong squad so we are feeling good."

Bowls

Scotland's para pathway lead Derek Lang added: "I would urge anyone who likes to see highly competitive bowls played to come along and support the Scottish team."

PICTURE: DERICK THOMSON



## Double delight for Nichol

Young Harris Nichol landed the Victor Trophy (Cornet's Race) title at Saturday's Mosstroopers meeting at the Moor. He also took the pony race prize. The young riders finished in the same order for both races – 1, Harris Nichol (Run Rubi Run); 2, Harry Brown (Ginger); 3, Robbie Nichol (Look At Me Mum)

■ FULL MEETING REPORT ON PAGE 31

## Huggan can't wait to get on with the job

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

Tom Huggan says it is a "great pleasure" to be asked to captain Hawick Linden for a second successive season during 2024/25.

The second-row/back-row, now 20, was a talisman on the field for the Volunteer Park club during their 2023/24 campaign in East League Division Two.

Now they are in East League Division Three going forward and their first league match of the new season will be at home to Edinburgh Northern on September 7.

"It's a great pleasure to be asked to captain the Linden again and I'm really excited to see what this season has to offer," Huggan said.

"We have had a lot of interest from new players coming up from under-18 level and older players who are just wanting to give rugby a go again so that's encouraging."

Aiden Fairbairn, an experienced player who was an ever-present last term, will be Huggan's vice-captain and the latter added: "It'll be great to have Aiden by my side this coming season as he is a great player to play with and I know he will give it his all during the year from start to finish."

■ Linden's pre-season training begins at 6.30pm on Tuesday at the Volunteer 3G with players old and new welcome to attend.



Skipper Tom Huggan

# Emotional time for Olympian Thomson

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

Teri rugby star Lisa Thomson has admitted her mum Susan cried at the news she had been selected for a second Olympics.

Lisa, 26, was the sole Scot named last week in the Team GB women's sevens squad that will be heading to Paris and she will be backing up her appearance at Tokyo 2020 – which took place in 2021.

"Mum cried when I told her about my selection," Lisa told *The Hawick Paper*.

"A few weeks ago, we all got text messages telling us

whether we'd been selected or not.

"I phoned home as soon as I got my text message confirming my selection to let the family know and they have managed to book to come out to Paris and watch, so that will be really special.

"They absolutely loved coming out to New Zealand for the Rugby World Cup [when Thomson was playing XV's for Scotland in late 2022] so it'll be great to have them cheering me on again and they have been a huge part of my rugby journey to this point.

"They drove me across the country when I was younger and have always



Lisa Thomson

been there for me so to have them by my side in these special moments is really pretty cool.

"With this Games not

being in pandemic times like Tokyo and with it being closer to home, hopefully friends can get over to watch, too.

"As a result, I'm buzzing to get to Paris to take it all in and play in a stadium with loads of fans in it as the stadium in Tokyo was empty which was a bit strange."

With this selection, the busy 2023/24 season just goes on and on for Lisa.

It started with her helping Scotland's XV-a-side team win the WXV 2 title in South Africa in October and will end at this showpiece event, but the Scottish Rugby/GB Sevens dual

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

## Touch tourney final for youths

Volunteer Park will showcase the future of rugby talent in the town with the final of the AS Crawford touch rugby tournament tomorrow (Saturday).

On Saturday, Hawick Youth Rugby's under-15, 16 and 18 groups joined forces to battle it out in mixed-age teams to earn a coveted place in the final.

After a tough group stage, the silverware will go to either Dylan's Destroyers or Filip's Flyers

when they face off in the concluding match.

The afternoon kicks off at 1pm, with a wooden spoon match and a third/fourth-place play-off before the final.

■ MORE ON PAGE 27



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**Quiz answers:** 1, Ex-Cornet John Douglas. 2, A rowan tree. 3, *Teviotdale*. Words by Robert H. Halliday (1872-1953); music by F. Simpson (1888-1964). 4, Teviot Square. 5, Charles John Wilson of Deanfield House (now the site of a residential care home).