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Marshall hits out over council merger plans

By SARAH WILLIAMSON
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Elected member Stuart Marshall has spoken out in fierce opposition to a proposal by the Scottish Government to slash the number of local councils and centralise decisions, issuing a rallying cry to “resist this with every sinew”.

In a passionate speech delivered to colleagues at Scottish Borders Council headquarters, the Hawick and Denholm representative voiced vehement opposition to plans for a major local government shake-up, which could replace the current 32 local councils with as few as only six – calling the First Minister’s plans “incredibly daft and downright dangerous”.

Addressing the council chambers, Mr Marshall angrily stated: “It is clear from the actions of the Scottish Government that

they show a very keen willingness to strip away local democracy from the heart of the Scottish Borders.

“I plead this morning to all of you, whatever your political beliefs are, that we cannot sit back and allow this to happen, we must resist this with every sinew.”

Last week, the SNP government published the proposal to introduce two levels of local decision-making – with only around six to 10 bigger regional authorities dealing with major issues such as education and economic growth.

There would then be around 120-160 smaller community authorities that would have more say over local issues and services.

The reforms, which the government says is about getting the balance right between national, regional and local authorities, have been shared with Holyrood’s committees and council

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

BURNFOOT GETS A £300,000 BOUNCE

PICTURE: JOE SOMERVILLE



Youngsters including Norah and Lyra Somerville enjoyed a fun-packed few hours at Burnfoot Community Hub, with a bouncy castle among the attractions as celebrations got under way to mark a £300,000 CashBack for Communities award aimed at tackling antisocial behaviour on the estate

FULL STORY ON PAGE 8

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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(D13/3 HASSENDEANBURN FARM, HAWICK) (TEMPORARY CLOSING) ORDER 2026

The Scottish Borders Council (D13/3 Hassendeanburn Farm, Hawick) (Temporary Closing) Order 2026 has been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which has a maximum duration of 18 months, will come into force on 7 October 2026 and is expected to remain in effect for a period of one day between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00. The Order is required for BT works. When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along the D13/3 at Hassendeanburn Farm, Hawick. The alternative route for north eastbound traffic is via the D13/3, D12/3, B6359 and D13/3 to the point of closure, for south westbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing. A map showing the restriction and alternative routes can be seen at www.tellmesotland.gov.uk.

N MCKINLAY, Director of Corporate Governance

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THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS 50MPH SPEED LIMIT) (EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2026

The Scottish Borders Council made the above Order on 25 September 2026 in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to said Act and having complied with the statutory requirements of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, as amended. The Order will be experimental and will remain in operation for a period of no less than eighteen months.

The effect of the Order, which comes into operation on 8 October 2026, will be to introduce 50 miles per hour speed limits in lengths of various road in the interests of public and road safety and traffic management.

A copy of the Experimental Order as made, together with a map showing said lengths of road and a Statement of the Council's Reasons for making the Experimental Order may be examined at Traffic and Road Safety, Network, Environment and Infrastructure, The Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, from Mondays to Thursdays between 9:00am and 5:00pm and on Fridays between 9:00am and 4:00pm and also at the Council's Contact Centres at Paton Street, Galashiels, TD1 3AS and High Street, Hawick from Mondays to Fridays between 10am and 12 Noon and 2pm to 4pm. The Scottish Borders Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of the Experimental Order should be made permanent. Any person wishing to object to the making of a permanent Order should send details of the grounds of objection in writing to the Director of Corporate Governance, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA by 7 April 2027.

Nuala McKinlay, Director of Corporate Governance, Council Headquarters NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS

Scottish Borders – the place to live and work

Hawick projects recognised with Gateway gold awards

Three projects within the town were growing for gold at the Greener Gateway Community Awards on Monday night at Tweedbank.

The high school's Roots to Routes; Burnfoot Community School for their litter bin design project; and Burnfoot Community Futures for cultivating communities, all struck gold at the annual Scottish Borders Council celebration of the amazing work carried out within communities across the region.

Three categories were on offer: Borders biodiversity, cultivating communities and sustainability.

Jenni Curson, joint head teacher from Burnfoot Community School, said: "We are delighted at Burnfoot that our eco group has been recognised at the Greener Gateway Community Awards. The young people worked so hard on this project, and we are grateful to all of the partners who sponsored the bins to make the children's dream a reality. Thank you also to Hornshole Greenway for leading the eco group to their amazing success."

Carly Jeffrey, manager at the Burnfoot Hub where the cultivating communities group



Burnfoot Community School teacher Gary Murray, and Judith Murray from Hornshole Greenway, represented the school at the awards ceremony on Monday night. They are pictured with representatives from other successful primary schools

is based, said: "This was the third consecutive year we have achieved a gold award, and they are proudly displayed here in our building."

She added: "We apply for the awards through SBC and are also thrilled that pupils from the high school, who developed their skills here, have also been recognised."

Turning to the hub project, she continued: "Our garden leader Joyce Short attended the event with three of our

volunteers. Seeing their work being recognised is a huge endorsement, builds up their confidence and also plays a significant role in improving physical and mental health. It was lovely that our members were able to attend the night."

Stacey Grieve from the high school said: "We're incredibly proud to receive gold at the Greener Gateway Awards. The Roots to Route project has given our young people the opportunity

to develop real skills while making a positive contribution to their local community. Working alongside Burnfoot Community Futures has shown just how valuable strong school and community partnerships can be in creating meaningful learning experiences for our young people."

Town councillor Clair Ramage said: "Huge congratulations and a shout out to all the people who worked on these projects."

Ten-year ban for abusive partner

A 30-year-old man has been banned from contacting his partner for a decade.

Harry Bailey was given the ten-year non-harassment order preventing him from making any contact with the woman. He was also ordered to attend the Caledonian Men's Programme as part of a community payback order imposed as an alternative to custody.

Bailey pleaded guilty to engaging in a course of conduct which was abusive to the woman at his home in Hawthorne Road, Galashiels, and at an address in Hillend Drive, Hawick, between March 1 and April 6.

He shouted and swore at her, repeatedly contacted her by text message, telephone calls and social media; and uttered threats and derogatory remarks towards her. Bailey also accused her of fraudulent activity and being responsible for the death of a relative.

Strong support fuels church's first year

By SARAH WILLIAMSON
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The charity group that bought Bedrule Church says the historic country kirk is busy and thriving.

Bedrule Church Future (BCF) has owned the former place of worship since last December, following a major fund-raising campaign that secured its purchase through a disposal programme.

BCF chairman Alan Bailey said the group expected a quiet first year, but community support across Rulewater and beyond has remained strong, showing Bedrule Kirk "still holds a place in many people's hearts".

Since taking possession, BCF has hosted 15 community events with strong historical themes and engaged with local government and voluntary sector organisations to

help ensure the charity is sustainable.

The 2025 fund-raising campaign, around 30 per cent of which came from the Turnbull Clan, mainly based in America, raised enough to buy the church and cover associated costs, while also funding two years of basic operations.

Church visitors have included walkers on the Borders Abbeys Way, people tracing family roots, and those interested in its stained-glass windows, with overseas visitors also arriving.

Talks by local historians and members have covered Borders historical figures, lost churches, and Archaeology Scotland excavations at Bedrule Castle.

Adding, Mr Bailey said: "We have been kept very busy – and there is good potential for building on this to ensure the kirk's future."

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(VARIOUS ROADS – STIRCHES AREA, HAWICK) (TEMPORARY CLOSING) ORDER 2026

The Scottish Borders Council (Various Roads – Stitches Area, Hawick) (Temporary Closing) Order 2026 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 7 October 2026 and is expected to remain in effect until 17:00 on 23 October 2026, as detailed below. The Order is required for SPEN works. When the Order comes into effect no person shall drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle along the following roads in the Stitches area of Hawick:

- Closure 1: D10/3 at Stitches Mains, Hawick from 08:00 on 7 October 2026 to 17:00 on 9 October 2026. The alternative route for eastbound traffic is via the D10/3, Stitches Road, Guthrie Drive, A7, D9/3 and D10/3 to the point of closure, for westbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing;
- Closure 2: D11/3 Northcroft, Stitches, Hawick from 08:00 on 16 October 2026 to 17:00 on 18 October 2026. The alternative route for eastbound traffic is via the D11/3, D9/3, D10/3 and D11/3 to the point of closure, for westbound traffic the reverse of the foregoing; and
- Closure 3: D9/3 at Boonraw, Hawick from 08:00 on 21 October 2026 to 17:00 on 23 October 2026. The alternative route for eastbound traffic is via the D9/3, D10/3, Guthrie Drive, A7 and D9/3 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.tellmesotland.gov.uk.

N MCKINLAY, Director of Corporate Governance

Scottish Borders – the place to live and work



Community council chairman Cameron Knox and the two cardboard cut-outs

Comeback for pop-up police

Pop-up policemen are returning to duty.

The community council has taken delivery of two full-size cardboard cut-outs of a police officer holding a traffic speed camera, which have been created by Colin Wilson from Wilson Signs.

The new recruits will replace the previous incarnation, known as Pop-

up Bob, which was reported stolen in October 2025.

They were funded by the community council at a cost of £200 each.

Community council chairman Cameron Knox said: "This is our contribution towards the original pop-up Bob, both are relatively expensive, but a small contribution to try

and reduce speeding at the entrances to our town and you simply can't put a price on saving a child's life."

He added: "We plan to deploy these periodically at the A7 entrances to the town and it is amazing what a cut-out of a policeman can do to get the message across of what speed a driver should actually be doing."

Government proposals will 'isolate communities further'

FROM PAGE 1

umbrella body Cosla, ahead of a public consultation.

But blasting the plans, Councillor Marshall went on: "When someone has ambitions to remove the identity of us Borderers, to meddle with our rich, deep and historical roots, when they talk of removing the seat of our local government, then colleagues they meddle at their peril."

He added: "Mr Swinney's proposals won't save money, all they will do is isolate our communities further; they will drive people away from our communities and they will undermine confidence in our businesses."

This sentiment is also shared by Councillor Watson McAteer, who told us: "Last week's bombshell announcement is doomed to fail and critically exposes a leadership gap at the heart of Scottish Government. Launching an 'idea' without properly engaging, and at least forming some consensus on the way ahead, has resulted in a defiant



Stuart Marshall

approach by those most directly involved."

He added: "We are all committed to change and improvement, but I am elected to represent Hawick and Hermitage ward and my commitment is to them and our communities, so any decisions being made must make significant improvements, and not simply be another divisive waste of time and money."

Deputy First Minister Jenny Gilruth described the proposals as a "starting point" for reform. "We need to ensure investment is focused on frontline delivery, with the right staff in the right roles to empower communities and deliver real improvements

in public services", she said. Councillors would be elected to the existing wards across Scotland and serve on both the local and regional authorities, rather than having another separate set of elections and politicians.

Scotland's current council set-up, with 32 local authorities, was introduced by the UK Government in 1996.

Councillor Marshall asserted: "My message is very clear; one glove does not fit all. Hands off this local authority, and let it continue to function in the successful way it has done for over three decades."

Adding, he said: "We must stand up and fight hard to retain our local democratically elected rights, because the identity of our fellow Borderers and their communities is unfortunately now at great risk, and the public has every right to be concerned."

SBC chief executive David Robertson said they "need to take time" to review the proposals.

New Stirches group to support parents

By GRAHAM FORD
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

A new formalised approach to supporting parents in the Stirches area is set to begin this Wednesday.

Stirches Connections will provide an opportunity for parents to come together, learn more about agency support available, and enjoy face-to-face advice from professionals.

The group is an evolution of pilot sessions which ran between November last year through to June and has been developed by Coreen Knight, community learning and development worker for the Teviot and Liddesdale area.

Speaking to *The Hawick Paper* this week, she commented: "Through discussions at the informal group and after occasional visits from Councillor Stuart Marshall and



Stirches Connections will meet in the school on Wednesday afternoon

Community PC Fraser Mortimer, the parents who initially attended reported benefit from a chat within a friendly and welcoming setting, with a cuppa and a biscuit included."

Ward member Stuart Marshall said: "One has to applaud Coreen Knight for pulling all of this together and I am delighted to be part of the Stirches Connections group."

"For some months now I have been attending the school to meet with parents and residents regarding

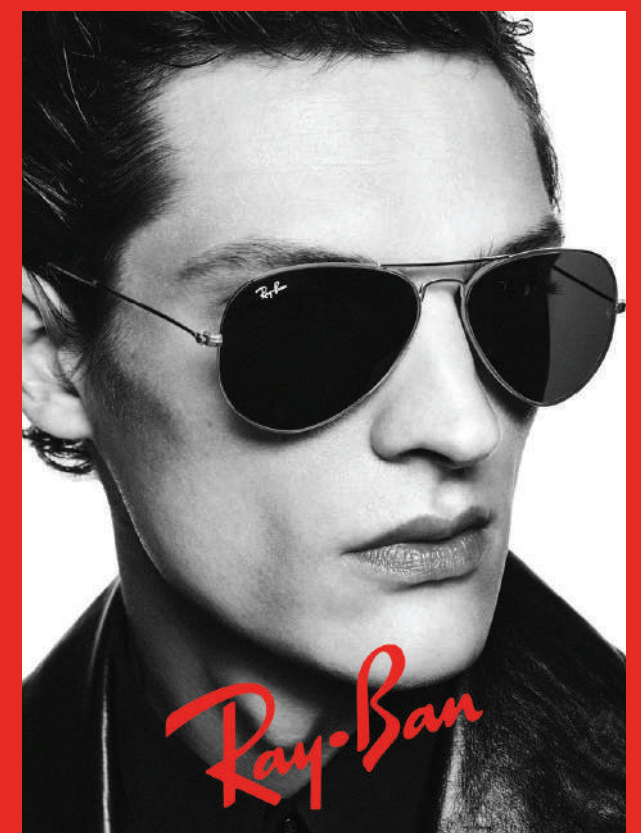
various council-related issues but formalising this group is just a fantastic way of reaching out even further to the Stirches community."

Praising the progress, he added: "Stirches primary is without doubt a fantastic community school that cares deeply about life within the scheme itself, so, in my opinion, the venue is perfect for inviting parents and members of the public alike to pop in and have a chat with the many partners that will be there."

"I look forward very much to attending these drop-in sessions and, more importantly, supporting parents and residents in any way that I can."

A spokesperson for the school said: "You don't need to book, and you don't need to have a particular question or concern – just come along, have a chat and see what's available."

The Stirches Connections group meets this Wednesday, October 7, between 2.30pm and 4pm in the school hall.



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Arches group eyes new site

By SARAH WILLIAMSON
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The chairman of the Arches Arts and Creative Hub group has revealed that they are in talks to take over a new building in Hawick, after plans to buy the old Wilton school were ditched.

As previously reported, the group, whose ambition is to create a music venue and rehearsal space, made the tough decision in the summer to abandon taking over the former school in Princes Street – known locally as The Arches – due to spiralling costs.

But two months later, chairman Davie Chapman says the project is “very much still alive”.

“We have been looking carefully at alternative



Davie Chapman

premises in Hawick and are currently exploring an opportunity at another building in town, where we are discussing the possibility of developing a smaller, more manageable creative space”, he told *The Hawick Paper*.

Mr Chapman says the project has continued to move forward despite the initial setback, but that it has also changed direction.

“The new approach

is about starting with something achievable and sustainable, rather than taking on a large building and creating financial pressures that could put the whole project at risk”, he stated.

Mr Chapman, a well-known local musician, went on: “The project may look different from the original plans for the old Wilton school, but the underlying idea remains the same.

“We want to create more opportunities for people in Hawick to get involved in music, arts and creativity, and we are continuing to work towards making that happen.”

He added: “There is still a lot to do, and nothing is being taken for granted. But The Arches is very much still alive.”

WEDDINGALBUM



Hawick couple Carly Douglas and Euan Gray were married at Mansfield House Hotel
PICTURE: KEITH BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

Arrest warrant

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of 23-year-old Lewis Burrows, of Dickson Street, after he failed to appear at Selkirk Sheriff Court to answer charges of damaging a car with a baseball bat and possession of an offensive weapon in McLagan Drive on May 30 last year.

Approved

Mr Tom Lothian has been granted a building warrant for amendments to the property at Hillhead View, Denholm, including changes to insulation, windows, drainage and the internal layout, along with the installation of an air source heat pump and underfloor heating.

Weather

Week ending September 26: Maximum temperature 19.9°; minimum 3.7°; rainfall 9.91mm.



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“The laughs I have with the customers are what make my day.” - Kirsten



Cameron goes all out for Escape

By GRAHAM FORD
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

“This was on a different level.” The words of Cameron Gibson, who despite being no stranger to physical challenges over the years, felt every one of his 59 years as he completed a nine-hour charity fitness challenge last Sunday.

Cameron, who has previously walked the West Highland Way, finished the Great North Run, and scaled the 24-hour Three Peaks Challenge, undertook a ten minute session on 50 gym machines at the Think Fitness gym.

Speaking to *The Hawick Paper*, Cameron admitted that the support of his friends and family helped get him over the physical line.

He took on the marathon effort to help raise money for the Escape Youth Services, where his wife Tracey is chairwoman.

He said: “I wanted to do my bit, the premises can only survive through fund-

raising and grant awards, and I needed to do something different to encourage people to donate.”

As we went to print last night (Thursday), online donations were sitting at £1,245.

Sian Snowden, manager at the Havelock Street youth facility, said: “A huge congratulations and heartfelt thank you to Cameron ‘Tam’ Gibson for completing his fund-raising challenge in support of Escape.

“What an amazing achievement!”

“For over nine hours Cameron showed incredible physical strength, determination and motivation, giving absolutely everything right through to the very end.

“We couldn’t be more proud of what he has accomplished.”

Think Fitness 4 Less gym owner Stuart Oliver said: “I’ve known Tam a long time having played football for the same team many moons ago, so I was in no doubt he would



Escape Youth Services fund-raiser Cameron Gibson during his challenge at the Think Fitness 4 Less gym

be determined enough, fit enough and daft enough to undertake such a challenge!”

He added: “It was some challenge, but Tam, as expected, took it in his stride, and it was great to see how well supported he was by family and friends.

“Most importantly, it was brilliant to hear that he raised such a sum for an organisation that do so much for kids in the town, that don’t always get the recognition they thoroughly deserve.”

Donations can still be made at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/50-in-500.

FBU calls on Teries to attend meeting

By SARAH WILLIAMSON
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) is urging townsfolk to attend a public meeting in the town hall to continue fighting against the downgrade of the Hawick station.

The FBU is hosting the meeting in response to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board-approved cuts to Hawick’s whole-time cover, with officials calling for a strong turnout.

The union’s Lewis Clark commented this week: “The FBU and the communities of Hawick and the Borders are not willing to let these cuts proceed. We are redoubling our efforts to stop them.

“We will not tolerate our members, and the communities they serve, being put at risk. That is



Lewis Clark

why we are calling for as many residents as possible to attend a public meeting in the town hall, to show a united front in the campaign to prevent the downgrade of Hawick’s 24/7 fire cover.”

Councillor Clair Ramage also stated: “As a community, let’s get together to support this vital service.

“Please come along and support our firefighters.”

The meeting is being held on Monday, October 26, at 6.30pm.

Insurance help for flood victims

By SARAH WILLIAMSON
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Teri flood victims who cannot reinsure their home despite completion of the town’s defences, are being assured that local and national government help is available.

That was the message from Councillor Stuart Marshall this week to residents – mainly in the Mansfield Road and Duke Street areas – who although their properties are now protected by Hawick’s £106 million flood scheme, find it difficult to buy insurance.

Highlighting a joint initiative between the UK



Government and insurers called Flood Re, which allows companies to offer affordable cover, Mr Marshall, also the chairman of Hawick Flood Group, said: “Although we have a massive flood protection scheme in our town, householders living near to the river or in the wrong postcode area, are still finding it difficult to insure

their homes and properties.

“Flood Re can help those in high-risk areas, and I would urge anyone having difficulties to get in touch with them.”

Mr Marshall added: “For some time I have been pressing very hard for SBC to produce a letter of comfort which can be made available to householders and insurance companies, stating that Hawick is now fully protected from a 1-in-75-year flooding event.

“I’m told that this will now be available in a week or two, and the volunteer flood group will also be promoting it.”

More information on the Flood Re scheme is available at www.floodre.co.uk

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Benches makeover project gets going

Work is under way to give the benches and picnic benches around Wilton Lodge Park a much-needed spruce up, **Graham Ford writes.**

Community Councillor Stuart Beck, who has been championing the work, is delighted that his endeavours are now bearing fruit.

The work is being carried out by members of the Criminal Justice Team and has been funded to the tune of £1,000 by the community council.

The work is the first phase of a project which is hoped will see benches

and picnic tables currently stored at the Walled Garden brought back to life and placed at new locations.

Speaking to *The Hawick Paper*, Mr Beck said: "I was delighted to receive the email advising me that work has begun."

"The initial phase has seen several benches along the waterside between the Volunteer Park and the Laurie Bridge taken away and recycled."

"The nearby picnic table is to also benefit from a wash down and paint before being brought back into circulation."

Renewed effort to revive pump track

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

A meeting was scheduled to be held at The Border Club last night (Thursday) to breathe new life into the community pump track.

Organised by Ryan Knight, the summit was aimed at reviving the number of committee members, increasing events at the Wilton Lodge Park facility and to attract more high-profile racing.

Ryan said: "I am currently trying to get things moving forward. I'm hoping to start new events and really give the facility a new push. I believe with the right level of support we



Hawick Community Pump Track

could hold family fun days, coaching, and pump track series races. Volunteers are obviously going to be needed and after a plea on social media I decided to go ahead with looking to host a meeting to try to get things progressing."

Ryan, whose son Draegan recently travelled to Sweden to participate in a pump track event there,

added: "I aim to ensure the floodlights are available for all to use; I believe if you hold high-profile events this can attract the funding to pay for them."

The £400,000 facility was opened on September 2, 2020, after a decade-long drive to transform the former tennis courts into a venue that attracted the world championship

qualifying races just two years ago.

A meeting was held in April 2025 to recruit new committee members, and at the time just five people stood for the role.

Current chairman Keith Irving, who alongside Michael Graham, treasurer, are the two remaining committee members, welcomed the enthusiasm, he said: "The meeting is essential to see where we go next, we certainly need people to step up to the mark. We as a group of people took the pump track initiative to a certain level but there has been a real need for new blood for quite some time."

GRUMPY AULD MAN, PAGE 10

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Pupils get hands-on with nature

Members of Hawick High School's eco committee have enjoyed a day of climate resilience and natural world activities at a special day held in Selkirk.

The group has taken part in an event run by two environmental Scottish charities, hosted by Selkirk High School, where alongside pupils from other towns, the students were guided and inspired by representatives from climate change organisation Vulture, and the Borders-based Bright Green Nature.

Hawick High School home economics teacher Evelyn Armstrong said: "We spent the morning working with Vulture's project support officer, Izi Robe, and local



The high school's eco committee, from left, Kiara Love, Rebecca Drysdale, Callan Michie, Kai Nightingale and Kenzie Love

programme manager, Andrew Williams, sharing our ideas and experiences to help shape their climate adaptation toolkit.

"We then put our knowledge into practice

by becoming tree doctors, identifying and assessing trees in the local park."

Another highlight of the day was exploring with Lisa McLeish from Bright Green Nature, when the pupils

enjoyed some hands-on sampling.

Vulture works across Scotland helping people thrive as the climate changes, whilst Bright Green Nature is a charity which aims to empower communities to protect nature in the places they love.

Full of praise for the event, Hawick High School biology and science teacher, Delli Woodhead, said: "We gained a lot from the day, lots of hands-on experience of sampling in the local area, building relationships with other eco committees, and learning about outdoor learning happening in Selkirk."

Miss Armstrong added: "It was a fantastic day of learning, collaboration and getting outdoors."

Be You group aims to promote inclusion

High school pupils are being encouraged to have their voices heard through a new initiative aimed at promoting inclusion, celebrating diversity and challenging misinformation.

The Be You group provides a "welcoming space" where pupils can meet others, share ideas and help make the school a

place where everyone feels accepted, respected and valued.

A school spokesperson said the group was formerly known as the Diversity and Equality Committee, but had been renamed to better reflect its purpose.

"Be You gives pupils the chance to be themselves, be heard and be

included," continued the spokesperson. "Everyone is welcome, whether they are passionate about equality, want to learn something new, have an idea to share, or simply want somewhere they can be completely themselves."

Each month, pupils choose a topic that matters to them before working together to create fun,

informative and creative resources to share with pupils and staff across the school.

Topics explored so far include ADHD awareness, Interfaith Month and transgender inclusion.

The Be You Group meets every Thursday lunchtime in Room M14, with pupils from every year group encouraged to attend.

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Final beckons for young writer

PICTURE: ILFIMAGING

A wander through Bucklands Woods near Burnfoot, just a short distance from where her dad works, provided the inspiration for Rebecca Drysdale to earn a place in a national writing competition, *Graham Ford writes*.

Rebecca, 13, decided to enter the Words of the Wild annual competition which encourages people to submit original written works about Scotland's wildlife.

The high school pupil, who is part of the school eco-committee, *as featured on today's page six*, plumped for a story about a hedgehog and is now heading to the final at the National Museum of Scotland on October 24.

Speaking to *The Hawick Paper*, she said: "I found out I had made the final when I was encouraged to open an email while at school. It was so exciting."

Explaining her spur, she added: "My dad [John] works at Howdens in Burnfoot Industrial Estate.



Rebecca Drysdale's hedgehog tale has seen her shortlisted for a national prize

I was looking for ideas for my story and imagined a hedgehog living in the woods.

"I really enjoy writing and around an hour later had completed my entry."

Continuing, she said: "I have to thank Miss

Woodhead at the school for encouraging me to enter, it has certainly encouraged me to continue with my writing, and I am really looking forward to travelling to Edinburgh."

The former Wilton school pupil's entry, along

with the other 18 finalists in different age categories, is available to read at www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/wordsofthewild/2026-competition.

A prize of £300 is available to the winner of each category.

Ex-teacher backs social media ban

By SARAH WILLIAMSON
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

A former Hawick High School teacher who is now a local councillor has pledged her full support to the proposed social media ban for young people.

Retired art teacher Clair Ramage, now an elected member of the local authority and Hawick's Honorary Provost, says she is completely behind the UK Government's announcement to stop children under the age of 16 accessing major platforms – such as TikTok and Instagram – from March next year.

"This ban is vital to keep our young children safe from the platforms and online features which create the most harm," she told *The Hawick Paper*.



Clair Ramage

She went on: "I am often contacted by concerned parents about children accessing inappropriate material on sites that they were told were safe, so I am hoping that with a ban coming next year, and the support of parents, this will keep people safe."

But stressing the importance of parental policing, Mrs Ramage added: "It is easy for a quiet life to allow children to sit on phones or screens, but we need to be the responsible adults and take responsibility."

New junction complete for Center Parcs

By SARAH WILLIAMSON
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Work on Scotland's first ever Center Parcs on the outskirts of Hawick is gathering pace, with the man at the helm confirming that the new A7 junction is now complete.

In recent weeks, local traffic has been controlled by barriers and traffic lights at the site's access just north of Hawick, whilst the entrance road and highway improvements connecting it to the surrounding network, have been carried out.

And this week the chief executive says the £450million development is at an exciting stage.

"Since my last update in July, work on Center Parcs Scottish Borders has continued to move forward,

with some significant milestones now reached on site", said Colin McKinlay.

"The entrance road is now being surfaced, car park works are under way and the new junction on the A7 has been completed", he stated.

"These are visible signs of the new village taking shape, and I would like to thank our neighbours and everyone travelling through the area for their patience while these important works have been carried out."

Mr McKinlay has also revealed that they will soon be appointing an infrastructure contractor to deliver much of the essential groundwork needed for the wider development.

He shared that further major contracts, including construction of the lodges and central buildings, will follow over the coming months.

It was also highlighted by Mr McKinlay that every principal contractor will be encouraged to engage local subcontractors, use local accommodation, and maximise opportunities for businesses in the area wherever possible.

The new village, at Huntlaw Farm, Hassendean, will boast around 700 woodland and waterside lodges.

Its features will include an Aqua Sana Forest Spa, a Subtropical Swimming Paradise, restaurants, shops, and newly created lochs and nature trails.

Once operational, the village will create more than 1,200 permanent and largely local jobs.

The chief executive added: "We want the benefits of this investment to be felt across the local economy throughout construction and into the village's operation."

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CashBack 'a landmark opportunity'

Representatives from across the Burnfoot community came together to celebrate the launch of the £300,000 CashBack for Communities programme last Friday.

The Burnfoot Hub was chosen to launch the multi-activity programme aimed at 10-25-year-olds, with the community building being the venue where the idea of a multi-agency approach to tackling a rise in antisocial activities across the scheme had been hatched in August 2024.

The three-year programme, funded through the Scottish Government, promotes opportunities to build meaningful friendships, channel energies positively and gain new skills through participation.

Spearheading the programme is Burnfoot Community Futures, and among the many activities being developed are boxing, G10 Sports, street work, youth



clubs, and rugby – all for free.

Elected members were among the community leaders celebrating the massive injection towards tackling antisocial activities, which have blighted the lives of residents for several years.

Councillor Clair Ramage said: "This is a real positive

Welcoming the £300,000 CashBack for Communities award last Friday are councillors, stakeholders and Burnfoot Community Futures staff

PICTURE: JOE SOMERVILLE

opportunity for young people in our community. The £300,000 investment is a real boost for our area allowing young people to engage in various activities. The grant funds a three-year programme from 2026 to 2029, and I hope that many children and young adults will take advantage of this opportunity."

Praising the work to get the project over the line, Mrs Ramage added: "A big shout out to Burnfoot Community Hub staff, especially Carly Jeffrey, as I know that a lot of hard work, blood sweat and tears went into this application. A huge congratulations to all involved. I look forward to popping into some of the sessions soon."

Colleague Stuart Marshall said: "How lovely it was to be invited along to this launch of what can only be described as a landmark opportunity for Burnfoot. This cash award will undoubtedly go a very long way in supporting youth provision and projects within this part of my ward."

Also quick to praise the skills and expertise from within the community to attract the six-figure investment, Mr Marshall added: "The application process for this cash has been extensive and I thank Carly and everyone else who has burnt

the midnight oil away with getting this project over the line."

The initial cause for concern around antisocial behaviour was brought to the fore at the Burnfoot Community Council meetings, which evolved into the multi-agency summit. Community council chairwoman Emma Clarke said: "This is a really significant moment for Burnfoot. What started as an idea discussed around the Burnfoot Community Council table has grown into a genuinely transformational project for our young people and the wider community."

Reflecting on the 2024 need for change, Emma added: "We recognised an opportunity to bring more activities, opportunities and support into Burnfoot, but knew that partnership working would be key. Burnfoot Community Futures was able to lead on the application because of the CashBack funding requirements, and Carly has put a huge amount of work into bringing the project together, alongside the other agencies and delivery partners."

Continuing, Ms Clarke said: "To now see that work turn into three years of free opportunities for 10-25-year-olds, with someone employed locally to co-ordinate and

develop the project, is fantastic. This isn't simply about providing activities – it's about giving young people the chance to try something new, build confidence, develop skills, meet people and feel more connected to their community."

Youth development officer Andrew Shields said: "Today was an opportunity to welcome our partners along, and an opportunity to inform the community of what is on offer."

Part of the multiagency approach saw local police participate in the discussions. Community officer Fraser Mortimer said: "The partnership aims to channel energy in a positive manner, when we got round the table we realised there was a lack of opportunities for the teenagers. Now they have an avenue to use their energy in a positive light."

Craig Girvan, founder of G10 Sports, said: "I think we need to provide a platform for young people to have fun, learn new skills and develop new friendships and skills they never knew they had. A three-year project gives us a real chance to build meaningful and lasting opportunities."

Registration opportunities are now available on the Burnfoot Community Futures Facebook page.

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Comment

Burnfoot has been given a welcome shot in the arm with the launch of the £300,000 Cashback for Communities programme aimed at tackling antisocial behaviour on the estate.

The funding represents three years of free activities for 10-25-year-olds, from boxing and rugby to youth clubs, sports and street work. More importantly, it represents a determined attempt to give young people positive outlets.

Securing the money has clearly required exhaustive effort, and those involved deserve

huge credit for bringing partners together and turning concern into action.

Now comes the hard part: making the programme deliver lasting change.

As reported all too frequently in the paper, Burnfoot has endured seemingly endless spates of antisocial behaviour. This initiative cannot solve every problem, but it offers something constructive and, crucially, locally rooted.

Hopefully, the investment also helps reclaim more of the community spirit that once defined Burnfoot, street by street.



The Border Holiday Group visited the 18th-century Kinderdijk windmills, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

New experiences and lasting memories for Border Holiday Group

By SARAH WILLIAMSON
news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

“A holiday to remember” is how the local leader of the Border Holiday Group has summed up another hugely successful trip on the Jumbulance, which saw ten VIPs lap up the sights and sounds of the Netherlands.

Those on the trip on the specially adapted coach have just returned from a week-long stay in Heerlan, situated in southern Holland – and with dancing, windmills, caves, a jacuzzi, a solar train and the zoo among a host of highlights – it has proved once again the importance of the bi-annual voyage.

Lesley Fraser, who has just embarked on her 13th Jumbulance trip and first year as the group leader, told *The Hawick Paper*: “For some, the trip gives them a real sense of independence, often it is their first time away on their own without their mum or dad, or their usual care team.”

A total of 10 VIPs, along with their individual carers as well as extra helpers Lesley, Amanda Nichol and Pauline More, travelled on the Jumbulance from the Common Haugh down to the overnight ferry from Hull to Rotterdam – marking the start of an overseas adventure that otherwise might not be possible.

Lesley said the VIPs’ disabilities range from those not requiring much care, to others who cannot weight-bare and need two-person care, with ages ranging from 21 years old up to 60, but she stressed: “Everyone is treated as equal.”

And what was certainly equal amongst the holidaymakers was the level of fun, enjoyment and having an opportunity to relish different experiences and responsibilities, throughout the Border Holiday Group’s fourth stay at the Van Der Valk Hotel.

“They get to try new things, make new friendships and take charge on the day they are chosen as the leader; it really lets their personalities grow”, explained Lesley.

After a swim in the hotel pool, the first big trip of the holiday comprised a visit to the historic town of Valkenberg, with its unique architecture and cave systems. The following day boasted a solar train

ride to see the sights around Maastricht, which proved a great way to see the city, and ended with a special race night in the hotel, complete with hats.

Gaia Zoo visit fell on a warm, sunny day, with the VIPs thrilled by all the animals, and as night fell the travellers enjoyed a quiz night.

The eagerly-anticipated fancy dress night, which included dancing and dinner, and a trip to the highest point in the Netherlands where Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands meet, added yet more unforgettable memories for the VIPs.

“Zoo day is always a highlight”, Lesley stated. “Something new this year was trips to Valkenburg which had some extraordinary caves that everyone enjoyed.

“As always, our fancy dress party was a huge hit, and it was nice to be able to make one of our VIPs wishes to walk on the beach just like she did as a little girl, come true.”

The Border Holiday Group is a charity run by volunteers, and raises money throughout the year to fund and organise the trips, which provide round-the-clock care and medical support, at a cost of around £42,000. They have previously also organised trips to the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games without the bus.

Lesley added: “When we’re away the continuity of care is important, but that’s just a small part of the trip; we try to make it a holiday to remember and for them to grow as individuals, and hopefully on their return, families can see a difference in their loved one, and that they have a new-found confidence.”



Mima Williams and Lesley Fraser

Bunting for Tour agreed by council

The community council is to take the lead in looking to add their own style to the High Street.

Speaking at the recent town body meeting, chairman Cameron Knox suggested that bunting could be reintroduced to the High Street for next summer in conjunction with the Tour de France.

Speaking following the successful erection of the Common-Riding flags for the hugely-popular Great Street Day and farmers’ market, Mr Knox said: “The international flag bunting was erected across the high street years ago as part of Hawick Summer Festival. It is an initiative we should take forward.”

He added: “This simple project will bring colour and interest to the main street.

“And along with the colourful planters supplied by the hard-working and dedicated volunteers of the Hawick in Bloom group, it would be an added spectacle for townspeople and visitors alike ahead of the Tour de France visit.”

It was agreed to purchase the bunting.

No-show at court

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of 30-year-old Sarah Quinn, of Weensland Road, who has been accused of throwing a brick against the window of the Ancrum Pantry on May 11.

She failed to appear at a Selkirk Sheriff Court hearing on Monday.

Warrant granted

Mr K. Edgar and Miss E. Scates have been granted a building warrant for a four-apartment house on land east of Burnside.

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DEATHS

AITKEN: Suddenly on Monday, 21st September, 2026, at home with her family by her side, Hannah Elizabeth Casson (Betty) née Peden, beloved wife of the late David, much loved mum to June, Robert and Thomas, dearly loved nana to Shaun, Lewis and Ethan, loving sister and auntie. Service to be held at Robson's Dovetail Chapel on Monday, 19th October, at 11.30am, followed by interment at Wellogate Cemetery at 1pm. Donations, if desired, to Borders Macmillan Centre, BGH. Please wear a touch of tartan and colour.

JEFFREY: Peacefully at Hawick Community Hospital on 27th August, 2026, Hazel, beloved wife of the late Ian, much loved mother to Michael and Fiona, grandmother to Christopher and Samantha. Service in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church on Friday, 9th October, at 1pm, onwards to Borders Crematorium, Melrose, for 3.30pm. Donations, if desired, to St Cuthbert's Church.

MIDDLEMASS: Sadly, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly after a brief illness at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh on Saturday, 19th September, 2026, Adam Lamb Middlemass (Midd), a loving and devoted husband to Janice, very much beloved dad to Joanne, Andrew and Lesley and father-in-law to Calum, Lee-Anne and Paul, and doting grandpa to Lauren, Adam, Ceitidh, Rachel, Ava and Robin. Midd will be sorely missed by all his family and friends, and everyone who had the privilege to know such a warm-spirited man. All are welcome to attend a celebration of Midd's life at Robson's Dovetail Chapel on Thursday, 8th October, at 11.45am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Midd's chosen charities. No black ties, but a touch of green would be appreciated.

NEISH: Peacefully at Bonchester Care Home on Friday, 25th September, 2026, Winifred (Winnie) née Hall, beloved wife of the late Robert, a loving mother, granny and great-granny. Will be missed by the whole family. Private cremation at Winnie's request.

DEATHS

STORRIE: Suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday, 22nd September, 2026, at Borders General Hospital, Jennifer (née Williamson), much loved wife to Ian, dear stepmum to David and Susan. Jennifer will be greatly missed by all the family and all who knew her. Service to be held at Robson's Dovetail Chapel on Thursday, 15th October, at 12.15pm, followed by interment at Wellogate Cemetery at 1pm. Donations, if desired, to Arthurshiel Rescue Centre. Family flowers only please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

DICKSON: The family of Ena Dickson would like to thank all the people who attended Ena's funeral and also all those who sent messages, cards and flowers. Over the last few years Ena has been supported by a wide team of carers who enabled her to remain at home and independent. We appreciate all their kindness and care. Sincere thanks go to Dr Lynne Buchan and the district nurses who supported her through the final days. We would also like to express our thanks to the staff at Robson's and to Rachel Henderson, the celebrant, who supported us. Also to Deborah Brown for providing tea. The returning collection has been given to Oxfam.

IN MEMORIAM

RENTON: Joyce, died 5/10/2025. It's been a year since we said goodbye. A piece of my heart left with you that day. A loving mum, granny, sister, aunt and friend to many. Always loved, always remembered.

CHURCH NOTICES

CAVERS & KIRKTON PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
SC004550
Sunday, October 4
9.30am – Service of worship, followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome

CHURCH NOTICES

HAWICK BAPTIST CHURCH
SCIO: SC053037
North Bridge Street
Tonight (Friday) October 2
7pm – Youth night for high school kids
Tomorrow (Saturday) October 3
9am – Men's breakfast
Sunday, October 4
10.30am – Morning worship with Gordon Dickey preaching from 2 Samuel 18:1-19:8. HBC kids and creche available. All welcome
Tuesday, October 6
10am-11.30am – Mainly Play for under-fives and their parents/carers (E3)
Wednesday, October 7
4pm – Prayer meeting
Thursday, October 8
7pm/7.30pm – Home groups

RUBERSLAW COUNTRY PARISHES : SC034629
Saturday, October 3
2pm-4pm – Harvest home decorated church and afternoon teas
Denholm Church
Sunday, October 4
10am – Denholm harvest
Rev. Rachel Wilson and worship team

WILTON AND TEVIOTHEAD PARISH CHURCHES : SC017381 / SC006917
Sunday, October 4
No service at Teviothead
11am – Joint service at Wilton, delivered by kirk session

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
Slitrig Crescent : SC003140
Sunday, October 4
11.30am – Eucharist (harvest thanksgiving)
4.30pm – Taize
Wednesday, October 7
10.45am – Midweek Eucharist
Mondays
10am-2pm – Open for quiet space (not Thursdays)
Tuesdays
11am-noon – Coffee morning

HAWICK BURNFOOT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND : SC004517
Sunday, October 4
10.30am – Greg Robertson
Dedication Sunday and harvest celebration

HAWICK SOUTH
SC005191 : St George's Lane
Thursdays
7pm – Prayer meeting on Zoom
Contact Teviotchurch@gmail.com
Sunday, October 4
Conducted by the worship group
Harvest service
Mark 1 v16-20 – Fisherfolk
10.30am – Hawick South Church Harvest monetary donations and any food donations will go to The Salvation Army's food bank
6pm – Robertson harvest service
Conducted by Rev. Sheila Moir
Harvest supper afterwards in Forman Hall (booking essential)
The service will be recorded at Hawick South at 10.30am and can be viewed afterwards at <https://hawicksouth.online.church/>



GRUMPY AULD MAN

UPHEAVAL AHEAD
First Minister John Swinney, head honcho at the Scottish Parliament, has dished up dynamite proposals which could herald a ginormous upheaval in local government. The audacious plan could see Scotland's existing 32 local authorities reduced to as few as six with Scottish Borders Council presumably vanishing into a merged body with, well, who knows? But for now at least, scheduled local government elections are due to go ahead on May 6 next year. As things stand, Hawick's current six elected representatives on the existing 34-member local authority will either face another thumbs-up, the sack or perhaps opt to retire and withdraw. It's interesting that high profile community councillor, Mick Robertson, has already thrown his hat into the ring. He has become particularly noteworthy for a no-nonsense, plain speaking stance on such persistent town headaches as shoplifting, antisocial behaviour and that putrid pavement peril, dirty dog poo. Having cut his razor sharp teeth on the virtuous but nevertheless, relatively powerless 'People's Council', it seems Mighty

Mick is game at seeking an elected mandate so he can really rummel things up at the Newtown St Boswells palace of varieties . . . er, sorry, HQ. I wish him well. Meanwhile, four of our current senior councillors, Stuart Marshall, Clair Ramage, Annette Smart and Watson McAteer, have all publicly said they plan to bid for re-election. That was confirmed back in July when this newspaper asked each elected member about their plans and future aspirations. Hawick's two other incumbent councillors, Jane Cox and Neil Richards, failed to respond to the request for comment. But whatever kind of electoral upheaval awaits next spring, as well as a rapidly changing and testing community environment, Hawick absolutely requires six top-notch, forthright and invincible representatives to fight our corner.

PUMP TRACK PLEA
For a medium-sized town, Hawick is historically a proud leader in many realms of sporting prowess. And just six years ago our parish welcomed another leisure, physical and bespoke athletic activity with the opening of a community pump track at Wilton Lodge Park. Built on the former site of clay tennis courts, the £400,000 project was jointly financed by Scottish Borders Council, the Heritage Lottery and various community fundraisers. But although the complex proved a popular attraction initially, and even hosted a national UK qualifying tournament, it increasingly seems to have somewhat fallen out of favour. There is currently an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Pupils shrug off building work

Senior pupils at the high school are experiencing minimum levels of disruption despite undertaking their studies adjacent to a construction site.

That was the positive message delivered to members of the community council at their recent meeting, when three of the new senior team attended the town body gathering. Beau Walker, Olek Raczynski and Marley Domingo were joined by head teacher Lisa Smith and vocational and partnership officer Stacey Grieve.

In response to a question posed about being educated amidst the new high school construction, Beau said: "We are finding things a lot quieter now, people might think the whole area is quite noisy, but I don't think it is really affecting us."



Among those stepping out in Wilton Lodge Park to raise money for The Salvation Army's food bank were George Thorburn, Keith Wight, Linden Warburton, Beau Walker, Mrs Murray, Marley Domingo, Olek Raczynski and Erin Cowan

While fellow senior team member Olek Raczynski said: "Noise was previously an issue when we were in geography classes, at the top end of the school before the summer. but since we have returned it hasn't really been an issue."

Head teacher Lisa Scott added: "Pupils have been

really good at letting us know about noise, it has been a case of peaks and troughs, there has been a lot of riveting and cutting of metal recently."

Meanwhile, Erin Cowan joined the other three senior team members and teacher Mrs Murray as part of the Hawick Rotary Club 'Bridge to Bridge' sponsored walk

last Sunday. Seven Rotarians – George Thorburn, George Hogg, Linden Warburton, Keith Wight, Andy Tiler, Tony Warburton and Ron Smith – braved the heavy rain on the walk which started at the road bridge at the top end of Wilton Lodge Park en route to the bridge at Mansfield Park via the

Wilton Park cafe bridge, Teviot Crescent, Laidlaw Terrace and Duke Street.

The walk is estimated to have raised around £800 for the local Salvation Army food bank. A club spokesperson said: "We have helped make a very useful contribution to a worthwhile cause."

GRUMPY AULD MAN

FROM PAGE 10
urgent appeal for volunteers to help keep the facility going, with a meeting due to take place last night (Thursday) to discuss the matter.

The track is apparently rated one of the best around – and has also been instrumental in coaching and developing some top riders.

So on my regular strolls around our award-winning public park (including during school holiday time), I've been surprised to observe this facility often devoid of any users whatsoever.

This reminds me of a similar scenario decades ago involving a campaign to develop a BMX bike track at the Miller's Knowes. That subsequently opened to great acclaim but, perhaps due to the out-of-the-way location and often inclement weather, it rather quickly succumbed to obsolescence.

It would be a crying shame if the same fate threatened such a worthy asset as the pump track.

So no stone should be left unturned in grabbing the handlebars and grafting to see this beneficial attraction restored to its full health-enhancing, competitive and fun-filled potential.

MP throws weight behind bid to tackle shoplifting

Local MP John Lamont has pledged his support to tackle what this week has been described as an "intensifying" shoplifting scourge in the town, **Graham Ford writes.**

The MP for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk responded to a plea by the founder of the Hawick WhatsApp Shop Watch scheme to "turn up the heat"

to receive more support for Hawick shopkeepers.

Speaking this week, Community Councillor Mick Robertson said: "I am delighted that Mr Lamont is looking to come on board."

"I am very aware of the level of traffic on our WhatsApp site in recent weeks, there have been a lot of new faces emerging and if

anything, the situation has been intensifying."

He added: "I wrote to Mr Lamont as we need to turn up the heat on the situation. The local police do their best, but we need more resources to tackle the prolific shoplifters and more action taken by the courts to have these offenders taken off the streets."

Speaking to *The Hawick Paper*, Mr Lamont said: "I will be very happy to meet with the shopkeepers and other members of the community who are concerned by the rising rates of shoplifting in Hawick."

"This crime has become much more prevalent locally and nationally in recent years, which is unacceptable

and cannot be allowed to continue.

"Shoplifting has a serious impact on workers and customers. It is a scourge we must end, and I will be glad to work constructively with campaigners to tackle it."

It is understood the meeting will be held later this month.

Plea goes out over collecting tins refurb

Local Poppy Scotland organisers are appealing for volunteers to help refurbish some 150 collecting tins and poppy boxes in preparation for next month's remembrance period, **Jake Colman writes.**

Anyone willing to offer their services for this worthwhile good cause is asked to attend at the Evergreen Hall on Monday between 9am and noon.

Further assistance is sought to collect and

distribute the tins and boxes around five areas over the period October 5-11. This will entail the use of a car. The same distributors would then be required to collect them after remembrance.

Meanwhile, more than 85 local shops and businesses have pledged donations as poppy sponsors, witnessed with large-sized poppies displayed at their premises.

Alluding to the poppy drape, made by volunteer crocheters last year for the 1514 Memorial, Graeme Morrison, one of the organising committee, told the paper: "After being inspected by a small group of volunteers, it was found to be in generally good condition, with only minor repairs needed."



Graeme Morrison



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PICTURE: ILFIMAGING



High school pupils and staff who helped organise and run the fund-raising coffee morning are pictured with local parliamentarians Rachael Hamilton and John Lamont

School brews up £915 for charity

The high school's fund-raising coffee morning in Buccleuch Halls last Friday morning realised

an "incredible" £915 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Organised by the home economics department and barista skills class, the event saw some 140 members of the community and school staff enjoy a morning of coffee, home baking, raffle and tombola. Barista pupils created posters, drafted letters and contacted local businesses

requesting support, with donations for raffle prizes from Johnstons of Elgin, Morrisons, and Heart of Hawick. The entire home economics department contributed to the fund-raiser's success, and included teachers Victoria Lowrie and Evelyn Armstrong making scones that morning, while pupils

helped prepare a range of homemade treats for the bake sale. A beautiful cheesecake was made by pupil support assistant, Diane Stark, for the raffle. Staff from across the school also generously donated raffle and tombola prizes. "The morning was a fantastic example of the

school and wider community working together," Miss Lowrie said, adding: "The incredible £915 raised is a brilliant achievement and reflects the hard work, generosity and enthusiasm of everyone involved." Chris South, principal teacher of health and wellbeing, told us: "It was a great event, and nice to see all the young people working

together and building their confidence when speaking to members of the public. We are so proud of them, and all for such a great cause." Barista skills student Halle McNeill said: "I was a little nervous at first but after it started to get busy it was so much fun. It was nice to speak to different people and get to help raise money for such a great cause."

New CD evokes memories of when sixties music legends came to town

Some of the biggest names in pop and rock supped pints in one of Hawick's most popular pubs in The Swinging Sixties, it has been revealed. And, the local musician and writer who has confirmed this, Loudon

Temple, who played with local bands, The Diamonds, The Ceiling Light Machine, and Lordy in the '60s and early '70s, and who has recorded a string of successful CDs in recent years under the name Cheery Odin, has

commemorated the fact on his latest release. The track in question, *Ginger Baker Suppin' in The Queen's Heid Bar* is included on the new album, entitled *Souters* – his tribute to Selkirk, where he spent the first five years of his

life before moving with his family to Hawick in the early '50s. "The track in particular is my personal homage to a great man, Duncan Mackinnon, who brought so many of the top names to towns in the Borders," said Loudon. He went on: "The legendary drummer, Ginger Baker, who, of course, went on to become a member of Cream, playing alongside Eric Clapton and Jack Bruce, appeared at Hawick Town Hall as a member of The Graham Bond Organisation. "I remember seeing him enjoying a pre-gig pint in the snug bar of The Queen's Head. "I've been told by others that The Hollies treated themselves to some Queen's Head hospitality, too, and that Rod Stewart once supped in the pub when he played the town hall with a band called The Steam Packet in the mid-60s." Loudon says the track about Duncan Mackinnon's key role in bringing the top names to Scotland via his Border Dances organization, was included on the *Souters* album as that



Loudon Temple

song records the fact that his band, The Ceiling Light Machine, opened for The Bee Gees on their first ever UK tour, at Selkirk's Victoria Hall. The CD, which celebrates Selkirk, its customs and traditions, as well as its people and great characters, has been winning fans across the world thanks to its exposure on various radio shows. Only last month it was the featured album on the popular Iain Anderson Show after the presenter broke away from BBC Radio Scotland to set up an

alternative broadcasting operation. And, tomorrow (Saturday), Celtic Music Radio, which has a global reach and is recognised as the most important station in the UK that caters for folk music listeners, will announce that the release is to be their album of the week. *Souters* is the fourth Cheery Odin album to have been released, and Loudon added: "It focuses on connections with the town of my birth, personal memories, personalities who needed to be remembered, experiences, special places and events – and stories I'd both remembered and been told. "A lot of them are about individuals whose contributions were crying out to be recognised." Copies of the album can be downloaded at www.cheeryodin.bandcamp.com/music. The Celtic Music Radio album of the week show, complete with an hour-long interview, goes out live tomorrow at noon at www.celticmusicradio.net

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5 minutes with...

EMMA CLARKE

Burnfoot Community Council chairwoman



What were you like at the high school? I was quite quiet and shy, although I came much more out of my shell with my friends. I was always well behaved and got good grades. Art and creative fashion were my favourite subjects because I could get completely engrossed in them and express myself in a different way.

Tell us some things about yourself that not a lot of people will know: I was a championship disco dancer when I was younger and actually danced at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. I don't think many people would guess that about me now!

If you could gain a new skill or ability instantly what would you choose and why? I'd love to be fluent in another language. I love travelling, and being able to properly communicate with

people in their own language would be amazing.

What one song or piece of music would you keep on repeat? This is a nightmare question because my taste is so eclectic! At the moment, though, it's *Vampire Diaries* by MGK. Ask me again in a few weeks and it'll probably be something completely different!

If you were shipwrecked on a deserted island, but all your human needs, such as food and water, were taken care of, what two items would you want to have with you? Something with all my photos and videos on it, and something for music and films. If I'm going to be stranded, I at least want some entertainment and a few reminders of home!

If you could have dinner with any two famous people, dead or alive, who would you choose? Lando Norris and Lewis Capaldi. I'd have plenty of questions about F1 and music, but I'd also love to talk about the mental health side of being in the public eye. They're both really funny characters, so I think we'd have a lot of laughs. And they're both alive, so I'm hoping I can manifest it happening!

What or who have you seen that's been inspiring? My sister-in-law Shanice. She's going through cancer and has been incredibly open about her experience, using it to help and support other people. She's also documenting her journey for her family, and for my three year old nephew to look back on one day. Having been through cancer myself, it really resonates with me.

What inspires me most is her attitude – she's still doing car karaoke, making jokes and laughing, while also being honest about the difficult days. She's one of the kindest and most caring people I know, and the way she continues to find joy in life is amazing.

If you had a time machine, what historical event would you want to see and why? The building of the pyramids. I've been fascinated by Ancient Egypt since I was a child and I'm still drawn to it now. I'd love to actually see how they managed to build something so incredible.

Do you have any life philosophies? Treat people how you'd like to be treated, never think you're better or worse than anyone else, and try to find the positives wherever you can. Life's too short to spend it looking for the negatives.

What do you think your best quality is? Compassion. I care a lot about people and try to put myself in their shoes and understand what they might be going through.

What trait do you most dislike in yourself? How pernickety I am! Everything has to be just so before I can settle. I know it can be a good thing sometimes, but I can definitely drive myself mad with it, too.

Early bird or night owl? Permanently exhausted pigeon!

Favourite food? Anything Mexican. I love a proper party on a plate, so Mexican tapas with lots of different things to share would be my ideal meal.

Describe yourself in three words: Caring, quirky, determined.

Blazing a trail with launch of new app

A project designed to help people discover more of the countryside on Hawick's doorstep has reached a major milestone with the official launch of the Town of 1000 Trails app.

Now available to download on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, the app brings together more than 130 walking, running and cycling routes from across Hawick and the surrounding TD9 area, with more set to be added as the project develops.

Hawick has an enormous number of paths, trails and established routes, but knowledge of them has traditionally been spread across books, printed maps, word of mouth and local knowledge. Town of 1000 Trails brings that information together in one place.

Users can browse trails, select a route suited to them and use their phone to follow it while exploring. The project is aimed at people who have lived locally all their lives as well as visitors.

Euan Welsh, project manager at Town of 1000 Trails, said: "At the heart of the project is a desire to make accessing the outdoors as straightforward as possible.

"The app is free to use and has been developed with a wide variety of ages, abilities and confidence levels in mind.

"For some, it could mean discovering a new running route. For others, it may simply provide the confidence to take a short walk somewhere they have never explored before."

Continuing, he said: "We also hope the project can contribute to wider physical and mental wellbeing locally by removing some of the barriers which can prevent people from getting active.

"And as the database develops, the team hopes to expand the number and variety of trails available, including more beginner-friendly and accessible routes."

Users can submit routes themselves,



helping local knowledge shape the app as it grows. The team also hopes people will share photographs, feedback and experiences through Town of 1000 Trails' social media channels, with the long-term ambition of building a database approaching 1,000 trails.

The delivery of the project would not have been possible without the support of The Jock And Mary Elliot Memorial Trust, Hawick Common Good Fund, South of Scotland Enterprise, Scottish Borders Council's Localities Bid Fund, and several kind anonymous donors.

Your shout

With this week's paper offering a generous helping of school-related stories, we asked readers to cast their minds back to the classroom and share memories of their favourite teachers...



I when I was at Jedburgh Grammar School I liked Bill Johnson who was really fair with me.

FRASER MORTIMER



I liked Mr Killeen when I was at Lochgilphead. He encouraged me to play sports, and I especially enjoyed learning golf and shinty.

DAVID MACLEOD



I liked Mr Brown, the art teacher, and Mr Learmonth, who definitely helped keep me out of the kind of trouble I could easily have ended up in.

KEITH WILLIAMSON



Mr Ferguson, my registration teacher. I found school quite difficult and he gave me a lot of support.

KEVIN BRODIE



I remember Mrs Martin who was like a mother to me in primary one and two.

ALLAN MURPHY



Mr Crosbie who was very much old school and taught me traditional values.

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By Alastair Redpath

The Crofts

Pairt eicht: From silver screen to Salvation, supermarkets and more

In Edwardian Hawick, both the Wee Thea (in Croft Road) and The Piv (on the High Street) cinemas were owned by an enterprising businessman from Glasgow, George Urie Scott.

He had first shown moving pictures in local halls in 1902 before establishing a successful circuit of permanent cinemas across Scotland, based on a model of low admission prices with further concessions for children. In April 1920, a company was floated to acquire seven of his venues, including the Wee Thea, following which he expanded his interests in dance halls and hotels.

The Wee Thea was soon refurbished in 1921 to be able to host a small orchestra, with The Piv standing in to show serials while its near neighbour was closed.

Bailie Martin Moar was manager in the 1930s but the cinema really took off under the stewardship of A.S. Albin, chairman of the Cinema Exhibitors Association, who introduced 'talkies' to Croft Road and established a local audience for MGM cliffhanger serials, with queues forming around the block most weeks.

Issues with overcrowding during the war years – when the Wee Thea was informally known as the 'Garrison Cinema', thanks to its proximity to the Drill Hall and billets – saw its capacity capped at 200 people. By 1947, the venue returned as a live theatre with new dressing rooms, and its overall capacity had increased to 600 seats.

On October 27, 1955, at around midnight, in



gateway and the Job Centre near the Wee Haugh

something resembling a B-movie plot, a passing police officer spotted flames licking from the Wee Thea's roof. Within 30 minutes, the whole building was ablaze – lighting up the night sky for miles around – and nine families in adjacent tenements had to be evacuated while firefighters from surrounding towns battled to save their homes.

Alexander Leithhead, a part-time firefighter, was injured when a fire escape fell on him and fractured his leg in two places. By 3am it had become clear the battle was lost. The Wee Thea was in smouldering ruins but the tenement blocks on either side had avoided significant damage thanks to their efforts.

When the rubble of No6 Croft Road was eventually cleared by contractors A. & G. W. Murray, in May 1960, they discovered a bottle containing coins (including

an out-of-circulation groat) and newspapers from 1879, as well as a watch and a book of Common-Riding songs.

The site's use came full circle with the erection of The Salvation Army Citadel, a project marked by two datestones either side of its main entrance: one a foundation stone laid in February 1961 by Lieutenant-Commissioner William Leed, Salvationist Commander for Scotland; the other to mark the

building's official opening by Provost David Atkinson, JP, in March 1962.

Having relocated to Croft Road from a former drill hall in Mill Path, this post-war Contextual Modernist building, costing £17,000, favours function over form. Built from granite, a rare choice of material in Hawick, and topped with a traditional pitched slate roof, the two-storey structure extends backwards into the 'GPO lane'.



Border Motor Company (Hawick) Ltd, Croft Road, 1970s

PICTURE: SWI COLLECTION

Above the entrance, The Salvation Army's emblem and motto welcomes visitors inside. Standing like a smaller sibling alongside taller tenements, this architectural outlier continues to serve the town as a church, meeting hall, and food bank (for more on the 'Sally Army', see The Hawick Paper, May 1, 8 and 15, 2020).

Plans were approved for an adjoining three-storey residential block, Nos8 and 10, in November 1881, with a small shop opening at No8 soon after. It is recorded as a hawker and hosiery merchant's shop owned by Thomas Blake, in 1884, which was continued into the following decade by his daughter Bella.

Around the turn of the century it became a confectioner's shop under Mrs Scott – ideally placed for sweet-toothed cinema-goers! In the 1930s it was

owned by Mrs W. Black and for many years was simply 'The Shop', established by I. H. Blaikie, which also sold homemade jams and jellies.

In 1964, the premises were converted into the Little Theatre, a unique, community-run cinema with 42 seats, run by Hawick Film and Video Group.

Between 1965 and 1980, founding members such as David Peacock and Dennis Park produced the popular Hawick Pictorial films, plus documentaries of historical importance such as 1964's *Sons of Heroes*. The group also preserved many beloved features from the Hawick cinemas that it outlasted.

On the second-floor of No8, in the 1990s, you'd find PK Film & Video Services.

Since Covid times, the group's productions have been digitally cleaned in London and regraded and restored by Hawick's own Alchemy Film & Arts, leading to local screenings of 'Oor Ain Film Archive' in the Little Theatre and at the larger Heart of Hawick cinema. Most of these films are currently free (and highly recommended) to view on Alchemy's website or via interactive kiosks at the Heritage Hub.

Nos8 and 10 feature an original double entrance either side of a close door; one side of which has been transformed into a window for a ground-floor flat. In 1904, No10 was the home of Madame Pauline, "the Scottish queen of palmistry and phrenology," who opened her flat daily and charged patrons one shilling per reading.

Nos12 and 14, built as a three-storey block in the same vernacular style as its neighbours, once had a small business, Fletcher's, two floors up, which repaired rubber and waterproof garments. No14 was also the former address of Thomas Bell, caretaker of Hawick Fever Hospital and stalwart of the Hawick Home Mission.

These two blocks, Nos8-14, have since been extended upwards with attic dormers. Returning once more

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to 'GPO lane', behind the tenements, it's worth noting that in addition to the sorting office, this former access route served Bill Smith's bakery in North Bridge Street. The north side of the lane contains a two-storey brick building that was once part of a carter's yard and has since been used as storerooms and a workshop.

Between Croft Road proper and Home Basics is a brick garage with a loading hatch on its upper level, of unknown origin. There is also a fascinating array of backcourt features in-between; external forestairs with a wooden canopy, cobblestones, coal bunkers and lockups, and a brick-built rear extension to Nos4 and 6.

I've been unable to pinpoint with any accuracy where some other buildings were located, including a hayloft and stables off Croft Road. In 1941, someone down on their luck was fined for sleeping there.

Kennedy the chemist also had two warehouses around these parts, one in Croft Road, the other in Teviot Road. Again, answers would be welcome.

Then there was J. Jardine & Co, a business located somewhere in Croft Road but originally founded at Weensland by James Jardine, a native of Ecclefechan.

He was orphaned at the age of nine, and at 13 went to work for a manufacturer in Lockerbie. Not long afterwards he moved to Weensland, where he served an apprenticeship in a tweed warehouse. He was said to be a regular attendee of evening classes. Due to an injury he gave up work as a warehouseman and became a tweed merchant, based in Croft Road, in 1877 – starting off with just a small parcel of remnants. He also kept pigeons there.

James was additionally a poet who signed his works 'J. J. Weensland'. He contributed his scrievings regularly to the local press and served as president of the Border Bards Association in 1881.

When he died in 1927, J. Jardine & Co. was carried on by his son, Archibald, later becoming a drapery business and moving to 8 Oliver Place in 1930. Archibald retired in 1962.

The modern-day tranche of buildings which bookend Croft Road – B&M supermarket, Santa Marina restaurant, and the adjacent garage – are successors to the Teviot Crescent Mills



Employment Exchange in Teviot Crescent in 1940

PICTURE: PROJECT HAWICK

which once occupied this whole site.

It's often thought that the mill was demolished around 1908 but further research reveals it was still standing in 1910, albeit unoccupied. In fact, the buildings weren't fully brought down until 1917 when rubble, timber, cast iron and other valuable parts were sold at auction. Prior to this, around 1914, the disused mill lade was backfilled due to complaints about the smells it produced. The line of the old lade corresponds with the car park along the edge of the Wee Haugh.

Among the demolished buildings were the large rectangular factory by the riverside; a small building to the east which had a quadrangle in the middle (resembling a square polo mint); the 1882 gatehouse and goods yard; and the conjoined skinnery buildings which stood on the north side of the junction of Croft Road/Teviot Crescent (where the recycling bins are at B&M supermarket). The angular roadways of the supermarket are also a reminder of the site's industrial past.

Now, you might recall that Walter Paisley & Son, ironmongers, were early pioneers of Hawick's telephone network, influencing the eventual establishment of the town's exchange, which has been located off Croft Road since 1938.

I was surprised to learn, however, that the firm also once owned Hawick Motor Repair Works (HMRW), based at 52 High Street,

as far back as 1912, when Hawick's handful of cars were made in Scotland by the likes of Arrol-Johnston and Albion Motor Works.

HMRW relocated to a new garage, showrooms and fuel forecourt, purpose-built on the site of Teviot Crescent Mills, prior to 1926. This was likely as the result of a takeover by James 'Jim' Smith Newbigging, a Carstairs-born mechanic who was apprenticed in various garages across the West Coast and spent five years learning his trade at Albion Motor Works. He was often called upon to give expert opinion at court, especially in cases where drivers were charged with culpable homicide (ie death by dangerous driving).

In the 1930s, the former skinnery buildings were replaced by a new showroom on an east/west axis, easily viewed from both Croft Road and Teviot Crescent.

William 'Willie' J. Newbigging, also of Carstairs, became involved with HMRW in the 1930s. According to press reports, he was a member of Teviotdale Harriers, a local scoutmaster, and was

possibly one and the same man who later became landlord of the Moss Paul Inn.

HMRW continued to flourish under their stewardship as 'Newbigging's Garage' but was reformed as Hawick Motor Company prior to 1943, and later sold to Rossleigh Ltd, who kept the Hawick title and Willie as boss, in 1950. A new garage was added that same year at the cost of £4,750.

As 'Motor Engineers to Her Majesty the Queen', Rossleigh showrooms were famous for selling top-tier British automotive brands, including Triumph, Standard, Jaguar, Rover, Land Rover, and Austin.

The business was sold around 1974 to the Border Motor Company (Hawick) Ltd, becoming a Volvo and Fiat dealership under Harry Wells, with a further sales room and forecourt in Princes Street (Wilton Place).

The Croft Road garage was sold in 1980 and demolished to make way for a £350,000 Fine Fare supermarket, with developers Balfour Beatty beginning work on the site

in August 1983. This large building measures 18,572 sq ft, inclusive of a staffroom and office space on its upper level. Outside is a large car park and delivery bay.

Fine Fare had previously bought Coopers grocers on the High Street but never rebranded the shop before its closure. By the 1960s, the company was the largest supermarket operator in Europe, which encouraged them to seek out disused industrial sites such as Croft Road as its conglomerate owners, Associated British Foods, expanded.

Although Fine Fare was bought by the Dee Corporation (owners of Somerfield) in 1985, the Hawick store would not be rebranded as gateway until 1988, when a £200,000 refurbishment saw the building bedecked in the firm's green and yellow colours. A further company restructuring resulted in the store becoming Somerfield in around 1994, when local school pupil Lynsey Paterson was invited to cut the ribbon.

The Co-op Group acquired the supermarket in 2010. Shortly after, its Somerfield stores in Hawick and Galashiels were sold to retailers B&M, which continues to operate them today.

Directly south of the supermarket, by the river's edge, is the former Ministry of Labour Employment Exchange, less formally known as the 'dole office' or 'the broo' – a corruption of the French word bureaux. This single-storey grey granite building was opened in October 1939, featuring

a panelled front entrance made from Burma teak; two pale blue-tiled halls with polished oak counters; a manager's office; finance room; and stationery store plus toilets. In the basement were the boiler room, staffrooms, and space for the cleaners.

Why two halls? One for men, accessed through the front door, and one for women accessed through a side door along the riverside path. There was also a George V cypher above the main entrance.

A vision of Winston Churchill, president of the Board of Trade, and William Beveridge, who had worked to reform social services in the early years of the 20th century, the Employment or Labour Exchange was where Teries registered for unemployment benefit in the days before the welfare state existed, and where you paid National Insurance contributions prior to the founding of the NHS.

The Hawick branch office, appropriately, was originally located at 32 Commercial Road in one of the redundant Wilton Mills buildings.

In 1973, the Employment Exchange was rebranded by the Department of Employment to become the Job Centre, with the Hawick office eventually moving to new premises – the former Milligan & Bell garage in North Bridge Street – in February 1994, where it has remained ever since, albeit more recently as JobCentre Plus.

The old exchange was then turned into one of the region's largest entertainment venues, Diesels Nightclub, becoming an incubator for many Scottish dance acts and DJs including Hawick's own QFX. As part of the building's renovations, its Crittall-style steel casement windows were blocked up.

Diesels closed in around 2012 and was briefly reopened as Borders Cycles and as a venue for Alchemy Film & Moving Image Festival in the mid-2010s. Since 2017 it has been an Italian restaurant and bar, Santa Marina, established by Simone Falcone.

Next week: a pit stop at another garage before heading on to crofts new.

Credit: Jim Colman; *Hawick in the 20th Century* (2004), Ed. David R. H. Nuttall; *A Hawick Word Book* (2026 ed), Professor Douglas Scott; *National Library of Scotland; Pastmap; Historic Environment Scotland; British Newspaper Archive; Grace's Guide.*



Diesels Nightclub

PICTURE: BILLY JAGGER

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● **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The next lecture, 'Auld Langholm', by Billy Young and Dave McVittie, will take place on Tuesday in the high school lecture hall at 7pm. It will feature a PowerPoint presentation of old photos and stories from the Muckle Toon. – FS

● **MUSIC CLUB**

More than 80 people attended the opening concert of the 75th season, sponsored by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Held at Hawick Rugby Club last month, the event began with an excellent curry supper, prepared by in-house caterer Deborah Brown and her staff, followed by an eagerly anticipated performance by The Ugly Bug Ragtime Three: John Burgess on saxophones, Ross Milligan on banjo and guitar, and Roy Percy on double bass. The trio treated the audience to a wonderfully mellow programme of jazz from the 1920s, '30s and '40s. Highlights included *Blues My Naughtie Sweetie Gives to Me* and *That's a Plenty*, both featuring impressive individual solos that showcased the musicians' expertise.

Although there was a set list, the evening had the spontaneity and improvisation at the heart of jazz. Good-humoured banter between the musicians and the audience added to the relaxed atmosphere, and the enthusiastic response at the end showed how much the performance had been enjoyed.

In his vote of thanks, Geoff Ross described them as "three of Scotland's finest jazz players".

The club's next concert – featuring the Howells Reid Duo: Matthew Howells on flute and Mary Reid on harp – will be held on Sunday, October 18, in the Forman Memorial Hall, Robertson, at 3pm. The duo's programme will include works by Ibert, Bach, Saint-Saëns and Bizet, alongside traditional British folk songs. – VM

● **ROTARY CLUB**

Last Thursday, member George Thorburn gave an interesting illustrated talk entitled 'The House of Veitch'. John Veitch, born in Ancrum in 1752, trained with Dickson's of Hawick and in Hammersmith before becoming a landscape gardener and estate manager near Exeter. He went on to lead a dynasty of plant nurserymen, including sons James and Robert who developed branches in Chelsea and Exeter.

Between 1840 and 1910, Veitch's employed 23 plant hunters across South and Central America, Oceania, Asia and southern Africa. They introduced ranges of ferns, orchids, trees, shrubs and herbs to Britain, while 12 hybridists developed thousands of new varieties.

John's grandson Harry became a leading orchid hybridist and organised the 1913 Royal International Horticultural Exhibition at Chelsea. Its success led to the annual RHS Spring Flower Show, the origin of the Chelsea Flower Show. President George Hogg gave a well-deserved vote of thanks. – RS

Word is ...

By Douglas Scott

Hornie holes

As described by lexicographer John Jamieson: "A game in which four play, a principal and an assistant on each side. A. stands with his assistant at one hole, and throws what is called a cat (a piece of stick, and frequently a sheep's horn) with the design of making it alight into another hole at some distance at which B. stands, with his assistant, to drive it aside with a rod resembling a walking stick". Do the youths of today still invent games that require nothing more complicated than a couple of sticks?

Quiz

By Brian Tait, Archaeological Society

- 1 When did Princess Christian, third daughter of Queen Victoria, open the bridge over the River Slitrig on the Hawick -Newcastleton road near Hummelknowes?
 - 2 When did the nuns leave St Margaret's Dominican Convent in Myreslawgreen?
 - 3 When did the Rt. Hon. Robert Munro, Secretary of State for Scotland, unveil the war memorial?
 - 4 When were the first patients moved from the Cottage Hospital to Hawick Community Hospital?
 - 5 What was the first tune used for *Up Wi the Banner* in 1887?
- Answers on Page 24



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Hawick end 26-year title wait

Bowling

HAWICK

The final two club competitions were completed on Tuesday, September 22, with Jimmy Dickson beating Neil Anderson in the senior gents' championship and Mark Reilly and Alan Brady triumphing over Gary Rae and Phil Smith in the club pairs.

■ Saturday saw the season come to an end with the playing of the Allan Barker Memorial Trophy competition, comprising ten triples who played three games each.

The winners were Rob Johnstone, Eddie Hall and Simon Spalding, 5 points (+7 shots); 2, Cullen Smyth, Mark Riddell and David Clark, 5 (+3); 3, Michelle McEwan, Kieron McGregor

and Steve Johnstone sr, 4 (+9).

Many thanks to Anne and Bill Anderson for their continued sponsorship of this event.

The players then sat down to a meal supplied by Campbells butchers and prepared by Pat Brady and Mary Riddell. President Mark Reilly and treasurer Martin Christy then went on to present the season's prizes, followed by entertainment by singer Kimberly Brown.

WILTON

Forty-eight club bowlers brought the curtain down on the outdoor season at West Stewart Place on Saturday.

Prior to the day's play, there was a fun spider event, with players positioned around the perimeter of the green before rolling a bowl towards the jack in



On Saturday, the Hawick club gents' A team gathered to celebrate their first Border League title in 26 years. President Mark Reilly, front, is pictured with, from left, Kirk Ford, Colin Spalding, Bill Anderson, Gary Scott, Simon Spalding, Norrie Amos, Martin Christy, Reece Johnstone, David Clark, Daniel Smyth, Mark Riddell and Brian Gray. Other members of the winning squad missing from the photograph are Phil Smith, Scott Clarkson, Neil MacAskill, Ryan Turnbull, Gary Rae, Mick Hogg and Dale Scott

the centre. Sponsored by Hiccup Mobile Bar, it was won by Gus Scott whose

bowl was the nearest. This was followed by a 16-end match which

saw president Robert Charters' team defeat junior vice-president Ger

Grierson's squad by 87 shots to 84.

Details: R. Charters 9, G. Grierson 22; A. Taylor 19, M. Notman 8; D. Macdougall 15, A. Brown 18; J. Smyth 21, C. Easton 8; C. Macdougall 9, K. McCartney 14; D. Gray 14, A. Peffers 14.

Top for the president's team were Shona Dickson, Roy Robertson, Sharman Macdougall and John Smyth (skip). The best rink for the junior vice-president comprised Lucy Scott, Eddie Pollard, Glyn Taylor and Ger Grierson (skip).

After the bowling an excellent meal, supplied by Ian Campbell, prepared by Sheila Clyne, and served up by Sheila and Pat McCartney, was much enjoyed.

The presentation of club trophies then took place at 8pm, after which there was a disco by Jim Thomson.

FARMING NEWS

Let us know your farming news and views:

Jason@thehawickpaper.co.uk
 advertising@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Golf

HAWICK

End-of-season Texas scramble (Saturday, September 26) – 1, Dale Cockburn, Ben Herdman, Jack Scott and Marc Scott, 61 (12) 49; 2, Charlie Comley, Neil Comley, Daniel Johnstone and Ronan Murray, 60 (9.95) 50.05; 3, Euan Millar, Keith Millar, Malcolm Millar and Donald Scott, 59 (8) 51.

Juniors' Champion of Champions (Sunday, September 27) – 1, Euan Millar, 38; 2, Oscar Purdie, 35; 3, Harry Drysdale, 32.

MINTO

Senior gents' matches (Thursday, August 27) – Magdalene Fields 3.5, Minto 2.5. Monday, August 31 – Minto 4.5, Rothbury 1.5. Thursday, September 10 – Minto 3.5, Peebles 2.5. Sunday, September 27 –



Minto's Lothian Rosebowl winner Anne Paterson

Bamburgh 3.5, Minto 3.5.

Senior gents' summer Stableford (Monday, September 21) – 1, Andrew Mitchell, 41 points; 2, Alec Lauder, 35; 3, Charlie Oliver 34.

Ladies' nine-hole competition No6 (Wednesday, September 23) – 1, Joan English, 15 points (bih); 2, Cherry Thom, 15; 3, Judith Smith, 14.

Ladies' Lothian Rosebowl (Saturday, September 26) – 1, Anne Paterson, 104 (31) 73; 2, Cherry Thom, 91 (17) 74; 3, Dorothy Elliot, 92 (17) 75.

Snooker

Border league week three (Thursday, September 24) – Hawick Con B 4, Selkirk Con A 2; Hawick Con C 4, Hawick Burns B 2; Hawick Burns D 5, Hawick Burns A 1; Hawick Burns C 2, Hawick Con A 4; Kelso Legion 2, Hawick Con D 4. Free week – Selkirk Con B.

Breaks of 20 and above – Johnny McDermott (Hawick Con B); David Clark and Paddy Crolla (both Selkirk Con A); Davy Halfpenny and

Robin Bell (both Hawick Burns B); Dale Scott (Hawick Burns D); Mark Riddell and Aaron Hogg (both Hawick Burns A); Calum Shields and Lee McAllister (both Hawick Con A); Michael Jeffrey (Hawick Con D).

Standings – 1, Hawick Con C 11; 2, Hawick Burns B 10; 3, Hawick Burns D 10; 4, Hawick Con B 9; 5, Hawick Con D 8; 6, Kelso Legion 8; 7, Selkirk Con B 8; 8, Hawick Con A 7; 9, Selkirk Con A 7; 10, Hawick Burns A 6; 11, Hawick Burns C 6.

Marking system could help farmers improve their flock profitability

Sheep farmers are being encouraged to make greater use of simple livestock marking to improve flock management and potentially increase profitability.

Livestock specialist Hefin Rowlands says visual identification can provide information at five key stages: tupping, scanning, lambing, health treatments and check-weighing.

While digital recording is increasingly common, visible marking allows farmers to identify groups of sheep.

Marking ewes after tupping can show which animals have run with rams and when they were served, allowing them to be grouped ahead of scanning.

Following scanning, different markings can identify the number of lambs each ewe is carrying, helping farmers group animals and tailor feeding before lambing.

Marking is valuable during lambing, helping farmers match

lambs with their mothers. This is important as more flocks move towards extensive outdoor systems.

Marking sheep after health treatments identifies animals that have received medication. Mr Rowlands said this was relevant to parasite-control programmes, where targeted treatments may be used instead of treating the whole flock.

Leaving healthy animals untreated where appropriate can help slow resistance to worming treatments.

Farmers are encouraged to mark lambs during check-weighing before sale. As well as identifying animals that have reached market weight, a different mark can identify lambs likely to be ready for the next sale.

He added that routinely marking animals was an often underestimated part of flock management that could help improve a farm's bottom line.



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125 Prime Cattle, Cast & Feeding Cows at 9.30am
50 Rearing Calves at 10.30am
575 Store & Breeding Cattle at 11am
Including Special Autumn Sale of 125 Organic Store Cattle

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Wednesday 7th October at 10am
1,000 Longtown Ram Fair 1,000
Show & Sale of 75 Bluefaced Leicester Rams
Principal Show & Sale of 400 Texel & 150 Suffolk Rams
Show & Sale of 375 Charollais, Beltex & Crossbred Rams
Other Rams of All Classes
Texel Show for the Solway & Tyne Texel
Sheep Breeders Club Trophy
Crossbred Ram Show for the Tucker
Armstrong Memorial Trophy

Davies edges title fight with club-mate Wilson

Boxing

By GRAHAM FORD
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

The Hawick club had two finalists in the Robert Burns Boxing Championships in Dumfries at the weekend, with reigning Scottish champion Scott Wilson and Cooper Davies both in action.

The two ten-year-olds had fought for the Scottish title earlier this year, and this time it was Davies who came out on top in what was described by the three Hawick coaches present as a "hard-fought, honest final which could have gone either way".

On Saturday, Davies caught his Lochee-based opponent cold and forced a first-round stoppage.

Wilson was left bewildered when his opponent, who had travelled up from England and completed the weigh-in, failed to show up in the ring.

It was a disappointing outcome for the youngster and his family, who had travelled to cheer him on.

Club coach Andy Macfarlane commented: "A big thank you to our coaches Warren Tierney, Dylan Greig and Stuart Davies for looking after the boys over the weekend.

"They were three very proud coaches."

He added: "Ordinarily

we wouldn't have two of our boys fight each other, but there was a national title at stake, and it appears Cooper's work rate got him the nod.

"But both lads thoroughly enjoyed themselves and well done to Scott who made it a really competitive bout."

Also at the weekend, Rosie Swailes and Liam Rutherford trained at the Boxing Scotland High Performance Centre in Glasgow as part of their continued assessment for the national team.

The Hawick club's new boxing fitness classes will be held on Mondays from 7.15pm to 8.15pm and Thursdays 7.15pm to 8.15pm.



Champion Cooper Davies, left, and Scott Wilson

Ford on Friday

Coaches who make a real difference



By Graham Ford

I was lucky enough to attend Burnfoot Community Futures' Cashback launch last Friday at Burnfoot Community Hub.

The £300,000 investment looks like a real-game changer towards tackling antisocial behaviour on the estate.

While at the event I popped upstairs to take in Hawick Boxing Club's taster sessions which saw three girls participating.

For some people, three would be seen as a disappointment, but not for coaches Andy Macfarlane, Rosie Swailes and Stuart Davies. The support, encouragement and attention all three offered to the 11-year-olds said everything about why their club is so successful.

They had created an exercise circuit for the girls which was competitive and varied. And every so often the circuit was changed, and one of the coaches would demonstrate what they were looking for the girls to do.

The excitement from the girls was infectious and they were almost oblivious to the level of fitness they were enjoying.

A word to parents across Burnfoot. If you are aware of your kids being at a loose end, please get them signed up either for the Cashback sessions – more details on which can be found on the Burnfoot Community Futures Facebook page, or contact Hawick Boxing Club on their Facebook page about sessions at their Princes Street premises.

The work, the experience and the skill level the coaches put towards encouraging youngsters to be the best they possibly can be is also displayed regularly in this newspaper.

Wight's consistency earns him regional accolade



Order of merit champion Ollie Wight

Golf

Hawick's Ollie Wight has been crowned Border Golf Association Junior Order of Merit champion after a standout season, **Graham Ford writes.**

The 13-year-old started the year with a handicap of 12, but saw that tumble to 4.1 following an impressive run of form, capped by his recent victory in the scratch category at the Selkirk Open.

A product of the junior coaching sessions at the

Vertish, the high school pupil won his first Borders competition at St Boswells in 2024.

This year, he also tasted success in the scratch division at Hawick and Duns, and was runner-up at Ladhope and Torwoodlee.

The order of merit accolade is awarded to the most consistent golfer of the year.

Wight said: "I was delighted to learn that I'd won and I'm very happy that all my hard work has paid off over the year."

Meanwhile, the Hawick

club's junior convener, Kenneth Forsyth, has stepped down from his role after four successful years nurturing the next generation of players.

Speaking this week, he said: "It's been an absolute pleasure watching so many young golfers come through, improve their game and, more importantly, enjoy their golf."

A club spokesperson said: "A massive thank you to Kenneth for his continued support and dedication."

Dodd rides 'surprise winner' in Perth novice hurdle

Horse racing

By HILARY MACTAGGART
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick jockey Murray Dodd rode the Iain Jardine-trained Moon Reign to a massive 80-1 win in the two-mile novice hurdle race at Perth.

"He was a nice surprise winner," Dodd told *The Hawick Paper*.

"I felt he would only come on for his run at Perth the last time and he really put his best foot forward

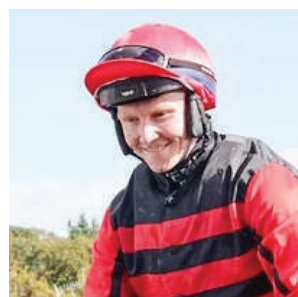
and came on loads to win a race that looked to have some nice horses in it.

"Hopefully he can continue to improve."

The four-year-old, bought for 13,000gns from Irish trainer Joseph O'Brien last October, was having just his second start for the Jardine stable.

"He has a lovely pedigree and is a nice individual who we bought with hurdling in mind," explained the winning trainer.

"We've given him plenty of time and his first run wasn't too bad but he's



Murray Dodd

obviously improved a lot.

"He doesn't show an awful lot at home so this was a bit of a surprise but hopefully he has a future."

Jardine celebrated his second winner in two days at Perth with 5-1 chance Elemental Eye in the novice hurdle race.

It marked a 100 per cent strike rate for Jardine whose two runners at the fixture were both winners.

Jardine also scored at Southwell, where Izzari won the apprentice handicap, while at Hamilton, Stay on Tab was a 5-1 winner of the nursery.

Rowan Scott's purple patch continued at Newcastle, where he got Showcasing up by a neck

for a 7-1 win in the novice stakes.

Scott was also successful at Ripon, winning the two-mile handicap on Sax Appeal.

Jason Hart rode The Good Biscuit to win the six-furlong handicap at Pontefract.

Hart is in fantastic form, completing a treble at Ripon on the eve of his 32nd birthday.

He won the novice stakes on Bulletsnap, the nursery on Aphra Behn, and the six-furlong handicap on 9-1 chance Angel Summer.

Hawick and Teviotdale get off to strong start

Swimming

By GRAHAM FORD
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

A summer of training and putting into practice the advice from their coaches paid dividends for members of Hawick and Teviotdale Amateur Swimming Club at the weekend.

Five girls – Stefani Holliday, Rosie Hunt, Arya Holmes, Hayden Holmes, and Peyton Corrie – travelled to Glenrothes on Sunday for the first meet of the new season, returning with a significant number of personal bests and three firsts.

A club spokesperson told *The Hawick Paper*: “This was the beginning of the race season for us, and the first competition after our summer break. All the girls swam strong and really put into practice what we have been working on in training.”

They added: “They all have things they know they have to work on in training.”

Hayden Holmes, who was



Stefani Holliday, Rosie Hunt, Arya Holmes, Hayden Holmes, and Peyton Corrie

first in her 100 metres front crawl and 50 metres front crawl, said: “I felt like I had a strong race. I worked on all areas of my swim, and I was pleased with the time, especially this early in the season.”

Peyton, who won her 50 metres backstroke and improved her PB by more than a second, commented: “My race was strong and I

got a good clean start and felt I was fast underwater.”

Results: Rosie Hunt – 50m fly, 3rd; 50 back, 2nd; 100m front crawl, 5th; 50m front crawl, 5th; 100m backstroke, 2nd. Stefani Halliday – 50m fly, 6th, new PB; 50m breaststroke, 2nd; 100m fly, 4th, new PB. Peyton Corrie – 50m backstroke, 1st, new PB; 100m backstroke, 5th, new

PB. Hayden Holmes – 50 fly, 2nd; 100m front crawl, 1st, new PB; 50 front crawl, 1st. Arya Holmes – 50 fly, 3rd, new PB; 100m front crawl, 8th.

■ The club is participating in the Borders championships at Galashiels on Sunday, while seven members are heading to Spain this month for training.

History-maker Cowan aims to rise to challenge

Floorball

By GRAHAM FORD
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Ellie Cowan is set to become the first Hawick Hawks player to turn out for the Great Britain Women's floorball team.

She will celebrate her 15th birthday the day before she lines up as part of the GB squad in the world championship qualifiers in Latvia next month.

The teenager earned her call-up just weeks after participating in a GB Ladies training weekend in Preston and clearly caught the eye of the national selectors. Cowan learned about her selection by email from Dean Smith, director of the Floorball National Teams, this week and will be in Latvia between November 9-15.

The GB side will face matches against France, Denmark and the hosts.

She told *The Hawick Paper*: “To be selected is very exciting, I feel really



Ellie Cowan

proud and honoured to represent GB. You can't play until you are 15, the day before the first game. So that will be a very different birthday.”

Cowan continued: “It has been a bit of a whirlwind finding out about the selection, I was delighted to read the email, we are now working out all the logistics of getting to Latvia and I am looking forward to this next challenge.”

Adding, she said: “The trip to Preston allowed me to meet the team and train with them and show off my skills, this has progressed to being picked into the squad.”

Fowler brace helps Albert overcome Tweedmouth

Football

Hawick Royal Albert 4
Tweedmouth Rangers 2

Royalists maintained their excellent recent form with a hard-earned victory over Tweedmouth Rangers at Albert Park on Saturday.

The hosts made a dream start in this East of Scotland Second Division Conference SE encounter, taking the lead inside two minutes when Ben Tracey curled a superb effort into the top corner.

Albert doubled their advantage shortly afterwards as Lewis Dyke reacted quickest to a loose ball and coolly slid his finish beyond Troy Gruter.

Midway through the half, Tweedmouth were handed a route back into the contest when they were awarded a penalty for

EAST OF SCOTLAND SECOND DIVISION CONFERENCE SE												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts					
Edinburgh United	8	6	2	0	28	18	20					
Linton Hotspur	9	6	0	3	24	17	18					
ROYAL ALBERT	8	5	2	1	22	15	17					
Tynecastle	8	4	2	2	20	14	14					
Arnisdon Rangers	9	4	1	4	29	21	13					
Ormiston Prim.	9	3	3	3	12	16	12					
Dalkeith Thistle	9	3	2	4	18	17	11					
T'mouth Rangers	10	3	2	5	13	23	11					
Edinburgh CFC	10	3	0	7	18	29	9					
Vale of Leithen	7	2	0	5	10	15	6					
Edinburgh Col.	9	1	2	6	11	28	5					

handball. Sam Straughan made no mistake from the spot, sending Jamie Newman the wrong way.

Newman then produced an excellent double save to preserve Albert's advantage.

However, Tweedmouth drew level on the stroke of half-time through Cammy Howdens, whose effort found the corner.

Albert emerged for the second half with renewed purpose and regained the

lead when Harry Fowler's strike beat Gruter with the aid of a deflection.

Chances were now limited, although Fowler went close with an effort from distance that Gruter touched around the post.

With ten minutes remaining, both sides were reduced to ten men after Miguel Freire and Robert Boyd were sent off following an altercation.

Tweedmouth almost equalised when Straughan struck the post with Newman beaten.

Albert secured the points in the closing minute when a Josh Davidson free-kick was flicked on by Dyke and struck a defender's hand. Fowler confidently converted the resulting penalty, before Straughan was dismissed after picking up a second yellow card in stoppage time.

2014s seal cup passage but 2013s exit in second round

HAWICK YOUTH FC

It was a day of mixed fortunes for Hawick Youth in Sunday's Inspire Scottish Youth FA Cup-ties, with the 2014s booking their place in round three while the 2013s bowed out.

The 2013s hosted The Reivers of Ancrum and Jedburgh at Volunteer Park and suffered a 6-1 defeat, although the scoreline did not reflect Hawick's competitive performance against opponents near the top of the division above the young Terries.

Kai Gobby opened the scoring for the visitors after reacting quickest to a clearance, but Hawick responded well and levelled when Harvey Wilson converted the rebound after an Ollie Lyall effort.

Although creating several good chances, the



Chris Cooper

home outfit fell behind again before the break as Jack Elliot put The Reivers back in front.

They took control in the second half, with Alexander Kay extending their lead and Elliot grabbing his second of the afternoon. Kerr Ferguson notched a counter and an own goal completed the scoring.

Despite the defeat, the hosts' Jake Elliot impressed in midfield.

The 2014s faced North Merchiston Blacks for the second successive week, this time at Albert Park, and produced an excellent 5-1 victory.

Chris Cooper fired Hawick into an early lead after good work from Harrison Lavery, before capitalising on a defensive error to double their advantage.

Cooper then completed his hat-trick finishing from a Thomas Douglas cross.

The visitors pulled one back ahead of the interval, and started the second period brightly, only to be frustrated by determined Hawick defending.

Joey Strathdee effectively settled the contest with a fine strike from the edge of the box after being set up by Cooper, and added a second late on following a goalmouth scramble.

United edge out Legion to go top of B Division table

Hawick United 2
Hawick Legion 1

By STEVEN ELLINS
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick United took the bragging rights with a well-merited victory over local rivals Hawick Legion at Wilton Lodge Park on Saturday – a result that saw the hosts climb to the top of the Border Amateur B Division table.

United burst out of the blocks and should have made more of an early opening when Tinashe Chitsike broke behind the Legion defence and squared for Martin Goldie, but the striker dragged his first-time effort well off target.

The same pair combined again moments later after Chitsike capitalised on a loose Calum Renwick pass and slipped Goldie through, only for the Legion goalkeeper to redeem himself with a smart save.

That chance sparked the visitors into life. Hamish Murray threaded a pass into Liam Durnan, who raced clear, but a heavy touch allowed Connor Shankie to gather comfortably.

United soon regained the initiative and Chitsike tested Renwick from a Ross Scott lay-off, before Colin Richardson rattled the crossbar with a powerful strike from distance.

A goal looked increasingly likely and, against the run of play, it arrived for Legion. Murray drove forward on the right and picked out Durnan, whose low delivery across the box was calmly steered into the corner by Jay McCracken.

The setback failed to knock United out of their rhythm, and Gavin Tait



Hawick United's Liam Hunter battles to keep Legion's Greg Ford out during the derby clash



United's Colin Richardson wins an aerial duel with Legion's Jack Turnbull

PICTURES: BRIAN SUTHERLAND

released Goldie, whose effort was blocked, before Liam Hunter found space inside the area only to be crowded out by recovering defenders.

Five minutes before the break the hosts deservedly drew level. Andrew Coyle's long pass sent Richardson racing through and, as he reached the ball ahead of Renwick, the goalkeeper brought him down.

Goldie stepped up and

confidently dispatched the penalty into the bottom corner to leave the sides level at the interval.

Legion started the second half brightly, with Blair Turner testing Shankie with a speculative effort that the keeper gathered at the second attempt.

United responded with Richardson and Goldie combining neatly to create space for Chitsike, but he blazed over from a promising position.

Chances continued to arrive at both ends, and Ben Murdoch nodded a Greg Ford free-kick over the bar, before McCracken controlled a Jack Turnbull pass and fired straight at Shankie.

Scott then found room on the edge of the area and flashed a dangerous ball across goal that was inches

beyond the reach of his team-mates.

At the other end, Wright picked out Turnbull at the back post, but Shankie reacted brilliantly to push his effort away for a corner. The resulting set-piece eventually dropped to McCracken, whose shot lacked power and was gathered comfortably.

Richardson then won possession high up the pitch and surged forward, only for Renwick to hold onto his driven effort. As the game entered its closing stages, Wright again caused problems down the left and his cross found Turnbull

arriving at pace, but he could only direct his effort over the bar.

The decisive moment arrived five minutes from time, with Scott pouncing on a misplaced pass, skipping beyond two challenges and drilling a low finish past Renwick to spark jubilant scenes among the home support.

Legion threw everything forward in the closing minutes and United were reduced to ten men when Stevie Lowe received two quick-fire yellow cards.

However, the hosts stood firm to secure a deserved derby day victory.

HAWICK UNITED: C. Shankie, C. Szzoneberg, A. Coyle, S. Lowe, K. Strathdee, G. Tait, R. Scott, L. Hunter, T. Chitsike, M. Goldie, C. Richardson. Subs: R. Cox, B. Hughes, M. Fofana, R. Patterson, M. Emeka, A. Harkness, J. Beattie.
HAWICK LEGION: C. Renwick, L. Durnan, J. Brockie, R. Olival, B. Murdoch, B. Turner, G. Ford, D. Ellins, H. Murray, J. McCracken, K. Wright. Subs: J. Turnbull, N. Chandler, C. James, M. Silveira, K. Brown, K. Wiffen, C. Murray.

BORDER AMATEUR B DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
HAWICK UNITED	9	6	0	3	34	21	18			
Tweedmouth Ams	7	4	3	0	22	7	15			
Langholm Legion	6	4	1	1	13	9	13			
St Boswells	8	3	2	3	18	23	11			
Gala Hotspur	5	3	1	1	21	9	10			
Selkirk Victoria	7	2	4	1	13	11	10			
Coldstream Ams	6	3	0	3	18	15	9			
HAWICK LEGION	7	2	2	3	17	10	8			
HAWICK WAV	7	2	2	3	16	19	8			
Reivers	7	1	4	2	10	13	7			
Lowick United	6	1	1	4	13	17	4			
Berwick Town	7	0	0	7	8	49	0			

Waverley aiming to end poor run of form

FROM PAGE 24
free weekend when they welcome The Reivers of Jedburgh & Ancrum in the Border Amateur B Division. Having lost their last three matches, coach Craig McCutcheon admitted: "Winning our home games is hugely important and

we need to start picking up points.
"We had a tough game [a 2-1 victory] away to The Reivers earlier in the season, so we know we'll have to perform well to take the win."
Charlie Hope and Aaron Swailes remain sidelined

through injury, but Waverley otherwise expect to have a strong squad available.
Buoyed by their derby success at the weekend, Hawick United welcome Newmains United Under-19s in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup.
Colin Richardson,

Michael Brownrigg and Louis Johnstone are unavailable for the Tangerines, while Stevie Lowe is suspended
Waverley and United are both at home at Wilton Lodge Park. Their matches kick off at 2pm. Hawick Legion have a free weekend.

■ In youth football, Hawick Youth 2013 travel to South Queensferry to face KSQ Galaxy in the second round of the South East Region Cup on Sunday. Kick-off is 2pm. Looking to climb the table, the 2014s host Edinburgh United Reds at Albert Park. Kick-off 10.30am.

Campbell hails his charges' work ethic

The Hawick Paper caught up with both managers after the final whistle following another hard-fought derby encounter – with United boss Alan Campbell delighted to see his side come out on top and felt the result was fully deserved.

"It was very satisfying to get one over our rivals," he said.

"I thought we played well and, if we'd been more composed in front of goal, we could have scored more."

He went on: "I felt Legion's goal came against the run of play and they didn't create many chances apart from a few breaks.

"A goal was always coming for us and our pressure led to the penalty.

"This group never stops working and I was confident at half-time that we'd get the job done.

"The players showed great character and determination throughout.

"There's still a long way to go in the season, but we're definitely moving in the right direction."

Legion manager Mick Murphy admitted his side were second best and felt the equalising penalty proved a pivotal moment in the contest.

"United deserved the three points, there's no doubt about that," he said. "We were off the pace and they took advantage."

Continuing, Murphy told us: "The penalty was a major turning point because if we'd reached half-time in front it would have given us a real lift."

Alluding to United's decisive strike, he added: "Credit to Ross Scott for taking his chance, but we have to be stronger in those situations.

"I'm looking for a big response over the next few weeks.

"A couple of wins can put us right back in the mix and we have the players capable of doing it. [But] we know standards have to improve."

Seven-try Harlequins see off spirited Leith Accies

Hk Harlequins 49
Leith Accies 24

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

Quins came out on top in a pulsating Arnold Clark East Sdivision Two fixture at Wilton Lodge Park on Saturday.

The hard-fought result against stuffy opponents maintains their positive start to the season.

In what were described as "good but windy conditions", the hosts had the elements at their backs in the first half.

But it was Leith who put the first points on the board, taking advantage of a mistake among the home ranks to link well between forwards and backs for an unconverted try.

The breach of the home defence provided the kickstart Quins needed and an initial burst by Elliot Stanger then saw Finlay Douglas breaking through a couple of defenders to score under the posts, making the extras a formality for Stuart Delaney.

The second score for Quins came out wide from Robbie Jack who benefited from the pace and athleticism of Douglas who arched round his opposite number, drew the full-back, before sending Jack in at the corner.

Two soon became three when Stanger chalked up a touchdown.

His effort was bookended by a couple of penalties from Delaney and a conversion to

make the turnaround score 27-5.

Soon after the restart, Douglas grabbed his second try of the afternoon which was unconverted. Leith quickly countered with a score or their own.

The Hawick outfit stuck to their task, though, with Fraser Casson pouncing at the corner after he expertly collected a grubber kick through.

Next to get his name on the scoresheet for Quins was Diarmuid McGuinness who powered over from close range, with Delaney adding the conversion.

While lesser teams may have caved in, Leith showed great fight and used the wind to their advantage to produce some strong carries, particularly through their number eight to bag their third try.

With the visitors continuing to look threatening, it was Finlay Douglas who gave Quins breathing space when notching his hat-trick. Not only did he break the defence, he then cleverly collected his own chip over the head of the opposing full-back.

Leith continued to press and earned their fourth score of the day, thus collecting a deserved bonus point.

Quins co-coach Neil Douglas told *The Hawick Paper*: "Notable mentions for Stephen Cook who was strong in attack and defence in his first full 80 minutes of the season.

"He was aided consistently by the carrying power of Aaron Redpath,



Quins danger man Finlay Douglas, with Fraser Casson following the play

Diarmuid McGuinness and Murray Renwick."

He added: "The centre partnership of Elliot Stanger and Finlay Douglas was a threat, causing the Leith midfield endless problems."

HAWICK QUINS: L. Graham, S. Cook, D. McGuinness, C. Lawson, A. Amos, A. Redpath, R. Cavers, M. Renwick (c), J. Wight, S. Delaney, R. Jack, E. Stanger, F. Douglas, E. Henderson, F. Casson. Subs: N. Murray, R. Kiore, C. Trotter, M. King D. Gillan, R. Philbin.

Ricki Kiore spearheads a Quins attack, while providing support are Cauley Trotter, left, and Robbie Jack



'Great spectacle' as Force record emphatic victory

Lasswade 2s 21
Hawick Force 95

The Force secured their second Arnold Clark East Region Reserve League Division 1 win with a comprehensive victory over Lasswade 2s at Poltonhall Recreation Ground on Saturday.

The victory lifts the Teries to third spot in the league table, just two points behind the leaders, Selkirk A.

The Force travelled

with a predominantly youthful squad, with the trip providing valuable game time and a chance for the players to build bonds on and off the field, fostering a strong sense of pride and togetherness.

The match began with the visitors enjoying the stiff wind at their backs. And they used the conditions to great effect, not only kicking for territorial advantage but also moving the ball with pace and purpose to cut through the home defence.

Six-try Dominik Kubicki was at the heart of Hawick's back division, running riot throughout.

By the interval the match was all but over as a contest with the young Greens leading by four tries to one, with Owain Gray converting all four.

Confidence continued to flow through the Force ranks with Connor Crawley leading the way, ably supported by Harris and Andrew Common who showed an array of tricks

and skills to keep the home defence guessing.

As the scoreboard continued to tick over, Lasswade, to their credit, added two more converted tries of their own.

The Hawick boys dominated proceedings, though, and frequently burst through last-ditch tackles to find the all-important gap, with Samuel Gbabeo and Dominik Wargaki particularly prominent.

A Hawick spokesperson said: "This was a great

spectacle and highly entertaining from whistle to whistle. All our team, including from the bench, played their part."

The Force's other try-scorers were Gbabeo (2), Riley Muir (2), Fergus Bell, Crawley, Eli Hamilton, Wargaki and Gray, who added a further six conversions in the second half.

■ The Force play high-flying Selkirk A tomorrow (Saturday) at Mansfield Park. Kick-off 3pm. **-GF**

Aberdeen away for on-form under-18s

Hawick Youth Under-18s head north to Aberdeen tomorrow (Saturday) for a National Youth Cup round three match with Aberdeen Grammar.

Head coach Garry Douglas told us on Tuesday: "We've had a really good start to the season and have won all our games so far."

He continued: "It's a long way to Aberdeen, so we'll need to make sure we prepare properly at training this week, both defensively and in attack, especially after the heavy win against North Berwick last week."

He continued: "There's some real competition for places across the squad just now, and that's been driving standards every week. We've also got Harris Pringle and Alex Cross coming back from injury, and both should be in contention for selection this week."

"The boys are pushing each other hard but, more importantly, they're enjoying their rugby and playing with smiles on their faces, which is what it's all about."

■ Last Friday night, the under-16s defeated Duns 52-10 at Castle Park in the Borders & East Lothian Town League.

Hawick try-scorers were Calum Stevenson (3), Cole Davidson, Koby Wilson, Murray McCuaig, Blair Pringle and Nathan Walsh. Davidson kicked five conversions and Harris Nichol one.

On Sunday, the 16s travel to South Ayrshire to play Carrick in the National Plate. Kick-off 2pm.

■ Meanwhile, after Berwickshire under-15s arrived with only seven players at Volunteer Park on Saturday, they conceded the match.

Hawick were awarded a 28-0 win, with 29 boys able to get a run-out in a training game. The 15s will hope for a full game tomorrow (Saturday) at Melrose. Kick-off 10am

■ Sunday's Hawick Youth car wash raised just over £500. The club would like to thank Autoshine Car Wash for use of their premises.

-GA

‘Massive effort’ at Balgray secures Hawick victory

**Glasgow Hawks 19
Hawick 43**

By GARY ALEXANDER
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

After two successive defeats, Hawick returned to winning ways on Saturday in the west end of Glasgow as they ultimately stretched away from Hawks to clinch a 24-point victory.

Their success at Balgray was largely down to a dominant second-half performance, and a total of seven tries meant they returned home with a full house of five match points.

While it was a confidence-boosting victory, it wasn't enough to move them up from their pre-match position of eighth in the Arnold Clark Premiership.

However, it did extend the gap on the two teams below, namely Edinburgh Accies and Hawks, the latter remaining winless so far.

After a scratchy opening

spell containing too many errors from both sides, Hawks opened the scoring through full-back Euan Muirhead.

It was a stunning individual try starting deep in Hawks' half, Muirhead reclaiming his own kick ahead, then showing pace and power to make light of the Greens' cover defence.

Hawks then increased their advantage when wing-forward Craig Nolan bashed through the Robbie Dyes' attempted tackles.

With David McCartney adding the conversion, the city side led 12-0 and Hawick's character and resolve was being thoroughly tested.

The Greens rose to the challenge, particularly through their pack who began to carry and recycle ball well.

Following a sustained period in the home 22, lock Tom Huggan got over the line to put Hawick on the scoreboard.

After a couple of scoring opportunities were spurned

by Hawks, Hawick tied the scores.

It stemmed from a break by centre Andrew Mitchell, who was starting to impose himself on the game, and Ryan Flett being shown a yellow card for a deliberate knock-on when attempting to intercept.

Hawick opted for a tap-penalty and prop Nicky Little bagged the try which was converted by full-back Harry Wear.

The Greens continued to hold the upper hand which was strengthened when Nolan became the second Hawk in the bin.

Somehow the Robbie Dyes couldn't take advantage with their opponents down to 13, but they did eventually score after Flett had returned and Hawks were back up to 14.

Winger Ronan McKean made the running, found Jae Linton in support and the number eight went over for a try converted by Wear.

Turning around 19-12 ahead, Hawick looked to extend their lead but it was

Hawks who struck first in the second period.

Hawick's defence initially held firm but, after stopping Hawks short, they couldn't prevent replacement prop Kyle Shannahan who thundered over. McCartney's kick levelled matters at 19-all.

Once again, the Greens upped the ante, especially in the forwards, and it was experienced prop Shawn Muir who touched down to put his team back in front.

The advantage was extended by McKean thanks to great lead up play by scrum-half Liam Bouglas, making his first league start in a green jersey. Wear landed the conversion.

Hawks made every effort to strike back but it was Hawick who went over for a sixth time when Mitchell had the legs to run in after the Greens snapped up a loose Hawks pass. Wear was again on target with the extras.

With the last play of the game, McKean scored his

second try of the day, and Hawick's seventh, to put the gloss on an important win for the Robbie Dyes.

Scorer of Hawick's first try, Tom Huggan, was another making his first league start of the season.

The lock told us: "It was great to finally get playing after five weeks on the sidelines with a meniscus injury picked up against Stirling County in pre-season.

"I can't thank the physio team at Mansfield enough for everything they've done to get me back out there.

"It was brilliant to be involved on Saturday and get the win, especially after last week's loss [against GHA].

Huggan added: "The boys showed a great reaction and put in a massive effort to bounce back."

HAWICK: H. Wear, J. Vevers, R. Stanger, A. Mitchell, R. McKean, C. Riddell, L. Bouglas; S. Muir, F. Renwick, N. Little, H. Donaldson, T. Huggan, C. Sutherland, S. Graham, J. Linton. Subs: J. Brown, R. Huntley, J. Henry, M. Swailes, N. Vevers, G. Welsh, Z. Glanville.



Hawick drive forward at Balgray, asking plenty of questions of the Glasgow Hawks defence

Full-back Wear enjoying breakthrough season

Playing a key role in Hawick's victory over Glasgow Hawks on Saturday was last season's Hawick Youth Under-18s captain, Harry Wear.

The 18-year-old told *The Hawick Paper*: "I felt like the game went well and it was good to win comfortably in the end."

Having played at stand-off in Hawick's first league match of the season against Heriot's, Wear has since turned out at full-back in their four subsequent games.

Talking of his transition into senior rugby, he continued: "I'm settling in really well and enjoying it

loads. Challenging myself at adult rugby and playing full-back has been different as I've not played there too often.

"The boys around me have made it easier to slip into that role [though] and I've enjoyed getting a bit more time and space with the ball."

Wear contributed eight points to Hawick's tally at Balgray from the kicking tee with four successful conversions.

He reflected: "Saturday was my first time kicking goals for the men's team and it was quite nerve-racking.

"I actually missed the

first one but then, once one went over, I felt a lot calmer."

Wear and his team-mates have no game tomorrow (Saturday) as their match with Currie Chieftains has been cancelled following the death earlier this week of former Currie player and coach, Ally Donaldson. – GA

GREEN ZONE

THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HAWICK RFC



After the disappointing home defeat to GHA Hawick bounced back with an emphatic away win over Glasgow Hawks on Saturday.

■ Sadly, tomorrow's game with league leaders Currie Chieftains has been postponed due to the untimely passing of Currie stalwart Ally Donaldson. Hawick RFC extend condolences to all at Malleny Park.

A date for the rescheduled fixture will be announced in due course.

The hospitality lunch which was due to precede the game has been cancelled – but there will be walk-in lunches.

■ The Force, after their big win at Lasswade on Saturday, entertain Selkirk A tomorrow at 3pm. Come down to Mansfield and watch the next generation of Robbie Dyes. There will be a bucket collection.

■ Congratulations to the Greens players who have been selected for the South squad for this season's inter-district championship – Hughie Donaldson, Nicky Little, Jae Linton, Andrew Mitchell, Shawn Muir, Fraser Renwick and Connor Sutherland.

■ Congratulations also to Lana Skeldon on her 90th appearance for Scotland Women which takes her into second place in their all-time capped list. She is now Hawick's second most capped internationalist behind Stuart Hogg. It is good to see Stuart getting game time for Montpellier in the French Top 14 competition.

■ Advance notice: Hawick's Premiership game at Poynder Park has been moved from Saturday, December 5, to Friday, December 4, with a 7.30pm kick-off. This has been agreed to accommodate Kelso's 150th anniversary celebrations on the Saturday.

– IL



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Skeldon's pride as Australia awaits

Hawick's Lana Skeldon is now Scotland Women's second most capped player after making her 90th appearance against Australia at The Hive in Edinburgh on Saturday, **Gary Alexander writes.**

The 32-year-old told *The Hawick Paper*: "I'm incredibly proud to be second behind Donna Kennedy [115 caps] as she's an inspirational character, rugby player and human being."

"To be somewhat close to her in any way shape or form is just a bit of disbelief for me to be honest."



Lana Skeldon

Talking of the game which Scotland lost 30-10 after being 10-5 ahead at the interval, Skeldon said: "First-half I thought we came out well, played some fantastic bits of rugby, and then unfortunately the second half just got away from us a bit."

"We've got an opportunity to right the wrongs in the next two games."

"I think as a squad we're improving each week and I'm just super-excited to see where we manage to get if we get an 80-minute performance together."

The games the hooker refers to are also against the Aussies on October 17 and 23 in Sydney and Canberra respectively.

Skeldon added: "I'm aiming to be heading out to Australia next month."

"To go there would be an incredible experience as I've never been to Australia so it would be one of those pinch-me moments."

Scott strikes to settle town derby

PICTURE: BRIAN SUTHERLAND



Ross Scott celebrates his winning goal as Hawick United beat local rivals Hawick Legion 2-1 at Wilton Lodge Park on Saturday

MATCH REPORT ON PAGE 21

Royalists targeting statement victory

By **STEVEN ELLINS**
sport@thehawickpaper.co.uk

Hawick Royal Albert host leaders Edinburgh United in a top-of-the-table clash at Albert Park on Saturday.

The visitors sit three points clear at the summit of the East of Scotland Second Division Conference SE, but victory for the Albert would see them draw level and further enhance their own title credentials.

"Edinburgh deserve a lot of respect," manager Kenny Aitchison said. "They've started the season really well, remain unbeaten and have scored plenty of goals. That said, we'll be going out to win. We want to be aggressive, play on the front foot and create chances."

"We're not going to leave ourselves exposed, but we're certainly not going to sit back either. Hopefully we can impose ourselves, make things difficult for them and get the result we want."

Hawick's Bob Boyd and Dylan Hamilton are suspended, while Josh Davidson and Kane Weir miss out through work commitments. Ayoola Olusoji and Callum Barnett remain injury doubts.

Kick-off is 2.30pm.

Elsewhere, Hawick Waverley return after a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Rivalry resumes again as Quins face Linden

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

Tomorrow (Saturday), Harlequins and Linden will go head-to-head at Wilton Lodge Park for the second time in quick succession.

A fortnight ago, Quins edged a ding-dong affair 31-24 in the National Shield, while tomorrow's encounter is in Arnold Clark East Division Two.

The Baker Street side sit top of the table with a full 15 points from their three matches, while Linden are without a point but have

played a game less.

The form book favours Quins whose co-coach Fred Stevenson told us: "We're looking forward to it after there being a real buzz at the Shield game."

"It was great to see both teams really enjoying each other's company in the clubrooms after that last game which shows there is life in junior rugby still."

"It was a real Hawick derby last time out and both teams will be hoping to stick closer to their game plan this time round."

He added: "However, that is easier said than done in a



Fred Stevenson

derby environment.

"The game is another challenge for the Quins lads."

Echoing his counterpart, Linden head coach, Keith Hedley, said: "Two weeks



Keith Hedley

ago was a really physical, hard-fought battle on the pitch, a proper derby."

"I was really impressed with how our boys rallied into the wind and, on the full-time whistle, we were

attacking their line and not far away from taking the game into extra-time."

He continued: "After the match the boys socialised and mingled in the clubrooms well into the night and that is what rugby is all about."

"It was really encouraging and I really liked that but obviously come three o'clock on Saturday, that'll be put aside for a couple of hours again."

"We're looking forward to another hard-fought battle up the park with a really good support again and both touchlines full."



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