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SOUTHERN REPORTER

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DISTRICT NEWS

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people, who died in the siege, lie in mass graves. The veterans attended a dinner given by their Russian hosts. The British and American embassies also hosted receptions for the visitors. There were visits to a ballet a naval schools to meet the students. The next meeting features a talk on champion motorcycle Jimmy Guthrie.

Carriage driving

Academy pupil Finlay MacRae, who lives at Eskdalemuir, gained fourth place at a national carriage driving championships after winning the junior points qualifier for southern Scotland. The 13-year-old learned to drive at Chariots of Fire, near Boreland. He was intermediate junior points winner in the winter series of indoor carriage driving competitions at Greenlands Equestrian Centre, Carlisle. The south of Scotland championships had five indoor events covering the disciplines of dressage, comes and obstacles, and Finlay won three first places, a second and fourth, which qualified him for the indoor carriage driving UK national championships at Bedford. He came fourth in the intermediate junior class with his pony, Watson.

Rowing

Olympic rowing champion Kat Copeland will continue her partnership with Charlotte Taylor after they were named in the GB rowing team for the European championships which will take place next month. Kat, from Stockton-on-Tees, has relatives in Langholm, and her grandparents, John and Irene Copeland, were born in the town. Grandfather John played for the championship-winning rugby side of 1958/59.

LAUDER

Ina Kerr evening

An evening of flowers, songs and verse was held in Lauder Church. The theme was "Faith with Flowers", by Joyce Kilmer. This event was in memory of Ina Kerr, a faithful guild member and elder.

Community survey

Many thanks to the 300-plus Lauder residents who found time to complete and return the Big Question postcards. The community council has begun collating the returns, to be followed by two public meetings - on May 12 and 19 - details will be published by the end of April. The results will be available by early June.

Queen's birthday

Calling all talent from nine-10 years of age. A Lauder-based programme to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on June 12 is being drawn up. Organisers are looking for locals to

The Margaret Kerr Unit

the difference

£500

Teviotdale Young Farmers' Club members have presented a £500 cheque to the Margaret Kerr Unit at Borders General Hospital. This follows the completion of a 14-mile charity onesie walk from Jedburgh to Hawick, via Ruberslaw, in January in the snow.

perform. Names should be given to graeme.donald@btopenworld.com, or by phone - 01578 722422.

Church guild

A good turnout of members attended the April meeting. Christine conducted the AGM and reports were by the treasurer and secretary. The committee was re-elected, with the addition of Sheila Lowe. The ladies brought along various memorabilia to talk about. This was followed by a lovely afternoon tea, served by the committee. The outing on April 16 was to Merry Hatton Garden Centre.

MELROSE

Parish church

In moving short ceremonies, Colin Armstrong was ordained an elder at Bowden Kirk, and at Melrose a group of new members were welcomed into the fellowship of the church. Activities - Melrose Clean-Up Week (Val Miller on 822758); April 21 - 2.30pm, guild, Butterflies with M. Lindsay; April 23 - April Music at Trinity; April 24 - services at Bowden (9.30am) and Melrose (11am).

Trimontium

The season is under way with the schools going back this week, and the trust is looking for new volunteers to keep the show on the road. The first

lecture of the spring series is today (Thursday) when Dr John Reid, fresh from his talk in York on the "left boot" Roman spur found recently at Trimontium, reveals the discoveries from last summer's excavation at Burnswark in Dumfriesshire, covering three types of sling bullets, a ballista ball and three unexploded bombs from the Second World War. On April 28, Dr James Bruhn deals with "Glass Bangles" - found on every Roman site. On Tuesday last week, 32 tourists from The Wirral came to the museum after visiting Abbotsford.

MOREBATTLE

SWI

President Mary Pringle welcomed everyone to the April meeting and introduced Emma Emmerson, from Woodside Gardens, Ancrum, who gave an informative talk on the care of plants etc., while planting up a spring pot arrangement. Janette Stenhouse gave the vote of thanks. Competitions - foliage arrangement - 1, Margaret Blackmore; 2, Helen Cessford; 3, Brenda Dixon; plant holder - 1, Brenda Dixon; 2, Marian Dumma; 3, Helen Cessford. The Anne Wallace competition for a clootie dumpling was won by Mary Pringle who goes forward to the next round at the H&H rally.

Resilience Exercise

A resilience exercise was carried out on Sunday when the resilience group joined police and Borders Search and Rescue to locate the pilot from a plane which had crashed nearby, bringing down electricity cables and cutting off power to the village. A drop-in centre was formed in the village hall where hot drinks and food were supplied. A debriefing session followed.

Queen's birthday

A meeting was held to make arrangements to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday - to be held on June 12. Discussions were held and it was agreed to hold a garden party at the Templehall Hotel/village hall. Details to follow.

NEWTOWN

On the road

Borders Vintage Automobile Club members will take to the road in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care on Sunday, April 24. They will gather at Milestone Garden Centre car park before setting off at 10am for a scenic run with a lunch stop en route. This annual "Drive It Day" is supported by the Federation of Historic British Vehicle Clubs and encourages all members of motoring clubs in the UK to take to the open roads to maintain the freedom to use their vehicles without

restrictions or permits, as is the case in many EU countries. The club invites the public to join members - and others who own a classic, vintage or quirky car - and make a contribution to Marie Curie Cancer Care. For more information, contact Ken Grimes on 07831 402839.

OXNAM

Library cafe

The next library cafe is on April 27 in Oxnam Hall, 11am till noon.

ST BOSWELLS

Coffee morning

A coffee morning with a variety of local craft stalls will be held in St Boswells Village Hall on Saturday, April 23, from 10am to 1pm, in aid of Maxton and Mertoun Church funds. Other stalls include homebaking and jams, books, tombola etc. Admission £2 - includes tea/coffee and home-made traybakes.

STOW

Car boot sale

Stow Kids' Club and the school will benefit from a car boot sale being held on the quilting green on Saturday, April 30 (1-4pm). For more details and to book a space, contact Jemma Macvie at jemma@jemmaireid.co.uk.

TRAQUAIR

Service

The service on April 24 starts at 10am.

WALKERBURN

Service

The next service in Walkerburn Public Hall will be on May 15 at 10am.

YETHOLM

Council

Community councillors will hold their AGM and monthly meeting on April 26, starting at 6.30pm.

Quiz night

The last quiz night of the Plough Hotel season will be held on April 27 at 8pm. Proceeds of this quiz will go to the history society. The new season starts in September.

Sinfonia

Yetholm Sinfonia will perform on April 30 at 7.30pm in Coldstream Community Centre. Tickets from Hector Innes or at the door on the night.

Magic show

Wauchope Hall presents Morgan and West on April 30 at 7pm. The time-travelling magicians' "Parlour Tricks" is fun for all ages. Tickets are available from the village shop or Susan Stewart.

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The Weekend

Garden gates thrown open

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PLUS: Your essential what's on where guide

Musical fusion in Bowden concert

Borders musicians Paul Chamberlain and Michael Haywood are releasing their debut album 'First Impression' with a concert in Bowden Village Hall on Friday April 29.

With a fresh take on world music Paul (accordion) and Michael (saxophone/violin/whistle/clarinet) take their instruments on an international tour - enjoy the sultry sounds of the Tango, the rhythmic drive of the Balkans, along with rip-roaring tunes from Russia and Scotland. With their virtuoso playing and fresh musical ideas, Paul and Michael explore the potential of their instruments in a way that is exciting and engaging. They take the strength of each instrument's traditions and blend them into their own unique brand of fusion music. The result is a vibrant, intriguing and occasionally explosive mix of music that crosses cultural boundaries.

Paul grew up in Bowden and his father was the peripatetic violin teacher in the Borders schools for many years, whilst Michael who originally hails from Lockerbie has now settled in the Borders and teaches music at Earlsdon High School. United by a common interest in traditional music, they bring together Michael's jazz-influenced style and Paul's classical training, to create a dynamic album bursting with energy.

Tickets for the concert are £8 for adults, U-16s free, available at the door on the night. More information is available at www.chamberlain-haywood.com

Martin Simpson, who plays Selkirk's String Jam Club on Saturday and Eyemouth's Hippodrome on Sunday, has had more nominations in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards than any other performer.

Simpson's quite simply the best of the best

String Jam Club at the County Hotel in Selkirk welcomes back "one of the UK's finest folk musicians" (Sunday Times) this Saturday, April 23, for what promises to be one of its highest profile concerts of the season.

Folk giant Martin Simpson is widely acknowledged as one of the best acoustic and slide guitar players in the world. His interpretations of traditional songs are masterpieces of storytelling, and his solo shows are intense, eclectic, spellbinding and deeply moving. This is a musician at the height of his powers with an enviable reputation as "the best of the best".

Martin has been nominated an astounding and unprecedented 27 times in the 15 years of the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards - more than any other performer. This includes nine consecutive years as nominee for Musician of The Year, which he has now won twice.

In 2008 he received an incredible five nominations for 'Prodigal Son' and two wins, whilst in 2010 he had an incredible six nominations for his CD, 'True Stories' and a win for Best Traditional Track, 'Sir Patrick Spens'.

His career includes collaborations on stage and record with Richard Hawley, Richard Thompson, June Tabor, Kelly Joe Phelps, Jackson Browne, Danny Thompson, Danu, Martin Carthy, Cara Dillon, David

Lindley, Roy Bailey, Martin Taylor, David Hidalgo, Steve Miller, Dick Gaughan, Dom Flemons and many more - far too many to mention here.

In 2015 he started working in a new trio with Andy Cutting and Nancy Kerr; they have already released an album together, 'Murmurs', to wide critical acclaim. He is currently working on new material for his next solo album.

Whether playing American old-time music, blues,

a Dylan song or his own material, Martin Simpson is unpredictable, individual and a guitarist of immense subtlety.

Tickets are £15. Call the County Hotel or phone 01750 721233 (credit card bookings incur a 50p transaction fee).

Martin will also be appearing at Eyemouth Hippodrome on Sunday, April 24 at 8pm. Tickets £12.50. Call 01890 750099 to book, or see eyemouthhippodrome.org

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