

## Made it to Crufts

Holm terriers to compete in top event

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## Brockley sisters shine in Sheffield

Personal bests beaten for Langholm athletes

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# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8535

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# Unprecedented financial challenges for NHS D&G

Chief Executive, Jeff Ace makes a statement in light of expected £35 million budget deficit

At our public Board meeting today, NHS Dumfries and Galloway's very stark financial situation was set out frankly, and in considerable detail.

Although this situation is not unique to Dumfries and Galloway, with most other health boards in Scotland facing a similar position, we have a responsibility to deliver a balanced financial budget so it is vitally important that we inform the public about the scale of the challenge that we face.

It is expected that our opening financial position in April 2024 will be a deficit of £35 million. Without any cost savings being made, this overspend could potentially rise to around £54 million at the end of March 2025 because of inflation, growing patient need and increasing costs involved in providing treatment and care. This is clearly unsustainable.

A robust financial savings plan is required to address this situation, which comes on top of several consecutive years of what have already been challenging times for NHS Dumfries and Galloway.

NHS Dumfries and Galloway have agreed with Scottish Government that we are required to reduce the deficit to £25 million by the end of March 2025 which equates to achieving savings of £29 million within the coming financial year.



STARK SITUATION: NHS Dumfries and Galloway Chief Executive, Jeff Ace

This will be a very difficult target to meet, representing about 8% per cent of NHS Dumfries and Galloway's base-line budget.

Unfortunately, we have no option but to progress towards the achievement of these necessary savings, and it is important that we are open and honest with our population and our staff, and that they understand the scale of this challenge.

While we will do everything

we can to mitigate the impact, we recognise that our services will feel different for our staff, patients and communities.

It is still too early to be able to describe the detail of how these savings will be achieved. The scale of the savings means that a very large amount of work is required to deliver the agreed target. These savings are likely to impact on our workforce, our infrastructure and our ways of delivering services.

However, the Board has committed to keep staff, public and partner agencies up to date with the progress towards this savings target, and there will be regular updates to Board throughout the year.

Organisationally, we will seek to continue our engagement with staff and communities about how we can best deliver services in the face of this unprecedented challenge.

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## Murrayfield gig for Langholm Town Band

Five members of Langholm Town Band took up Whitburn Band's offer to play with them at Murrayfield for the Scotland vs France International last Saturday.

Mungo Mann and John, Christine, Ashleigh and Josh Calvert met the rest of the band at 9.30 am in the 'tunnel' to start rehearsals. All the pre-match entertainment is well rehearsed before kick-off.

After a short rest the band played the French team bus into Murrayfield and around to the changing room entrance.

On the pitch the band played The Proclaimers 500 Miles as Princess Anne was introduced to both teams then played the French National Anthem before the spine-tingling Flower of Scotland.

Christine said, "Hearing the surround sound standing on the pitch while playing to 67,000+ crowd makes a long, tiring day, well worth it".

# Family Announcements

## Deaths

### BARBOUR, Jean Cowan

Suddenly at the Cumberland Infirmary aged 79. Beloved wife of Bill, loving mother to Robert. A Graveside service will be held in Langholm Cemetery on Tuesday 20th February at 12 noon. Refreshments thereafter in the Eskdale Hotel. Family flowers only, donations if desired will go to Canonbie Surgery. Friends and Family respectfully invited.

Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896 557941

### JOHNSTONE, Irene

Peacefully at home on Saturday 3rd February 2024. Beloved daughter of the late Clark and Mary, and a much loved cousin and friend. Funeral service to be held in Canonbie United Parish church on Thursday 22nd February at 12 noon thereafter to Carlisle Crematorium to which all friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if desired, to Canonbie Surgery and Canonbie United Parish church.

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## Church Notices

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### LANGHOLM, ESKDALEMUIR, EWES & WESTERKIRK PARISH CHURCHES

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# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012  
 Editor Alan Weatherstone Features Editor Gilly Fraser  
 All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

## Letters to the Editor

Send yours to: E&L Advertiser, 47A High St, Langholm DG13 0JH or email: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

### Caroline St. concerns

I refer to your excellent article of 8th February reporting that council officials have evidently inspected the Caroline Street wall/banking deeming it to be "stable" and "safe".

Local residents have not been consulted by the council and are questioning whether there has been a proper inspection.

Many users of this road do not feel "safe".

For example cyclists and equestrians riding from the Suspension bridge heading towards Moodlaw Point face motors forcing them onto a steep camber into the gutter ending up against the railings.

Drivers heading from Moodlaw Point towards the Suspension bridge feel themselves on a slant! Buses and various wagons regularly use this route. The weight of heavy vehicles makes the situation much worse than ever.

There are drivers going far too fast, some using the street as a ratrun.

The increased popularity of new park playground is happening just at a point where Lizzie's Entry forms a kind of crossroad. This demands new measures for pedestrian and children's safety. A zebra crossing has been suggested.

So while a civil engineering matter it is also a road safety issue linked with the crumbling road surface, the leaning railings and slipping foundations.

All of this needs urgent action.

The E&L article says our councillors are now "pushing for a site meeting".

So we ask when is the meeting to be held and will members of the public be consulted?

Bill Telfer  
 Caroline Street

#### Editorial Note:

The E&L has been informed that a site meeting has been organised for Wednesday, 28th February at 11am. Residents are invited to attend, meet at the Church Bridge

### Memories of dances long-gone

The feature covering weddings of old in Langholm, and particularly the "dancer from T'e'iothead" reminded me of another famous dancer from my youth.

About twice a year in the late 1950s dances at Buccleuch Hall would be graced by the presence of Jock Dalrymple, a shepherd from around Hermitage.

He would cycle into Langholm, probably after lamb sales, accompanied by his faithful collie and after suitable refreshment in a local hostelry would appear at the dance, leaving his bike and dog at the door.

Jock's dancing shoes were a pair of 'herd's boots, complete with turned up toes and a the soles full of tackets and he would perform his very own tapdances in front of the stage, to the music of the Tarras Valley or Eskdaleonians dance bands, all the while with a huge grin on his face. His weatherbeaten face (which it was rumoured, didn't have much association with soap and water!) remains etched in my memory and was always topped by his bunnet, which was never removed.

After a few dances he would set off for home with bike and dog and must have been a sight to behold by anyone driving up Ewes in the dark.

Jim Graham  
 Clydebank

## Draconian government cuts will affect rural areas the most

> From Page 1

The E&L asked Councillor Denis Male to comment on the news that NHS Dumfries and Galloway are facing a £35m deficit.

"It is concerning that Health Boards across Scotland, and our Integrated Joint Board of Community Health and Social Care are being starved of the finances they need to run the services. The draconian finance cuts hits areas like Dumfries and Galloway harder because rural areas are spread over greater distances which means the cost-of-service delivery is greater.

"We have seen here in our own local area how services have been

withdrawn to the larger population centre of Annan. However, I am hopeful that the discussions that are ongoing with health staff about our situation can be positive.

"The sub group that was to be set up following the December meeting with Health Board officials, the Community Council and working with the Langholm Alliance a meeting will be held on 27th February to start a dialogue with the Health Board and this has to be a positive step and one we must build on.

### Murtholm

"I know the Health Board are still expecting the Murtholm Project will be completed for them

to take over part of the scheme for extra sheltered care by summer 2025."

One of the main questions that will be asked in all this is "Where does the Thomas Hope Hospital stand in all this, is it safe?"

Councillor Male added: "To reassure the public, a meeting was held with John Galloway of the Community Council, senior members of the Health Board and myself where it was confirmed that the Thomas Hope Hospital is a much needed and under-utilised resource in this very rural area and I left that meeting with the feeling that the Thomas Hope Hospital is as safe as it can be for the moment."



It is hoped that the inevitable cuts will not affect the Thomas Hope any further

# My Funny Valentine

“Give me one dozen roses, put my heart in beside them...”

Did you know that the average spend on Valentine’s Day 2024 is £50 per person and it is believed that the UK is predicted to spend over £1.5 billion on Valentine’s Day? But how many of our readers remember writing rhymes on Valentine’s cards they sent to their sweethearts. We remember teenagers in our day having a huge stock of them. In the office we came up with a few that we can remember as well as some other things we wrote on cards.

*I love you I love you I  
love you almighty  
I wish your pyjamas were  
next to my nightie  
Don't be mistaken, don't  
be misled  
I meant on the clothesline  
and not in the bed!*

Another one we remember  
*Roses are red,  
Violets are blue  
This is to say  
That I love you.*

SWALK was what we usually put on the back of the envelope – which stands for ‘Sealed With A Loving Kiss’. Some of them could be very rude. We’d love our

readers to send us the cleaner rhymes so that we can publish them next week

The price of red roses goes up to ridiculous heights for Valentine’s Day. On Ebay you can pay £84 for a dozen red roses to send your love while Interflora will do a ‘same day delivery’ red rose bouquet for £116. Or, from the same company you can have fifty red roses at £227.

We blame Robert Burns for the association of red roses with love! But remember, your loved one will appreciate flowers any day of the year as love is not just for the 14th February.



## Love your loo too this Valentine’s

Scottish residents are being urged to show their loo some love this Valentine’s Day, by tackling costly leaks.

A leaky loo can waste up to 400 litres of water per day – the equivalent of five bathtubs – and add around £300 per year to the average water bill if left unfixed, for those on a water meter.

A constant trickle of water down the back of the toilet pan is a tell-tale sign of a leak.

Many water companies offer free leak-detection strips to help households detect hidden leaks, as well as other free water-saving devices.

However, research by WaterSafe, the national register of approved plumbers, shows only seven per cent of Scots have taken up this free support, compared to a UK average of 24 per cent.

Julie Spinks, Director of WaterSafe, says: “A leaking toilet can be surprisingly hard to spot, but costly if you don’t put it right quickly.

“Luckily, help is at hand as many water companies offer free leak-detection strips, as well as other devices to help you save water and money.

“These paper strips are stuck to the back of the toilet bowl and left in place for several hours, or overnight.

“If the paper is wet or torn after this time, the toilet is leaking, and customers should contact a WaterSafe-approved plumber to fix it.”

## New Tellys and tables for the Thomas Hope



Friends of the Thomas Hope present staff with the new equipment

Friends of the Thomas Hope have bought the following items with donations received: new television sets for patient rooms which were kindly installed by Mick Abbott free of charge. New examination couches for Langholm Health Centre were also purchased.



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## Potholes praise

Potholes are the bane of every road-user's life, but it seems Scottish Border Council is doing more than most other local authorities to resolve the problem. Figures just released show that SBC spent nearly £10m on pothole repairs over the past three years.

The authority also paid out nearly £17,500 in compensation claims for vehicles damaged by potholes since 2022.

Last year it was announced that new machinery described as 'game-changing' had helped repair 700 potholes on Borders roads in just a few months.

The JCB Pothole Pro can carry out repairs in less than eight minutes, which is four times faster than traditional methods and at half the price.

SBC is one of four local authorities in Scotland to use the machinery - the others being Fife, North Lanarkshire and Highlands.

Between October and December last year, the RAC was called to 30,000 pothole-related incidents nationally - the highest recorded figures in seven years.

## Bridge results

N/S - 1, George & Brenda Bullamore, 2, George Graham & Scott Muir, 3, Lorraine Morton & Avril Bannatyne.

E/W - 1, Anne Ferguson & Nancy McLure, 2, Jim Muir & Alison Mullock, 3, Louise Grierson & Janet Ivison.

# Join the team and help out the NHS this year

## More than 200 people already spend time volunteering in D&G

**NHS Dumfries and Galloway is looking for volunteers to help out in wards at hospitals across the region, with a recruitment evening planned later this month.**

More than 200 people in Dumfries and Galloway already spend some time each week, helping patients, family members and visitors. It's hoped that the event at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary on the evening of Monday 26th February will bring more along to join them.

Whether providing peer support or just chatting with patients, ward volunteers improve patients' experience in hospital, reduce isolation and loneliness, and complement the work of nursing and health care staff.

Margaret McGroggan is the volunteer co-ordinator for NHS Dumfries and Galloway, and she said:

"We are so grateful to our volunteers who come from all walks of life who have taken on a range of roles from care of older people to Breastfeeding Peer Support.

"They are highly valued and as an organisation we are committed

to providing the best possible volunteering experience.

"The role of a Ward Volunteer is really rewarding and will help reduce isolation and loneliness for patients. This can be done through having a chat with patients, taking part in activities, for example playing cards, crosswords and providing a cuppa.

"For anyone who is considering becoming a ward volunteer there is so much to be gained from being part of this programme."

Anyone interested in becoming a ward volunteer at DGRI or another hospital in Dumfries and Galloway should attend the event at DGRI from 6pm to 7.30pm on Monday 26th February.

To register for the event, email [dg.volunteering2@nhs.scot](mailto:dg.volunteering2@nhs.scot) before the end of Thursday 22nd February.

For more information, or if you are not able to attend the event, email

[dg.volunteering2@nhs.scot](mailto:dg.volunteering2@nhs.scot) or visit the NHS DG Volunteering web page

[www.nhsdg.co.uk/volunteering/](http://www.nhsdg.co.uk/volunteering/)



REWARDING: Ward volunteers at DGRI (top) and Midpark Hospital

# Some positive growth at The Hope

**After a difficult winter it's always uplifting to see signs of spring.**

In one notable spot, Langholm's re-greening is in prospect at a prime, listed site in the heart of the town.

The Thomas Hope Hospital has a central place in Muckle Tooners' history, heritage and in their hearts

It was a sad day in October last year when Thomas Hope Hospital lost its trees. As the only stand of mature trees in the High Street area they have a special mention in Langholm's Conservation Area Statement, and are protected by D&G planning regulations.

Their felling took an axe to the Toon's visual amenity as the 32 mixed species trees and bushes enjoyed by residents and visitors for decades were cut down.

Now, however as spring approaches, the new NHS planting scheme has brought half a dozen new deciduous trees to this focal point in the town. The planting includes *Fagus sylvatica*, of the beech family plus some willow-variety specimens.

It is hoped that before too long, David Street will recover its handsome green outlook once again with added golden charm from the beech in autumn.



New beech trees line the fence at The Thomas Hope Hospital

# Kelso races promise a couple of crackers

Stuart Edmonds is hoping for his first Kelso winner on Friday when he saddles Arizona Cardinal in the £22,500 Racing's Best Ratings With Time-form Handicap Chase over nearly 2m 6f.

The trainer, who is based near Newport Pagnell in Buckinghamshire, has previously only had one runner at the Borders venue. Arizona Cardinal, likely to be partnered by Ciaran Gethings in the afternoon's feature contest, has been raised a reasonably lenient 5lbs after a convincing four and three-quarter length strike at Leicester on January 23.

Rivals to the Edmonds representative could include Nick Alexander's Ned Tanner, a narrow runner-up over course and distance when sent off favourite in November, and Sandy Thomson-trained Empire Steel, one of just two Scottish entries in this year's Radox Grand National at Aintree with Ryan Mania set for the mount.

There is also good prize money up for grabs in the £15,000 Church House Handicap Hurdle over two miles. Jungle Jack could be an interesting contender for

Donald McCain as he returns from wind surgery on his first start since pulling up at Wetherby in November last year.

Carnfunnock, trained in Ireland by Stuart Crawford with Daryl Jacob booked to ride, adds further intrigue as he has placed form in Listed Company and was a late withdrawal at Musselburgh recently due to a vet certificate.

Crawford and Jacob are also set to team up with Ballycoose in the Remembering Michael Wares Novices' Limited Handicap Chase. An impressive all-the-way winner at Ayr on January 2, he hails from the family of Champion Hurdle-winning full brothers Morley Street and Granville Again.

## Morebattle Hurdle

In addition to entries for Friday's fixture at Kelso, early entries were revealed this week for the bet365 Morebattle Hurdle on March 2.

With a prize fund of £120,000, the Morebattle Hurdle is the most valuable hurdle race in Scotland and one of the most valuable in Britain. The winner will also qualify for a further bonus of £100,000 if they can



Benson winning the 2023 Morebattle Hurdle

follow up their Kelso win with victory at the 2024 Cheltenham Festival.

Greenlaw trainer Sandy Thomson could be represented by last year's winner Benson and Bass Rock, while Donald McCain has four potential runners including Collingham who, like Benson, runs in the pink and black silks

of owner Jimmy Fyffe.

The list of trainers engaged includes former champions Paul Nicholls and Nicky Henderson, as well as Olly Murphy and Harry Fry. The home challenge could include representatives from the stables of Lucinda Russell, Ewan Whillans, Mike Smith and Nick Alexander.

Irish interest comes in the form Wajaaha, who led the race for much of the way last year for Patrick McKenna, and Little Mixup trained by Denis Hogan. Stuart Crawford has four potential entries for owners Simon Munir and Isaac Souede, including Bruscio, a winner recently at the prestigious Dublin Racing Festival.

## Eaglesfield drugs bust

Two arrested after cannabis worth £180k recovered in Dumfries & Galloway.

Detectives in Dumfries & Galloway have seized cannabis worth an estimated £180,000 from a property in Eaglesfield.

Officers attended the property around 5.35pm on Wednesday, 7 February to execute a warrant and found a cultivation within.

Two men, aged 29 and 18, have been arrested and charged in connection with the recovery.

Detective Inspector Graeme Robertson, of Dumfries & Galloway Division CID said: "This represents a significant recovery and is a good example of our efforts to disrupt the drugs trade in our local communities.

"Seizures such as this show our commitment nationally to the Serious Organised Crime Taskforce and the country's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.

"We will continue to take all steps to tackle and disrupt individuals involved in drug supply and I encourage anyone with any information to contact Police Scotland on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

## A professional, caring, family-run business



Nicholson's Funeral Directors are delighted to announce that they have officially become a member of The British Institute of Funeral Directors.

Family member, Nicola Nicholson recently completed a four-year course of study achieving the highest qualifications in the funeral sector.

She earned the Diploma in Funeral Arranging and Administration, and went on to further achieve the higher Level 4 Diploma in Funeral Directing.

These qualifications make Nicola the only Funeral Director in Cumbria and Dumfries & Galloway to hold these important professional credentials.

Nicola Nicholson receiving her Diploma from the president of the National Association of Funeral Directors

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# Farming on the Border



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Farming with Gilly Fraser

## Can you win a YF award?



The Young Farmer of the Year award has been much sought after and very highly regarded since it was first launched by the Scottish Association of Young Farmers in 1917.

It's no easy task to win the accolade – contestants are whittled down by quite demanding regional eliminations throughout the year which include business management challenges as well as more practical hands-on tasks.

Now the SAYF is teaming up with Scotland's rural college, the SRUC, to launch a new competition for its junior members.

It's called – wait for it - The Junior Young Farmer of the Year.

The competition is split into two age categories – namely

14-16 and 17-18. Organisers say those taking part will be challenged to “think about the future while showcasing their creative skills and farming knowledge.”

That includes choosing a subject from the SRUC prospectus, then writing a 400 word essay describing their dream future career and explaining why the chosen subject is crucial for their success. They will also be given a farm plan and asked to create a digital poster showing how the farm will look in ten year's time.

Full details and rules can be found on the SAYFC website.

The winner will be announced on the Saturday of the Royal Highland Show.

## Yousaf commits to food-growing subsidies

First Minister Humza Yousaf has given a commitment to honour most existing subsidies for growing food.

The pledge was made at the NFU Scotland Spring conference in Glasgow.

In his address, he reiterated Scottish Government's commitment that there would be ‘no cliff edges’ in support as Scotland transitions between existing schemes and the introduction of the new four tier framework.

He told delegates that funding for Tiers 1 and 2 will constitute at least 70 per cent of the overall funding envelope to support farming, crofting and land management from 2027.

The remaining 30% will be used for targeted measures like creating wetlands or restoring peatlands.

In addition, funding for the replacement for the Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme, currently worth £65

million, will be made available through Tier 2 once the replacement scheme has been decided.

The news has been welcomed by the union but President Martin Kennedy says some questions remain unanswered.

“This Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding announcement is a lobbying success for NFU Scotland,” he said.

“However, current experience of some schemes is that the regulatory, planning and administrative hoops that applicants are having to jump through to access funds are acting as a disincentive and, in some cases, leading to an underspend in some schemes.

“We want to work with Scottish Government to ensure that in the future, Tier 3 and Tier 4 funding can be easily drawn down so that it acts as the economic driver it was intended to be.”

Mr Kennedy also called on the other parties to make the



First Minister addressing the NFU Scotland conference

same commitment.

“We are in an election year, and we have made our case clear that we need at least another £1b to be added to the UK budget for agriculture.

“Under the current financial ar-

angement, that would see at least another £170m to go into the Scottish agricultural budget. We want that same commitment from all other parties when manifestos start to emerge.”

## ‘Think Dairy Careers’

A major event to encourage more people into the dairy industry is to be held at Harrison & Hetherington's Borderway Centre in Carlisle in April.

The ‘Think Dairy Careers Expo’ is a joint operation between H&H and the Digital Dairy Chain, and secondary school pupils from across Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria are invited to attend. H&H Senior Auctioneer Glyn Lucas says it's the first dedicated event of its kind to be held in the UK.

“The Think Dairy Careers Expo is going to be a game changer for the industry in attracting new thinking and new energy,” he said.

“We talk a lot about diversity in agriculture, and the Think Dairy Expo is a platform for showing young people who



have no background in agriculture or farming, the opportunities the dairy industry has for them to build a career, not just in livestock management but in business and environmental management, and in the hugely expanding application of new technology, robotics and AI.”

Exhibitors, who include several national dairy processors based within the region, including First Milk, Cows &

Co and Lactalis, are being encouraged to run internships or work experience placements for students as a follow-on.

On the day students will also have the opportunity to take part in a mock cattle auction and hear from inspirational young dairy professionals on their route into the industry.

Stuart Martin, Programme Director for the Digital Dairy Chain says he wants the event to change perceptions of what working in dairy means.

“We hope that more young people with a passion for science, maths and technology realise that they can find stimulating and fulfilling careers outside of the cities too.

“There's an abundance of undiscovered dairy opportunities here in Cumbria and South West Scotland.”

## Mind Your Head



This week sees the seventh annual Mind Your Head campaign held to raise awareness of mental health issues in farming.

The initiative is run by the Farm Safety Foundation and brings together more than 300 farming organisations, public bodies and charities throughout the UK.

Recent years have seen farming hit by a series of weather-related problems, with a significant increase in flooding, drought and heatwaves and it's had huge consequences for those who live and work on farms.

Stephanie Berkeley, Manager of the Farm Safety Foundation says people are becoming more aware of the importance of mental health and wellbeing.

“Mind Your Head launched in 2018 when concerns about Brexit, policies, administration and legislation were causing increased anxiety in the



Stephanie Berkeley, Farm Safety Foundation Manager

industry,” she said. “Fast forward seven years and the campaign has grown and is now recognised by 67% of farmers in the UK.

“Mental health is always a sensitive subject but it's some-

thing that is thankfully growing in importance and profile. The answer to the question “who cares?” is everyone – and everyone should.”

This year's campaign centres on an original independent short film which looks at the effects suicide has on a farming family. It stars some well-known faces like Alison Steadman, Mark Frost, Louise Clein and rising star Stuart Campbell, who all wanted to give their support to the cause.

Another well-known farming figure supporting the campaign this year is actor Kelvin Fletcher, who started farming in 2021 after buying a 120-acre farm in the Peak District.

Countryfile presenter Adam Henson who last year launched his podcast “Keeping on Track” to raise awareness of mental health difficulties amongst farmers and rural communities is also part of the team again.

# Made it to Crufts

## Copshaw Mother and Son to take their terriers to top dog event

**Copshaw Mum and son Caroline Blackie and Leo Page are counting the days to Crufts – the UK's foremost and most prestigious dog show - where they'll both be competing with their Border Terriers.**

**Gilly Fraser had a chat with Caroline to find out more about the big event.**

**Q/ Why does Crufts mean so much to dog people?**

A/ It is an achievement to even be qualified as dogs come all over the world to show at Crufts. If you're placed it is even more of an achievement and joy!

**Q/ What classes are you and Leo in?**

A/ This year we have all three border terriers qualified for breed classes. Picer He's the Gaffer (Fenn) is qualified for Puppy Dog. Kirkbyvalley Tally Ho (Tally) is qualified for Junior bitch. Elemcella Sedum (juniper) has qualified for Postgraduate bitch, and for Good Citizen Award bitch as she passed her bronze certificate this year. She has also qualified for The YKC

members' Terrier Stakes and will be in the Junior Handler as Leo has qualified for the 6-11yr age group on Hound and Terrier day.

**Q/ What are the three dogs like in character?**

A/ Fenn is now 11 months old, Leo bought him when he was 12 weeks old. He is full of cheeky character and can be a bit of a handful for Leo at times.

Tally is one year old, we only got her four months ago as her owner/breeder Len Jackson sadly passed away. He had qualified her at six months old for Crufts, and his wish was for her to carry on being shown. We were told she was a shy reserved dog, but she has completely changed to a tail wagging fun terrier.

Juniper is six years old now, she is an amazing natured terrier who loves to show. She is perfect for junior handlers as she knows to help them. We have had Juniper since she was ten weeks old.

**Q/ Leo is just ten years old. How long has he been learning the skills of dog handling and showcraft?**

A/ Leo has only been handling



**CRUFTS BOUND – Caroline Blackie and son Leo with their star Terriers Fenn, Juniper and Tally**

for one year, so he still is very new to the dog showing world, but he has achieved so much, even going up against adults and in the YKC classes.

**Q/ What do you think makes him so successful and how much time does he spend with his dogs?**

A/ Leo is a natural with the dogs. He has a lovely calm happy nature and can encourage any dog round the ring, even if they're being naughty. He celebrates any placing he gets be-

cause he really enjoys showing and if he gets a prize it is a bonus. He truly believes he always takes the best dog home.

Leo walks all three dogs whatever the weather, and feeds and grooms them as well. I fractured my knee a couple of years ago and can't walk much distance so it's up to Leo to have the dogs fit and ready.

**Q/ Has he learned everything from you, or has he had any other help/advice from other handlers?**

A/ He has help from all the Border Terrier clubs and breeders especially Graham Pickering who Leo bought Fenn from. He has a lot of supporters at shows and has even been showing Border Terriers for other owners. He has also attended YKC training day, completed his 50 Points of the dog certificate and been to a Conformation & Movement seminar to learn more about all aspects of dog showing.

We also attend ring craft training at Carlisle or Selkirk to practice more for the show ring.

**Q/ How does Leo feel about going to Crufts?**

A/ Leo is so excited and he says it's a huge experience for him even if he doesn't win a prize. He is going to enjoy his day and take many photos to show his class at school. He is looking forward to being in the ring and he knows there are loads of tradestands so he has saved his Christmas and birthday money to buy the dogs lots of treats and toys.

Not long to wait now - Crufts runs from 7-10 March at the NEC in Birmingham.

## MOT stays at 3 years

Responding to the Government's announcement that a car's first MOT will stay at three years, Rebecca Guy, Road Safety Manager at The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) said:

RoSPA welcomes the Government's announcement that a car's first MOT test will remain at three years and, with the number of people killed or seriously injured on the UK's roads remaining high over the last decade, believes that paying for an MOT is a small price to pay for safety.

"During the Government's recent consultation, we raised the issue that leaving the MOT over three years could offer the potential for more vehicles in a non-roadworthy condition on our roads and more collisions in which a vehicle defect contributes to the crash.

"Although some argue that paying for an MOT after four years would be more cost effective, this may not be the case if vehicle defects which would have been identified and repaired during the three-year MOT are left even longer.

## SWI hears of Mark's mountain adventures



**Ewes SWI President Joan Cubbon welcomed a good attendance of members on a wintry evening.**

She welcomed Mark Hallam who gave a slide presentation entitled Two Himalayan Adventures. His journeys with friends attempting to climb Menthosa, 21,140ft and Mulkila, 21,380ft were awe inspiring.

Members learned of the long journeys in Northern India to reach base camp and also of

Mulkila 6517m (21,380ft) is the highest peak in the Lahaul-Spiti province of the Himachel Pradesh state of the Indian Himalayas.

the perils of altitude sickness, frostbite and particularly of cerebral oedema to which his friend Peter succumbed.

Members were very relieved when Mark succeeded in bringing him to hospitals in New Delhi and then London and of his eventual recovery.

Mark answered a wide variety of questions before revealing he was now very happy to be walking on the local hills with

his faithful companion, Henry.

Mark judged the competitions as follows - Landscape Photograph - 1, Kate Elliot, 2, Marjorie Pringle, 3, Maureen Brown Homemade Energy Bar 1 Maureen Brown, 2 = Nancy McLure and Marjorie Pringle

Tea was served, the raffle drawn and matters of business discussed.

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# A Copshaw conundrum

## Liddesdale am-drammers reform to present a tantalising murder mystery

**B**udding sleuths in Newcastleton are looking forward to exercising their crime-busting capabilities when a Murder Mystery is played out before them.

The production of "Who Killed The Vicar" by Chris Martin sees the unfortunate cleric Martin Peacock meet an untimely demise at the hand – or should that be hands – of unknown assailants.

It soon becomes clear that the good Reverend definitely wasn't as saintly as he might have been. However the motley crew of characters including local Scoutmaster, frustrated Curate, snippy Housekeeper, limping church Organist and assorted others also appear to be harbouring secrets, hidden agendas and maybe even a few illicit liaisons of their own. But which of them had motive and means to put an end to his less than holy ways?

It will be up to the audience to play detective and sift their way through a variety of clues and perhaps the odd red herring to get to the truth and the identity of the guilty party.

The evening is being dedicated to the memory of two very special people who were both a part of the last



Murder Mystery play to be staged in the village but who are sadly no longer with us – namely Jayne Cooney and Philip Hedley. They were both stars on-stage and off and are very much missed by all who knew them.

Money raised from the performance in the Village Hall on March 16 will be donated to The Difference, which is the official charity of NHS Borders, to be given to the Margaret Kerr Unit at the BGH.

The play marks a welcome return to the stage by the Liddesdale Performing Arts Society. It was formed in 2019 and got off to a brilliant start with an extremely well-received show featuring a selection of songs from the musicals including Les Miserables, Sister Act, Frozen, Chess, Sound of



Music and Mamma Mia which literally brought the audience to their feet.

A second show had only just gone into rehearsal the following year when Covid forced the curtains to come down.

So welcome back LPAS, let's hope this show is just the first of many.



Liddesdale Performing Arts Society presents

Saturday 16th March  
Newcastleton Village Hall @ 7.30pm

Tickets £5 per person  
Available from village shops

Work together to solve the mystery!

# Who killed the Vicar?

Prizes • BYOB • Raffle

In aid of **the difference**  
making the difference to patient care in the borders.  
www.thedifference.org.uk Registered Charity No. SC008215

Written by Chris Martin



TERPSICHORIAN : Our photographs show Copshaw's finest thespians in previous productions staged by Liddesdale Performing Arts Society in 2019

# 'Ee, Mei!' - good question!

## Here are some things the E&L has been asked recently. We'll fin oot!



**M**y regular walk across the suspension bridge means I always have a look at the bankings on the river side. Trees were cut down on the community centre side of the bridge and this seems to be having an impact on the banking, leading to erosion. Given that the ambulance station uses the waterside road it must give everyone cause for concern. If the road was wrecked where would the ambulances park?

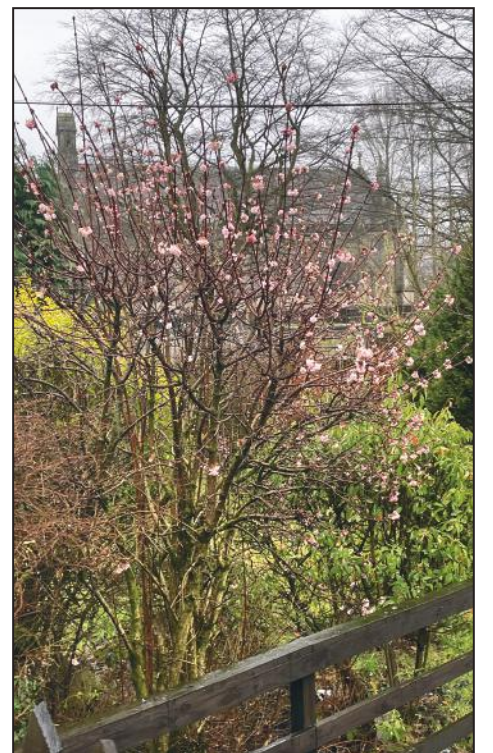
Is anything going to be done about shoring up this bank?



Above: The effects of erosion on the riverbank on George Street is clear to see. Top: The bank in this photograph is reduced to around three feet.



The river bed on the Esk side of the Kirk Brig



On a cheerier note, a sign of Spring on Caroline Street

# Interesting Histories: 1869

## The Albierigg Shooting Case

‘Unwarrantable conduct on the part of young men visiting farmhouses’

**L**eading on from our feature in last week's E&L on the sterling work done by Langholm Archive Group, we have had this interesting article brought to our attention. In the course of researching the history of his property, a gentleman from Canonbie was came across these two stories from the Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser of August and September 1869.

Two young bucks were trying to pay a visit to some young female servants living in Albierigg farm and got a lot more than they bargained for!



### PART 1 - E&L 11th August 1869

#### Serious occurrence, two men shot

**O**n the night of Monday 2d, two young men, Thomas Little, a collier, and Joseph Thompson, a rabbit catcher, residing in Canonbie, visited the farmhouse of Albierigg in that parish occupied by Mr Charles Grieve, with the intent of seeing the female servants.

As the latter slept in an attic, the men got onto the roof, and after taking off their boots, were approaching the window of the girl's room, when hearing the noise, the women became frightened, and gave the alarm to their master, who was soon outside and, seizing one of the lads, who by this time had come down from the roof, had a scuffle with him.

#### Wounds

Ultimately the two young men got away, but it would seem that, according to the information

given to the police, Mr Grieve returned to the house and, getting his gun which was loaded with small shot, followed them. One of the lads had got a thorn in his foot and sat down to extract it some distance from the house. After that, they were both leaving the place when Mr Grieve appeared and discharged his gun at them, the shot striking one of the young men in the face and the other on the back of the head. The wounds bled considerably, but, fortunately, the injuries were not serious.

Some of the pellets were extracted a day or two afterward by Dr Macaulay, who found that no danger was likely to result. The matter is being investigated by the authorities. We have heard frequent complaints of similar unwarrantable conduct on the part of young men visiting farmhouses where they are uninvited and even unknown to the domestics; and it must be very provoking to farmers to be thus disturbed, and especially after being defeated in a struggle with the offenders in an attempt to discover who they are. The well-disposed public will sympathize with Mr Grieve, though they will regret, not more than himself, that even under provocation he made use of his gun.

### PART 2 E&L 8th September 1869

#### The Albierigg Shooting Case

**A**t a pleading diet in the Sheriff Criminal Court, Dumfries, before Sheriff Boyle Hope on Friday afternoon, Charles Grieve, Farmer, Albierigg in the parish of Canonbie, was charged with an assault on the persons of Thomas Little, Collier and Joseph Thompson, rabbit catcher residing at Crookholm, Canonbie by shooting at them with a gun, wounding them to the effusion of their blood and injury of their persons on the night of the 2nd August. Accused pled guilty.

Mr Symons, writer, briefly stated the case on behalf of the prisoner. On the night libelled it appeared that the men had gone to the roof of Mr Grieve's house with the view of gaining intercourse with the servant girls, that Mr Grieve warned them off, that they did not go, but commenced to use abusive language and gesture towards him, and that, under great provocation, he fired a gun at them.

If they had gone away when requested to do so, or if they had not provoked Mr Grieve by employing very irritating language towards him, nothing of the kind would have happened. The family had on former occasions been

concluded by expressing a hope that his lordship, in view of the peculiar circumstances of the case, would see fit to deal leniently by his client.

#### Unfortunate

Mr Corrie, P.F. said that he had nothing contrary to state to what had been advanced by Mr Symons. He knew Mr Grieve personally, and had the highest respect to him, and could not but regret the unfortunate position into which he had been brought. He was a man who was generally respected.

Sheriff Hope thought the case a very serious one in one sense, because a person in discharging loaded firearms could never be quite sure of what might ensue; but in another sense, he regarded the case as not serious because the men were not severely injured. Some small shot clearly penetrated their bodies, but, according to the doctor's report, their hurt was comparatively slight. That was a matter of congratulation to the prisoner; and he was sure that everyone would rejoice, and no person more than himself, that the doctor had been able so to report.

It was perfectly true, he believed, what have been stated on behalf of accused, that for a number of years he had been much annoyed by people coming about his house at

similarly annoyed, indeed such annoyances had continued for a long while. Mr Symons made some further explanations, which were not heard by the reporters, and

night, and, on other occasions, had seen them on the roof misconducting themselves. He had made himself fully acquainted with the whole circumstances of the case, which, owing to a plea of guilty having been, and wisely, given, could not be made public; but he knew them to be very painful, and would give them all due weight. His only difficulty had been in determining whether he could, consistently with his duty, impose a fine.

He had come to the conclusion that he could. It was a serious thing to discharge firearms at a man; but it was well known that there were certain cases where such a course was justifiable. He did not, however, mean to say it was justifiable in this instance. Had the men been on the house for the purpose of house breaking, and refused to leave, he might then have fired upon them; but accused had no reason to suppose that such was the object of the men nor had he any reason to apprehend from them any personal violence.

On the other hand, the conduct of the men was very annoying, and they had no right whatever to be where they were; But he wished it to be distinctly understood, at the same time, that he was in possession of information in the case which the public owing to a plea of guilty having been given, could not know; and, acting on that information, he now felt it to be his duty to impose the fine. With the accused he sympathized very much, and might state that the men on whom the assault was committed seemed to think that they had been properly punished for their conduct, as they never laid a complaint against him. He imposed a fine of £20, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment. The fine was paid.

# LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK W/C 19th Feb 2024			
Day	What	Time	Where
Mon	Scrap Store	12-2	CM Space DG13 oES
	Mending Monday	1-3	CM Space DG13 oES
Tues	After School Club	4-5:30	CM Space DG13 oES
	Langholm Evening In Stitches	6-8	CM Space DG13 oES
Wed	Eskdalemuir Hub In Stitches	10-12	The Hub DG13 oQJ
	Welcome Wednesday & Scrap Store	10-3	CM Space DG13 oES
Fri	Scrap Store	10-12	CM Space DG13 oES
	Langholm In Stitches	1-3	Social Club DG13 oDN
	Crochet Club Fully Booked	4-6	CM Space DG13 oES
Sat	Make a Scrappy Rabbit Fully Booked	10-4	CM Space DG13 oES

◆ Booking required - visit [www.creationmill.org/2024-events](http://www.creationmill.org/2024-events)

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## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Fri 16th	The Brandon McPhee Show	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 17th	Disco Party Night in aid of Cancer Research	Langholm Social Club 7.30pm - midnight
17th & 18th	Scotland's Gardens Open Garden Snowdrops	Tinnisburn, Canonbie Craig, Langholm(18th only)
Mon 19th	Canonbie Tennis Club Taster Sessions	Canonbie Public Hall Under 10: 4-5pm 10+: 5-6pm
Fri 23rd	Eskdale Gardening Club RSPB Talk	Cross Keys Hotel Canonbie - 2pm
	Craig Hill Comedian	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 24th	Home Nations Rugby on the Big Screen live music after	The Buccleuch Centre doors open 1.30pm
	Live Music with Nicky Ian	The Douglas Hotel from 9pm
Sun 25th	Langholm Accordion & Fiddle Club	Langholm Social Club 2pm - 5pm
Mon 26th	Among the Shelves Reading Group	Westerkirk Library 7pm - 8.30pm
Tue 27th	Canonbie United Church Soup & Sweet Lunches	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1.30pm
	Langholm Community Centre AGM	Langholm Day Centre 3pm

# The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2406 answers next week

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 What was Andre-Jacques Garnerin the first to do from a height of 2,230 feet in 1797?                                  | 11 In terms of sport, what does the abbreviation AAA refer to?   |
| 2 Lewis Edson Waterman was the inventor of what writing implements?   | 12 The Adelaide Cup horse race has been competed for since which year? a) 1864 b) 1884 c) 1904   |
| 3 What does a Lepidopterist collect?  | 13 In which profession did Sir Charles Barry become famous for his work in London in the mid 19th century?   |
| 4 The US Frontierswoman Martha Jane Burke is better remembered by which name?   | 14 A good invention is often said to be the best thing since what?   |
| 5 The first two winners of the Miss World Contest in 1951 and '52 came from which Northern European country?            | 15 How far can light travel in one second?   |
| 6 In which state of the USA would you be in if you were using the Bay Area Rapid Transit system?                        | 16 Originally founded as a Norman castle in the 12th century, in which county is Alnwick Castle?   |
| 7 What shape does Fusilli Italian pasta have?   | 17 Which entertainer is known as The Boss?   |
| 8 My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nachos is a mnemonic for what?   | 18 What is the meaning of the latin phrase Carpe diem?   |
| 9 What is the outermost part of the sun's atmosphere that can be seen with the naked eye during a total eclipse called? | 19 Which strategy and conflict game is played on a board depicting a map of the world divided into 42 territories with the aim being world domination? |
| 10 Who is Popeye's nemesis and arch-rival for the love of Olive Oyl?  | 20 What english word means couteau in French and cuchillo in Spanish?  |



## Crossword Solutions from last week

### GK Quiz 2405

- Lyon
- Estonia
- France
- Florence
- Crete
- The Elbe
- Adriatic Sea
- Romania
- Italy
- Attica
- Ode to Joy
- Rome
- Budapest
- Bologna
- Grimaldi
- The Shengen Area
- Stalingrad
- Denmark
- Gironde Estuary
- Lake Bolsena

### Crossword 2405

**Across:** 1 Wolf, 4 Oration, 9 Red, 10 How so?, 11 Involve, 12 Bart, 13 Turn away, 15 Tester, 16 Rescue, 20 Cadillac, 22 Kelp, 24 Immense, 25 Elvis, 26 Ref, 27 Gangsta, 28 Tore.

**Down:** 2 Onwards, 3 From, 4 Odious, 5 Advances, 6 In-law, 7 Needy, 8 The bit, 14 Wetlands, 17 Cleaver, 18 Expose, 19 Camera, 20 Cling, 21 Demon, 23 Deft.

# Never a Crossword!

No. 2406...answers next week

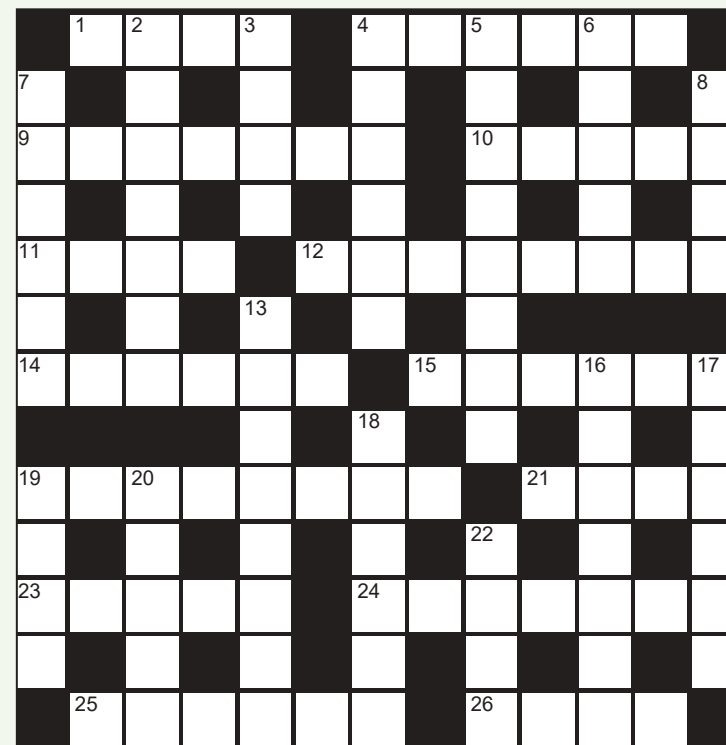
A wee mix of cryptic and general knowledge puzzles to get the grey cells moving!

#### Across

- Capricious thought (4)
- "--- Angry Men" (1957 Henry Fonda film) (6)
- Wayfarer (7)
- Man with a mission? (5)
- Make up (4)
- Occasion for lighting candles (8)
- Curdled milk (6)
- Strengthen (4,2)
- Bangers inside bangers? (3,5)
- Titanic nemesis (4)
- Cheque writer (5)
- Properly organized (2,5)
- Hawk (6)
- Shoe type (4)

#### Down

- Serving (7)
- Any brother in "Animal Crackers" (4)
- Side of the forehead (6)
- As was James Bond, by Stromberg (8)
- It means "I see" in Latin (5)
- "American Beauty" Oscar-winner Kevin --- (6)
- Hibernian heating fuel (4)
- Protected drunken, rude Omar (8)
- Bondman's dream (7)
- Mobile forerunners (6)
- Accommodate (6)
- Reporter's output (4)
- What me and thee do (5)
- What an air ball misses (4)





# Looking back...

## Langholm As it Was ... ... a further foray into times past

### Storms and Floods

**I**t is a frequent remark of older inhabitants that the climate of Eskdale, within the last two or three generations, has become more temperate.

No doubt this change has been helped by the irrigation and cultivation of the land, and the smaller area now covered by woods and forests. Some of the placenames of the Esk Valley give indications of the existence of those large forests – eg Blackberry-wood, Woodslees, Brockwoodlees, Langshaw, Braid-wood, Timmer-wood, and others.

In the heights of Eskdale is a place called Wolf-stane, where tradition says, the last wolf was killed. The late Mr Richard Bell describes many species of animals now extinct in Eskdale, for whose preservation extensive forests were a necessity.

Observations made by Dr Brown, the parish minister, showed that rain or snow fell in Eskdalemuir on about two days out of every five from 1800 to 1810, and the average temperature throughout the period was about 44.5 degrees F.

The Thirteen Drifty Days

This was the name given to what was perhaps the severest snow-storm ever experienced in the south of Scotland. Nine-tenths



More recent than our story, Langholm Parish Church seemingly afloat in the floods of October 31 1977

of the sheep were destroyed, and in Eskdalemuir alone, which was capable of sustaining 20,000 sheep, only 40 dinmonts were saved. These were on the farm of Westside, and there were also five old ewes saved on another. The storm occurred at the end of February and beginning of March, old style, 1674. The cold was intense and about the fifth or sixth day of the storm the young sheep began to die. On the ninth day the shepherds built up circular walls of the dead to safeguard the living but this gruesome remedy came too late to be of much use. When the storm

abated, on scarcely one of the high lying farms was there a sheep left alive. It was under these circumstances that the Duke of Buccleuch and Monmouth received license to import stock from Ireland.

### 1740

Snow began to fall on New Year's Day 1740 and it lay on without decrease until it was melted by the sun in the spring. Even on May 20, new style, the frost was so keen that people were unable to cast their peats.

### 1746

A snow-storm began on 25th

January, 1746 and lasted six weeks, destroying practically all the stock in Eskdalemuir. Every farmer save six was ruined – the fortunate six being Thomas Bell, Westside; John Grieve, Kilburn; William Curle, Moodlawknowe; William Graham, Cot; William Beattie, Watcarrick; and John Beattie, Upper Dumfedling.

### 1751-5

These years were memorable in Eskdale because of the calamities which again befell the farmers. For five years one disaster followed quickly upon another. The old sheep were destroyed by the inclement seasons and the lambs by the frost and snow. For many years afterwards this period was spoken of and always with horror.

### Drought of 1765

A severe drought occurred in 1765 which did great damage to sheep and cattle. A species of worm, of a green colour and about one inch in length, destroyed the grass, by cutting it away at the roots. The worms appeared first in May and continued until the beginning of August, when they were destroyed by large flocks of crows helped by heavy rains. Great quantities of the worms were found at the sides of the burns and rivulets after the rains ceased. The neighbouring dales of Liddle, Annan and Teviot were similarly visited.

### The Gonial Blast

This storm was so named because of the extraordinary number of sheep that perished, "gonial" or "goniel" being a term applied to the mutton of sheep found dead, from which the smoked mutton-hams are got. The storm began on 23rd January 1794 and continued several days – snow, rain and frost alternating and following each other in quick succession. The sheep were either smothered, drowned or frozen. The melting snow washed them into the sykes and burns where hundreds were afterwards found frozen to death. An especially heavy fall of snow was followed by a deluge of rain and the Esk had never before been known to rise to such a height.

When the storm abated and the rivers fell, there were found thrown up on the beds of the Esk, at the Solway, the bodies of two men and one woman, and the carcasses of 1840 sheep, nine black cattle, three horses, 45 dogs and 180 hares.

In Eskdalemuir 4006 sheep and seven black cattle were killed. The only farms which escaped the disaster were Yetbyre and Tanlawhill. Burncleuch lost one stirk, but Upper Cassock lost 540 sheep, Nether Cassock 24, Garwald 440, Langshawburn 300, Black Esk-head 254, Kilbrun 280, Fingland 250 ND Rennelburn 200

## C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday, 8th February 2024



**C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 8,899 comprising of 3,874 prime hogs and 5,025 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 8th February 2024.**

Cast cows yet again in demand, with more numbers required on a weekly basis to satisfy buyer requirements. The sale topped at 192p for Galloways shown by RN Waugh & Son, The Row, Roadhead with Limousin cows to 184p (x2) from JR & CJ Ward, Whitstonehill, Lockerbie. Angus cows sold to 174p from TN Cavers & Co., Sorbie, Langholm, who also achieved top price per head of £1,418. Limousins to £1,3761 from Whitstonehill. A smaller show of 3,874 hogs were forward. Livestock auctions forge the way forward working hard to attain maximum returns for their producers and for the third consecutive week, trade increased once more, being well in front of any deadweight outlets. Customers are urged to utilise the auction system, being seriously well rewarded.

The following price list speaks for itself! Sheep travelled from all over the British Isles to take advantage of competition and high returns. All customers elated with their days trading seeing unprecedented returns that have never been witnessed at this time of year before.

Hogs topped at £218 for Texels from HM Livestock, Shethin, Aberdeen with top per kilo of 400p for Beltex from R & J Lines, Killocrow, Bellochantuy and AW & HJ Gillies, Ballochgair, Campbeltown

Overall average 326.2p (SQQ 330.7p) All classes of well finished hogs are wanted here at Longtown on a weekly basis to satisfy an ever-growing demand, as numbers increase so do purchasers. Prime stock travel from all four corners of the United Kingdom to take advantage of the 19 active, competitive purchasers who operate on a weekly basis providing a very transparent and competitive market place here at Longtown. Haulage can be arranged with easily and efficiently, so please do not hesitate to contact your auctioneers who will be pleased to take your calls and help you and your business in any way possible.

### PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

**Beltex** 400p Killocrow & Ballochgair, 390p Killocrow, 385p Hardriding, Burgh Head & Newton of Inshewan, 382p Hardriding, 380p Newton of Inshewan.  
**Texel** 384p Shandford, 383p Byreburnside, 382p Westernhopeburn, 371p Langdyke Cottage, 370p Buckies.  
**North Country Cheviot** 359p Mid Harrietsfield, 345p Dikken, 338p Cadgillhead, 337p Kilnford Croft.  
**Blackface** 356p, 348p Mid Harrietsfield, 342p Garvilland, 336p Peela Hill.  
**Herdwick** 353p Ashness.  
**Mule** 350p Rowanburnfoot, 344p Chapel, 343p Peela Hill.  
**Suffolk** 345p Prestrie, 342p Whins, 341p Outertown, 339p Coiliamy & Viewley.

**Cheviot** 344p, 338p Catslackburn, 335p, 328p Chapel, 322p Mainside, 321p Laundry Cottage, 320p Falnash.  
**Blue Texel** 333p Killeonan, 325p Shethin.  
**Cheviot Mule** 330p North House, 327p Shethin & Patties Hill, 326p Greenmerse.  
**Charollais** 320p Newton of Inshewan.  
**Dutch Spotted** 320p Killeonan.  
**Swaledale** 303p Woodhall, 286p Basco Dykehead, 280p Longlea.

### PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

**Texel** £218 Shethin, £210 Mainside, £204 Viewley, £200 Gyralesmyre, £195 North Shortcleugh, £193 East Raffles, £190 Gyralesmyre, Viewley & Kilnford Croft.  
**Beltex** £200 Kilnford Croft & Gyralesmyre, £190 Linnhead & Whins, £185, £180 Kilnford Croft.  
**Suffolk** £198 Gyralesmyre, £193 Merklend, £186 Harwood on Teviot, £180 Cambeckhill.  
**Mule** £188 Hardriding, £160 Mouldydhills, £141 Gartvaigh.  
**Romney** £176 Marygate.  
**North Country Cheviot** £170 Parkhill, £168 Mouldydhills, £160 Kingside & Kilnford Croft.  
**Blue Texel** £169 Viewley.  
**Blackface** £165 Kirkstead, £151 Merklend, £149 Marygate, £140 Mouldydhills.  
**Cheviot Mule** £165 Killumpha, £157 Prestrie, £150 Catslackburn.

**Charollais** £160 Newton of Inshewan.  
**Bluefaced Leicester** £160 Kirkstead.  
**Dutch Spotted** £154 Killeonan.  
**Cheviot** £147 Falnash, £145 North Shortcleugh, £141, £140 Mainside.  
**Herdwick** £135 Greenburn.  
**Swaledale** £123 Woodhall.  
**A much larger show of 5,025 ewes were forward. Still numbers keep coming, breaking over 5,000 keeping the trade stable. All classes of ewes maintained recent rates of return as numbers are handled by with ease.**

The stars of the show were a simply outstanding run of 27 pure bred Texels, which broke the £300 barrier for the fourth week in succession, consigned by Marygate. These ewes achieved an overall average of a staggering £247.

Hill ewes proved very good to sell topping at £122 for Cheviots from J Loder, Upper Chatto, Kelso with Blackface ewes to £116 consigned by H Cockburn & Partners, Kingside, Peebles.  
Rams topped at £180 for Charollais from TV & M Storey, Tinnishall, Canonbie.

Early entries are appreciated and for all further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team as listed below.

John Walton 07880 527 066 (Prime Sheep Auctioneer)  
Daniel Lynn 07584 200 489 (Prime Sheep Auctioneer)  
Sam Hogg 07584 207 323 (Prime Cattle and Cast Cow Auctioneer)

Norman Douglas 07786 366 833 Helen Rickard 07741 313 029 (Fields Person)

### HEAVY EWES

**Texel** £300, £295, £290 Marygate, £285 Viewley, £270, £265 Carran, £260 Bygate & Marygate.  
**Suffolk** £185 Kilnford Croft, £180 Bygate, £172 Kilnford Croft, £168 Burnside.  
**Beltex** £185 Snab.  
**Charollais** £170 Beckfoot, £150 Inch, £148 Middleton.  
**Millenium Blue** £152, £148 Middleton.  
**Dutch Spotted** £138 Newbigging.  
**North Country Cheviot** £134 Carruthers, £132 Newbigging, £130 Earlside, £129 Carruthers, £128 Mid Farm.  
**Cheviot Mule** £130 Carsegowan, £128 Greenwell Meadows.  
**Bluefaced Leicester** £128 Barnshangan, £120 Greensburn & Springwells.  
**Mule** £120 High Barness, £119 Beckhall, £118 Grindon Hill, £117 Killumpha, £116 Gibblaston, Pitland Hills & High Barness.

### LIGHT EWES

**Cheviot** £122 Upper Chatto, £118 Kilnford Croft, £115 Mainside & Routin Lynn, £114 North House.  
**Blackface** £116 Kingside, £108 Pitland Hills, £104 Ettrickshaws, £100 Glenbeg, £95 Mains of Collin.  
**Lonk** £90, £84 Achamore.  
**Swaledale** £88 Broadmea, £71 Naa Croft.

**Easycare** £86 Cleongart.

### RAMS

**Charollais** £180 Tinnishall, £175 Viewley, £160 Beckfoot.  
**Texel** £170 Orthwaite Hall, £160 Carsegowan, £155 Orchard Mains, £145 Viewley.  
**Suffolk** £170 Tinnishall, £148 Barharrow, £145 Middleton, £140 Viewley.  
**Oxford** £170 Guards.  
**Beltex** £160 Orthwaite Hall, £150 Swaites, £145 Mid Farm.  
**Cheviot** £132, £125 Hindhope, £122 Earlside, £120 Hindhope.  
**Bluefaced Leicester** £130 Mains, £128 Dunnabie.  
**Blue Texel** £128 Middleton.

### Averages:

**Hoggs**  
Light to 362.0p(319.8p)  
Standard to 400.0p(330.8p)  
Medium to 400.0p (331.5p)  
Heavy to 369.0p(316.5p)

### Ewes

Light to £122.00 (£74.30)  
Heavy to £300.00 (£114.63)  
Rams to £180.00 (£107.41)

# The E&L Gallery



A February Becks Burn sunset by Stan Wilson

Camera: Sony RX10

## Comedy capers with Craig Hill



Scotland's favourite Kilty Pleasure is delighted to be bringing his eagerly-awaited hilarious new show to The Buccleuch Centre!

Cheeky and irreverent, Scotland's much-loved Kilty Pleasure unleashes his fantastic new show (and another corker of a show title) for a fun evening of uproarious stand-up!

Renowned world-wide for his high-octane live comedy, Craig's razor-sharp wit and unsurpassed audience rapport have seen him perform all over Europe, Australia (including the Sydney Opera House) all over Scotland as well as south of the border and even a season of solo shows in an historic off-Broadway theatre in New York.

Celebrating 25 years of riotous comedy with the funniest audiences anyone could wish for, Craig's shows are firmly established as one of the best nights out around (the last tour sold out fast) and he's hugely popular for a very good reason – get ready for a night of belly-ache laughs at the The Buccleuch. We definitely recommend that you book early!

*'Flat-out hilarious... I've not heard a room laugh so long and hard... The audience was in absolute paroxysms of laughter... Genuinely funny' ★★★★★ (Mirror)*  
*'A laugh-out-loud performance from beginning to end... absolutely hilarious!' ★★★★★ (List)*  
*'Funny as hell!' (Scotland on Sunday)*

*'Class. Risque, rib-tickling and absolutely screaming from the rafters... Hill actually has to wait until the audience stop laughing before he can start again. It's absolutely hilarious' (Edinburgh Evening News)*

*'Hilarious... delightfully fizzy tone and sharp observational jokes... Brilliant!' (Daily Record)*

*'Riotously funny... He is that rare thing, a naturally funny comedian' (Independent)*  
 www.mrcraighill.com | FB: Kiltedcomedian | Insta: craighillcomedian | Twitter: @mrcraighill

**Craig Hill** appears at  
**The Buccleuch Centre**  
 on Friday 23rd February  
 at 7.30pm  
 013873 81196  
 buccleuchcentre.com

# E&L CLASSIFIEDS

The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser  
47A High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH  
013873 80012 • alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PLANNING

The applications, associated plans and documents can be viewed on-line by following the ePlanning link on the Council's website at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/planning](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/planning). Written comments may be made to Head of Economy and Development by email to [Planning@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@dumgal.gov.uk) or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 29/02/2024 (Type A).

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Reg 20(1) (A)

Ref No/Type Address/Proposal

24/0121/FUL (A) Eskdalemuir Forest, Near Garwald, Eskdalemuir, Langholm - Installation of 4no. freestanding photovoltaic arrays within compound with 1.1m high boundary fence and ancillary works

24/0150/FUL (A) Land West Of Birny Hill, Above Winterhope Reservoir, 7.5km To The West Of Langholm - Erection of wind monitoring mast (up to 100m in height) with guy wires, and mast-mounted wind monitoring equipment for a temporary period of 12 months

[www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

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for further information, please contact  
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## Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

born in 1848 .....and still going strong!

# It's been a busy weekend for the Carpet Bowlers



## Carpet Bowling

On Friday night, the Benty Bowlers held their Open Singles competition.

With an entry of 44, the winner was Matt Hall, who beat Danny Hotson (pictured) in the final. Semi-finalists were Luke Tolson and Aaron Wood. Quarter finalists were James Quigley, Stewart Mabon, Sandy McVittie, Wullie Mair.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the club, to Anne Wood, Val and Stewart Hogg for keeping us fed and watered, Wag for selling raffle tickets, and everyone who took a turn at umpiring!



Saturday night saw the Social Club hold an Open Junior Singles competition.

Thank you to all 16 under 18's who entered the competition and had some good games in the round-robin format.

Winner was Ryan Wood, who beat Matt Hall in a close final.

Beaten semi-finalists were Ally Hall and Aaron Wood.

Thanks to the sponsors of the competition. £180 prize pot which is great for a small competition!

■ On Sunday the final of Stapleton pairs competition was split between Chris Wood & Roy Park and Ryan Wood & Alasdair Cavers.

The beaten semi-finalists were Luke Tolson and Jake Park and James Baxter & Partner from Stapleton. Well done all club members!

# Try your hand at cool new sport

Pickleball is coming to Langholm...give it a try!

## Pickleball

Do you fancy trying your hand at a new sport? Pickleball is a fairly new sport to this country and it's now coming to Langholm. It's a sport played with a paddle (bat) and ball with a net on an indoor or outdoor court. It blends together elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis.

Pickleball is a fast-growing sport among all age groups. It's easy to access and easy to learn for younger players and for older players it's easy on the joints. Families and groups of friends can play or you can join a session and learn along with other people. It's a very sociable sport and can be played by just two players but more usually by four, with lots of talk and laughter during the games.

There are a few rules, and most players pick up the basics after only a few games and it is probably faster to pick up than badminton or tennis. After just a few games most players will have picked up enough skills to enjoy the sport.

As people get more experienced they gradually build up skills and enjoy it even more and while not being as aggressive as some other indoor sports event competitive players can get a good work out.

You can learn the basics of pickleball at Langholm Academy sports hall starting on Tuesday 20th February and thereafter weekly until the 19th March, between 6pm and 8pm. The cost is £10 per session and can be booked by contacting Mark on 07875 269073 or email [marksindall@hotmail.com](mailto:marksindall@hotmail.com)



## Draw for Copshaw rinks

Saturday 17th February in Newcastleton Village Hall

1pm	Castle Douglas A	V	West Ruther B
	Bitch Perfect Holm	V	Crocket M/Water
	Jayk Foster	V	Canonbie Anne
	Sid N/Ton	V	Fec 2
	Oakley N/Ton	V	Ian Hall
2.15pm			
	Kilnhouse A	V	Wamphray Z
	Traquair R	V	Castle Douglas B
	Cairnvalley A	V	F Jeffrey L/Holm
	M Irving N/Ton	V	Rantic Wrie
	Westerkirk B	V	Langholm S
	Langholm C team	V	Lochside Tavern
	Easton no 1	V	Lockerbie S
	Langholm R	V	Tootie
3.30pm			
	Langholm 69	V	Lindean A
	Traquair J	V	Ruecastle Z
	Stonekirk	V	Kirkton L
	Capper D	V	Langholm A team
	Stapleton no 1	V	Castle Douglas C
	Parkview Moffat	V	Fec 1
	Annan Water A	V	D Orchiston

Any enquiries call The Brig on 013873 75856



## The Force is with Bailey

With another commanding captain's performance in Hawick Force's hard fought win against a powerful Gala A side in the BJL Cup on a Friday evening, Langholm lad, Bailey Donaldson is your Man of the Match. Bailey is kindly sponsored by Angela & Roger Bettiss, to whom the club are very grateful.





# New personal bests at English championships

## Langholm athletes, the Brockley sisters, shine in Sheffield

### Athletics



A slightly grainy photo of Antonia's 60m race in which she came second. Antonia is in lane 5.

Langholm School pupils and sisters Matilda and Antonia Brockley were competing over the weekend at the English Athletics Championships in Sheffield.

Despite being only 14 years of age, Antonia has to compete in the U17 age category due to the date her birthday falls in the year. She was competing in the 60m Sprint and set new personal best times in both her

races, running 7.80 seconds in her heat and 7.76 seconds in the semi-final. The video below shows Antonia in lane 5 finishing 2nd in her heat and her times on Saturday move Antonia up to the second joint fastest year 1 athlete in Great Britain and fastest year 1 athlete in Scotland.

Matilda was competing in both the Triple Jump and the 60m Hurdles.

In the triple jump, she finished in 4th place, jumping a season's best of 11.41m which ranks her U20 No.1 in Scotland and 2nd overall for women.

In the hurdles she set a new personal best time of 8.93 seconds.

Both girls who receive funding through the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards, along with Ava and Aoiffion will be in Grangemouth this weekend which is the venue for this year's Scottish Indoor Athletics Championships.



# Langholm's super SUPER 4s



Garriella Forrest, Elmvale Primary, Jessica Cuthbert, Ciara McKinnel, Matilda Lamb, all of Langholm Primary, Evie Stewart, Eastriggs Primary

### Cross Country

By Calum Graham

The Super 4's Cross Country Race Series for Children in Primary Schools in Annandale and Eskdale kicked off last Tuesday with the first race at Lockerbie Academy.

The race series is organised by Annandale and Eskdale Active Schools and Community Sport and is for children aged P5-P7. It consists of four 1500m races in Lockerbie, Annan, Moffat and finishing in Langholm in March with the best 3 results from four races to count.

There was an excellent performance in the girl's race with three Primary 6 pupils from Langholm Primary finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall. Ciara McKinnel finished in first place, closely followed by Jessica Cuthbert in 2nd and Matilda Lamb in 3rd.

# Legion prevail over Greenlaw

### Football

By Martin Thomlinson

Langholm Legion FC 4  
Greenlaw 3

A topsy turvy cup tie sees the Legion progress into the last eight with a home tie to come against Hawick Legion at a date to be confirmed.

With regular starters Callum Ireland, Iain Little and Brian Mattinson all missing for various reasons it gave an opportunity to Alistair Hogg, Craig Pool and Andrew Whittall to come in.

A first half of dominance with lots of chances and possession saw us take the lead with Alistair Hogg's first goal for the club

after Finley Dell's header was blocked.

Daniel Winter then had a good chance to double the lead but Kerr in the Greenlaw goal pulled off an outstanding stop before the crossbar came to his rescue when Ryan Johnstones shot beat him all ends up minutes later.

It was mostly all one way traffic until Greenlaw drew level through a penalty from Robertson five minutes before the break.

Early in the second half Greenlaw then took the lead through Smillie before Cole Hamilton drew the sides level with a great bit of skill to wriggle free before executing his shot well.

The Legion then took the lead with the goal of the match when Daniel Winter's clever ball over the top was intelligently reversed

back by Craig Cuthbert to Cole who again showed great composure to put us in front.

Back Greenlaw came and they levelled again through another Robertson penalty with only ten minutes left.

With the threat of extra time and penalties looming, the Legion eventually got what proved a winner when Keith Reid's back post shot was inadvertently headed just over the line by an unfortunate Greenlaw defender.

In what was a welcome return to action, Keith then showed great vision to chip the keeper with the ball going agonisingly over the bar but the lads held out in the remaining minutes of injury time to record a satisfying win.

Credit must go to all for bat-



Legion celebrate Alistair Hogg's first goal for the team on Saturday

ting right to the end but a special mention to our match winner young Cole Hamilton who proved a real handful throughout.

Another tough match in prospect this weekend as we travel to Gala to face Langlee in the last sixteen of the Waddell Cup.

Many thanks to this weeks match and matchball sponsor Martin Jeffrey.

Team:

A Little C Pool A Paisley  
F Dell A Hogg C Cuthbert  
L Irving R Johnstone  
C Hamilton A Whittall &  
D Winter.

Subs (Used) K Reid C Grieve  
& B Borthwick. (Unused)  
B Porteous & D Borthwick.

# E&L SPORT

